

# ◆ West Headings ◆

January 1997

## Commodore's Report

December and January are traditionally the busiest months of our sailing year and



December has been a bottler - excellent sailing and some great social functions. Our annual sailing school was most successful with 46 adults and children participating. Congratulations go to Sue

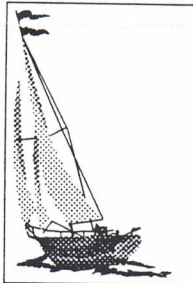
Slater and all of the team who participated. Fortunately they also organised perfect weather.

The new barbecue has proved very popular. It was put to good use after the twilight races which Doug Thorne had the good sense to schedule on a hot summer night.

We have a partly erected shed thanks again to Doug Thorne and a few volunteers. I am hopeful we will have the shed fully erected and

in place, complete with concrete floor and new compound, by the end of January.

A special welcome to all new members who are beginning to be seen at the club and participate in the program. Can I make a special plea for you all to consider proposing a new member. We are only a small club and we have to replace retiring members. Another (say) 10 new members would greatly assist our finances and provide a stronger base to develop the club into the future. Now is the time when there is



plenty of sailing and social events to attract potential new members. The secretary or I would be pleased to provide you with the necessary application forms.

I hope to see you all at our annual cocktail party on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

Happy sailing

Darcy Smith

## Upcoming Events

| Date       | Event  |
|------------|--|
| January 17 | Junior Sleepover   |
| January 19 | O'Byrans Beach Race (Off-the-Beach)                        |
| January 25 | <i>Australia Day Progressive Dinner (Adults ONLY) 1900</i> |
| February 8 | Flinders Triathlon (All Members Welcome)                   |

# Editorial

I must apologise for the thin newsletter this month. The editorial staff are on holidays from their paid work and as a result don't have access to the computers, scanners and photocopiers which normally contribute to the appearance of the newsletter.

The last few weeks have been very busy. After the sailing school, new years eve and more races than I can remember I am "yacht clubbed out". I don't think I am alone. On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> of January it was 38 degrees and a hot north wind was blowing. When OOD Doug Thorne cancelled the second off-the-beach aggregate for seniors and juniors I gave a sigh of relief which was echoed by several others.



As in previous years the sailing school was a great success. 46 people attended ranging from adult and junior beginners to advanced sailors. Unlike some previous years, the weather was perfect.

Sue Thompson, a FYC sailing instructor took charge of the advanced junior sailors. The training she provided was first class. A fleet of 8 or 10 mirrors practised starts and close sailing. This greatly improved boat handling skills. There were only one or two minor bingles. Fortunately Mirrors are tough little

boats. When my son David collided with another Mirror and punched a hole in the bow of the Moozie Too my heart sank. Some *hundred mile per hour tape* held the boat together long enough to finish the sailing school and compete in the summer series. *Hundred mile per hour tape* is truly amazing stuff.

There have been a number of new innovations in the program this year. The twilight races for off-the-beach were very enjoyable, made more so by Doug Thorne's great new barbecue. (Is there no end to this man's talents.) The Junior Committee also organised a disco evening. It is very important that the club actively works on maintaining the interest of young members in their teens. Providing social activities which interest teenagers must be part of our strategy. Congratulations to the Junior Committee for staging the disco.

Clay Manners  
Editor

## FYC Christmas Stockings

Father Christmas was good to FYC members this year. Our Commodore received a brand new 4WD Tractor, Clay and James Manners shipped a 1967 Land Rover IIA over from Perth. Sue Slater was given a CB Radio and a 4WD winch from her loving husband Rod. Even the cormorants received a Christmas present with the short return of Anoora.



## Seniors Progressive Dinner

***Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> of January at 7:00pm***

***Start:*** Meet and Park at the Monument (Or Walk)

***Format:*** We will walk to 3 homes in the vicinity finishing back near the Monument

***Bring:*** A bottle or 2 of wine which will be delivered to the homes  
Come and enjoy a delightful stroll (Not TOO far!) and a scrumptious with wonderful harbour views

Bookings essential: ph Sue Slater  
890 703

***\$14***



# Captain's Corner

Hello to you all and Happy New Year  
What a great start to the new year we have had down at sunny Flinders. Another successful sailing school, thanks to all involved. A great turn up for our first O.B Twilight, some very competitive K.B Twilights and a very successful Kids on Keelboats Day.

While on the subject of Keelboats, John Isles and Frank Bancroft have ventured into a new industry while on the water, seaweed and kelp harvesting. For more information Frank Bancroft can give full details.

For me, I must say I'm just about sailed out, mainly due to the lack of sleep between Christmas and New Year. Starting with, instant shed, a weekend jaunt in the Melbourne to Hobart, Back to Flinders for New Years Eve, Keelboat Twilight, O.B Twilight, Another K.B Twilight, Kids on Keelboats, and then back to work for a break.

Great to see some new faces at the club and great to see the Christmas regulars, like the Ramsdens down for the holidays to enjoy some fine Victorian weather.

On a final note, with all this fine weather Flinders is throwing at us, I hope to see large fleet numbers in all divisions out on the waters of Westernport.

See you all on the water.  
Doug Thorne

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## 48 Hours in Hobart

It started about 3 months back with a phone call from Grant Wharrington, ex. *Wild Thing*.

"Its the 25<sup>th</sup> Melbourne to Hobart. We have chartered Bob-sled, Are you interested?"

Well I soon found myself signed up for another bash down the west coast to good old Hobart. After the first crew meeting I had the position of Headsail Trimmer, alternating with two other ex. *Wild Thing* regulars, and to fill in time while not trimming I was appointed cook and morale officer, the later being very important when the going gets tough down south. (I am not sure from Doug's writing if he means morale or morals officer - Editor.)

With the boat arriving in Melbourne from Sydney two weeks before the race, our crew of 20 did not have a great deal of time to sail or prepare her for the race. Consequently it turned out to be a mad rush for all on board. We did find in the two weeks that the main had been stretched out of shape beyond belief, the no. 1 Jib was about the same, the rudder bearing gone, there was no VHF Radio

antenna and the life Rafts were out of service. All in all the boat was very run down due to the lack of maintenance over its 12 year life on the racing circuit up the east coast. Rather a shame to see what was once a highly competitive yacht go to ruin.

Seeing that two of the owners were on-board for the race, it was put to them that part of the charter fee be put to a new no. 1, no. 3, Rental of a mainsail, rudder repairs and plenty more that was needed if we were to be competitive. They both agreed, which did not leave much change out of the \$20,000 charter fee.

Slipping the hull at Hastings also revealed the hull had depressing between each frame along its entire length, a certain sign of a slow boat. Being an Aluminium boat we all joked about taking it to a *cash a can* and flying to Hobart. All this for a two day bash down the west coast.

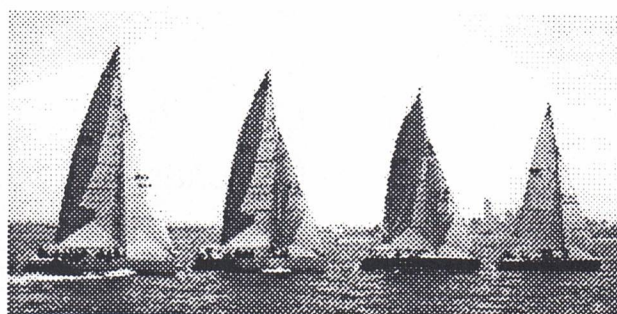
The morning of the 27<sup>th</sup>, (race day) was spent stowing the provisions, checking everything for the final time and saying goodbye to everyone at Mornington Yacht Club. With no breeze in sight, motoring was the only option to get to Portsea. On arrival at Portsea Pains Wessex smoke flares were on display at the jetty forming a smoke screen over the patrons of the Portsea Hotel Beer Garden.

With 2 minutes before the 10 minute gun, 100 yachts and crews were without the main necessity for a yacht race-breeze. Not even a whisper. At the 10 minute signal a slight murmur of pressure out of the south east. With the 5 minute signal a 10 knot seabreeze appeared. One hundred yachts were battling for position and trying to see the committee boat at the starboard end of the line. Temperatures were at boiling point. We opted for a quick run down the line at the 30 second mark.

Being 67' long it is amazing how a clear passage opens for you just before the gun. On the gun the breeze filled in to 15-18 knot South Easter, making it the only third spinnaker run to the heads in the race's history. With *Future Shock* on our transom, we hoisted our mast head spinnaker and led the fleet and spectator craft to the turning mark off Queenscliff. At this point the spinnaker was replaced with the no. 1 Jib and we settled down for the 1<sup>st</sup> stage across Bass Straight.

*To Be Continued...*

*Doug Thorne*



## More from Doug, the cook on Bobsled

By the 26<sup>th</sup> of December, we had a couple of new sails, a rented main, 2 new life rafts, a rudder that moved when the helm was turned, a new VHF antenna and 20 pumped up blokes ready for Hobart.

One thing that was overlooked was the oven. It was decided to use the oven as a cupboard and put up with the 2 burner cook top, rather than risk being the first boat to give a position of *all over* the West Coast of Tasmania. My First job was to provision the boat, 20 guys at \$50.00 per head, lets go shopping!!

|                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 10 doz Prima Orange Juice       | 6 Bags of Apples                 |
| 15 doz 1 litre bottles of water | 6 Cantelopes                     |
| 8 doz eggs                      | 3 Watermelons                    |
| 10 kg Bacon                     | 6 kg Pasta                       |
| 40 sausages                     | 8 cans of Spaghetti Sauce        |
| 12 Roast Chooks                 | 10 pkts. BBQ Shapes              |
| 8 pkts Cheese                   | 1 kg of Coffee                   |
| 8 loafs of Bread                | 2 kg. of Sugar                   |
| 60 Bread Rolls                  | 40 cups of Soup                  |
| 16 litres of milk               | 2 lge. Pkts of Weatias           |
| 3 kg tomatoes                   | 5 bags of Mars Bars              |
| 6 kg Tomatoes                   | 10 lge ***** Blocks of Chocolate |
| 6 kg Sultanas + Nuts            |                                  |
| 6 Bags of Oranges               |                                  |

## Social Report

As usual club members enjoyed a range of social activities over the summer. A number of scheduled and impromptu barbecues were held at the club house.

New Year's Eve was a great hit. The weather was perfect. The junior members were accommodated in a separate marquee. This ensured plenty of space for the older members in the club house.

A juke box was installed on the deck and young and old members of the club had a great time dancing well into the morning. The Commodore's Macarena had to be seen to be believed.

The Cocktail Party was of course a very different type of function. It was a hot and windy day but Jenny Smith's beautiful garden provided an ideal setting.

As usual the Cocktail Party was well supported by members. In his welcoming speech Darcy Smith noted the presence of four ex Commodores of the club, representatives of a number of neighbouring Westernport Yacht Clubs and the local member of the Legislative Council, Ron Bowden and his wife Lynn. Ron assisted the club obtain funds for the construction of Jeff's Little Shed.

Don't forget the Australia Day Progressive Dinner on January 25<sup>th</sup> and the Triathlon on February 8<sup>th</sup>.



# Sailing School

# VYC Sailing School

The FYC Sailing School - a Sue Slater and Company production!

Special thanks goes to Sue Slater and her team who organised the 1996 Sailing School. As usual Sue did a mighty job managing the school. This is a big task. The program has to be promoted and enrolments taken. Volunteers must be recruited to instruct, man the patrol boats and tower, and organise the catering. From the outside at least, it all seems to come together without any hassles.

The FYC committee also extends thanks to all of those who helped with the sailing school. These included:

## *Trainers*

Ken Lacey  
Frank Bancroft  
Ant Grage  
Tim Dawson  
James Manners  
Pete Dawson  
Russel Barrett  
Sue Thompson

## *Boat Preparation*

Doug Thorne  
Suzie Guthrie

## *Catering*

Jane Morgan  
Lyn Whiffin  
Mandy Thorne  
Elizabeth Ramsden

## *Tower*

Joy Manners  
Annie Dawson

## *Patrol Boats*

Len James  
Rod Slater  
Clay Manners  
Andrew Rennie



Between the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, a small contingent of Flinders Yacht Club junior members went to the Victorian Yachting Council Youth Sailing School held at Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron, Blairgowrie. The School was held over three days which lasted from 8am to 8pm, a full 12 hours of sailing instruction.

There were a number of different boats involved. A large contingent of Minnows (Mosquito's in drag), 2 Mirrors (from the FYC of course), a few 125s, a handful of Lasers mostly with radial sails, and about 5 Sabres. There was also one very classy and skilful Hobie 16.

The fleet was divided into 4 groups - 2 groups of Minnows, one for Single Handed yachts, and Double Handers. The sailing school concentrated on improving the basics sailing skills, such as tacking, and jibing, as well as racing techniques, starting, and mark rounding.

The Sailing School culminated in a race on the third day. With little wind and a complicated starting procedure that wasn't explained, the Flinders contingent were 10 minutes behind the start.

Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron is a professional outfit compared to the little Flinders YC, They have a tower including a computer with a handicapper stationed there throughout the race. They also have a total of seven patrol boats.

The sailing conditions are very different to Flinders with the tide playing a MAJOR role.. Looking at the water you could swear that you were travelling fast, but looking at land marks on the beach you were going backwards.

Apart from the not so successful race, the sailing school was very beneficial and improved the sailing skills of those who attended. The Victorian Yachting Council run several similar schools at various locations around Melbourne throughout summer and more information can be obtained by contacting the VYC. James Manners

## **SAILING PICNIC TO O'BRYAN'S BEACH**



Members and Friends welcome  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January, Race Start at 10:15 am  
Go by boat or drive to "Nobbies View"

Take your own picnic lunch

Those driving please park near the white tanks and walk down to the beach

Further details: Sue Slater 890 703

# Results

Race Summer Series Heat 1

Date 29 Dec '96

|        | Boat Name          | Elapsed Time | Y/S | Corr. Time | Pl. | Club H'cap         | Corr. Time | Pl. |
|--------|--------------------|--------------|-----|------------|-----|--------------------|------------|-----|
| Senior | Masters App.       | 83.33        | 112 | 74.4       | 1   | 113.1              | 73.61      | 2   |
|        | Crossfire          | 84.78        | 112 | 75.70      | 2   | 118.5              | 71.54      | 1   |
|        | Flat Out           | 90.32        | 112 | 80.64      | 3   | 116.1              | 77.80      | 4   |
|        | Scamp              | 92.98        | 112 | 83.02      | 4   | 119.9              | 77.55      | 3   |
|        | Wahoo              | 109.77       | 127 | 86.43      | 5   | 130.5              | 84.11      | 5   |
|        | Hector *           | 71.68        | 78  | 91.90      | 6   | 78.0               | 91.90      | 6   |
| Junior | Moozie Too         | 81.53        | 149 | 54.72      | 1   | 163.6              | 49.83      | 3   |
|        | Oriole             | 82.53        | 149 | 55.39      | 2   | 158.5              | 52.07      | 4   |
|        | Zephyr II          | 90.07        | 149 | 60.45      | 3   | 169.9              | 53.01      | 5   |
|        | Ammonia            | 91.68        | 149 | 61.53      | 4   | 149 <sup>m</sup>   | 61.53      | 7   |
|        | Shearwater         | 92.95        | 149 | 62.38      | 5   | 188.4              | 49.34      | 2   |
|        | Seayalater         | 95.30        | 149 | 63.96      | 6   | 162.3              | 58.72      | 6   |
|        | Thermopylae        | 95.93        | 149 | 64.38      | 7   | 149.0 <sup>m</sup> | 64.38      | 8   |
|        | Fiery Dol-<br>phin | 96.98        | 149 | 65.09      | 8   | 201.4              | 48.15      | 1   |
|        | Specchio           | 103.68       | 149 | 69.58      | 9   | 149.0 <sup>m</sup> | 69.58      | 9   |

Race Summer Series Heat 2

Date 30 Dec '96

|        | Boat Name          | Elapsed Time | Y/S | Corr. Time | Pl. | Club H'cap         | Corr. Time | Pl. |
|--------|--------------------|--------------|-----|------------|-----|--------------------|------------|-----|
| Senior | Crossfire          | 51.93        | 112 | 46.37      | 1   | 118.5              | 43.82      | 1   |
|        | Diddy-Do-It        | 60.33        | 127 | 47.5       | 2   | 127.3              | 47.39      | 2   |
|        | Wahoo              | 65.50        | 127 | 51.57      | 3   | 130.5              | 50.19      | 3   |
| Junior | Moozie Too         | 45.88        | 149 | 30.79      | 1   | 163.6              | 28.04      | 2   |
|        | Seayalater         | 47.03        | 149 | 31.56      | 2   | 162.3              | 28.98      | 3   |
|        | Oriole             | 47.43        | 149 | 31.83      | 3   | 158.5              | 29.92      | 5   |
|        | Ammonia            | 49.87        | 149 | 33.47      | 4   | 149.0 <sup>m</sup> | 33.47      | 6   |
|        | Shearwater         | 51.53        | 149 | 34.58      | 5   | 188.4              | 27.35      | 1   |
|        | Fiery Dol-<br>phin | 59.20        | 149 | 39.73      | 7   | 201.4              | 29.39      | 4   |
|        | Flash              | 63.65        | 149 | 42.72      | 8   | 173.4              | 36.71      | 8   |



## FYC is now on the Web!

Just like the big fancy yacht clubs of the world, the Flinders Yacht Club now has it own Internet Site. For up to date results, pictures, program, and links to other sailing sites around the world see:

<http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Field/1919>



## Summer Series -Final Results

|         | Boat Name           | Yardstick |       | Club Handicap |       |
|---------|---------------------|-----------|-------|---------------|-------|
|         |                     | Points    | Place | Points        | Place |
| Seniors | Crossfire           | 2.75      | 1     | 1.5           | 1     |
|         | Master's Apprentice | 7.75      | 2     | 9             | =3    |
|         | Wahoo               | 8         | 3     | 8             | 2     |
|         | Diddy-Do-It         | 9         | 4     | 9             | =3    |
|         | Flat Out            | 10        | 5     | 11            | 6     |
|         | Scamp               | 11        | 6     | 10            | 5     |
|         | Hector              | 13        | 7     | 13            | 7     |
| Juniors | Moozie Too          | 1.5       | 1     | 5             | 3     |
|         | Oriole              | 5         | 2     | 9             | =4    |
|         | Seayalater          | 8         | =3    | 9             | =4    |
|         | Ammonia             | 8         | =3    | 13            | 6     |
|         | Shearwater          | 10        | 5     | 2.75          | 1     |
|         | Zephyr II           | 14        | 6     | 16            | =7    |
|         | Fiery Dolphin       | 15        | =7    | 4.75          | 2     |
|         | Specchio            | 15        | =7    | 16            | =7    |
|         | Thermopylae         | 18        | 9     | 19            | =9    |
|         | Flash               | 19        | 10    | 19            | =9    |

(°-Visitor    =-Insufficient no. of Races for a Club Handicap)

### Current Club Handicap (Off-the-Beach) as of the 30<sup>th</sup> of December 1996

| Senior Division    | Current Club Handicap | Junior Division | Current Club Handicap |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Diddy-Do-It        | 127.3                 | Fiery Dolphin   | 192.1                 |
| Old Dog New Trix   | 130.5                 | Moozie Too      | 155.0                 |
| Wahoo              | 145.1                 | Oriole          | 157.0                 |
| Farandole          | 117.7                 | Seayalater      | 157.7                 |
| Flat Out           | 117.5                 | Zephyr II       | 171.6                 |
| Incognito          | 118.8                 | Flash           | 182.4                 |
| Masters Apprentice | 113.1                 | Shearwater      | 175.4                 |
| Scamp              | 118.5                 | Killani III     | 214.5                 |
| Crossfire          | 117.5                 | Mirror Image    | 149.0                 |
| Tarrinaut          | 116.1                 | Ammonia         | 157.9                 |
| Sea Vixen          | 139.2                 | Specchio        | 163.3                 |
| Jock               | 123                   | Thermopylae     | 149.0                 |

**Congratulations to Angus Fletcher and the crew of Tevake**  
**on their 3<sup>rd</sup> placing over-the-line and on Handicap in the**  
**Melbourne to Devonport race**

(Angus- how about an article on the race for the next issue. Editor)

# Junior Report

Finally the Yacht Club season has really begun! Starting with the end of school and the start of summer. The only problem is that there are only about 3 more weeks left!!!! Anyway the sailing school was again great, helping everybody with their racing, and we are not sure whether it was the motor, or the sailing school that helped Kylie "surfie-chick" Slater to her win in the Summer series. The best thing is that the colours of the boats has improved, but there are still some people who insist on white!!

The beach party was again fun for all with James "touch wood" Manners and Amelia "Phoebe" Ramsden winning the world wide egg throwing competition and winning worth while prizes for their risk.

The Junior Disco was brilliant with thousands of people crowding the clubhouse, and breaking the rules by dancing the Macarena on Club Premises! With thousands of people turning out this year I expect that millions will turn out next year to rampage all over the beach.

With Christmas stuck in the middle, I hope everybody got their message to Santa in time to receive what they wanted. Me, I got what I wanted, a brand new 1967 Land Rover series IIA. Or the old bomb, I prefer the first name.

Most of us have found a new use for our wetsuits, enrolling in surfing clinics over the week. The Manners, Slaters, Dawsons, Morgans, Thornes and Ramsdens were all known participants. It was a great activity and I know for certain that most of us will be making a return to the surf at Pt Leo. There was only one casualty, David "My knee cap isn't meant to be there" Manners suffered a dislocated knee, apart from screaming like a cat without its head, as soon as it was fixed he was back walking normally.

Anyway so far the weather has been really good, and we hope it lasts for the rest of the holidays. The racing fleet is growing, with a regular 8-10 boats turning up every week. Hopefully this remains the same as soon as the holidays end.

