



**Annual General Meeting, 26th May 2013.
Largs Bay Sailing Club Season 2012/13**

Presidents Report.

I'll start this year's report by acknowledging members who were with us last year but have sadly passed away during the season. Doughy Baker, Colin Beswick. I would like to start again by thanking this year's management team Commodore Matthew Carter, Vice Commodore Caroline Cowen, Rear Commodore Matthew Neale, Club Secretary, Tony Kamenjarin, Treasurer Christine Haydon, Sailing Secretary, John Woollatt, Galley Chairperson Audrey Angove, and House Chairperson Richard Begg. Building Chairperson, Brett Osborn, Social Chairperson, Michelle Emery. Committee members: Leon Simms, Glen Emery, Grant Baker and Kylie Baker especially, who also took on the additional role as publicity and functions coordinator. My role again this year has been made easier due to the skills and experience of this management team. In addition to our management committee, I would also like to thank all the other member volunteers who turn up each Saturday, Sunday and at national title weeks to assist in running the club and helping out. All the behind the scenes stuff too during the week, picking up of supplies, banking, administration, refueling, maintenance, and more. The running of this club is definitely a 7 days a week operation, 52 weeks a year by our management team and volunteer base. This committee has worked very well together throughout the year. There was plenty of discussion every week on matters, and at our management monthly meetings where decisions were ratified. There were many times when varying views were presented, however healthy debate and good sense prevailed and we hope the right decisions made. The Club continues to maintain and improve on its healthy financial position because of the smart management and through the diligent guidance by our treasurer. We had no exceptionally big spend items for the year, but the treasurer does keep reminding us of a wish list with some big spend items on our radar for future consideration. (disabled access, cold room upgrades, upstairs refurbishment).

The bar continues to be a major revenue earner for the Club. Supported by Saturday night meals on a regular basis and moving to Friday night meals over winter. These new initiatives have assisted in increasing the clubs bar patronage. Our sailing season time galley operations too are good for additional revenue from I believe, arguably the best dinghy club canteen in Australia. The occasional private function, heavily scrutinized and screened by Kylie also contributes. We continue to host the Port Church on Sundays and have welcomed for the first time this year a yoga class a couple of times during the week. Usage of our squash courts also continues to be popular. We maintain our affiliation with the Office of Recreation and Sport as a "Good Sports" Club which ensures proper liquor licensing, bar management strategies, responsible service of alcohol (RSA) training and smoke-free environment. Our accreditation serves concurrently with "STARCLUB" certification which recognises us as a well-run club where quality coaches and officials work alongside valued volunteers in a safe and welcoming environment. Our relationship with the building owner "The City of Port Adelaide and Enfield Council" is good and we are now into the 2nd year of our 5 year right of renewal for the lease of this building. They are happy with how the club is being managed and maintained. However they have instructed us that they expect a full paint makeover sometime soon. We have continued to be well represented at Yachting South Australia meetings by myself and the Commodore to ensure we are up to date with Australian Yachting information and also to see that our own interests are

represented. Our reputation as a successful and well respected off the beach dinghy club continues to grow on a national basis. During the season, we welcomed intra and interstate guests participating in regattas we hosted. There were many visitors to our Club expressing how impressed they were with our on and off water management. The hospitality and friendliness by club members, officials and volunteers was most appreciated as evidenced in thank you correspondence and the commendations we received. Our flag officers and sailing committee members involved in organising the seasons sailing events

are to be congratulated. So, well done. We even took on a national titles for an interstate class desperately looking for a club to host them after being let down by another club only a fortnight out from the scheduled commencement of their national titles regatta. Our membership numbers for the last two years have been similar between 260 and 280 and I can't see any reason why we cannot at the least, maintain these numbers moving forward. Australia's 2012 Olympic success has increased interest in sailing and there has also been increased funding to the sport. We should make sure that as the new season approaches; we are promoting our club and are prepared for any interested newcomers. And if they don't want to go sailing, there are always our squash courts and pennant squash teams. So moving into a new season we will continue to manage the best we can keeping costs down but at the same time, continue to deliver good facilities, good functions, and good sailing. I am sure all this time we will be receiving plenty of good advice!

Thank you,
Michael Simms



Commodores Report – Season 2012/13

I'll try to keep this short as I know some poor bugger, probably Michael, has to read it out.

Once again our team at Largs Bay Sailing Club can be proud of another successful season. We hosted many major events and received many verbal and written offerings of gratitude. My support team offer great assistance allowing me to chase and manage events in a way that other clubs envy.

This season Vice Commodore Caroline Cowen has looked after Junior Training. This group is getting bigger all the time and we are continually reviewing the boats we have available and improving facilities to accommodate the influx. Leon, Bob, Rex and Roger play a vital role with their wealth of experience and eagerness to see more and more kids sailing at Largs Bay. The last few years of parents getting involved has been encouraging and plans are being discussed for the long term future. Thanks to Greg Gaffney for taking on the coordinators role and investigating some fresh ideas to improve our system. Again during winter modifications will be happening to the Opti shed to make more space along with other storage improvements. Thanks to Herb Klaffer for his donation of a Usual. This will be well received by the training group for getting a number of new kids on the water or a few adults.

My Rear Commodore, Matthew Neale has looked after our regular Saturday Safety Boat crews. This task can be trying with limited volunteers available this season. We are already hard at work looking for fresh blood for next season and a roster has been setup with the aim to fill weeks in advance.

Club racing this season has been quite impressive. We've regularly had around 40 boats on the water and peaked at just over 50. This has been mainly attributed to the resurgence of the Cherub and Heron fleets and the rebirth of the Sabre fleet. We are still lacking in intermediate fleets and sadly some of those classes missed out on trophies last season but we are glad to have them on the water and support their dedication.

We had a variety of major events this season including the 2nd Annual Flinders Ports Australia Day Regatta, 12' Cadet Stonehaven Cup, Skate National Championship, leg 3 of the YSA Youth Tri-series, state heats for Optimists, TS16s, Impulses, Contenders, Lasers, 125s, Fireballs and Sharpies, fleet races for Herons and Mosquitos. These events really showcase the club to the outside world. Through our dedicated and professional team all of these events were well executed and attracted many sailors to enjoy the facilities we all love. On a financial note I was impressed as I tallied in my head on one of these weekends that we had brought in almost \$10,000 through nominations, bar and canteen sales. Our major Christmas championships this season were both officiated by Grant Baker. Once again Matt and I were away and left the day to day duties to our team. Both classes gave great reports and particularly the Skates were very pleased to have raced at Largs after being without a national's venue only 8 weeks out.

Once again this winter we are holding the Polar Bear series. This informal event is becoming more popular each year. It consists of four days spread over four months of incredibly short racing with all boats on one course and a common goal of keeping warm and keeping skills up. I'd be very surprised if this season we don't get over 20 boats most days unless we're unlucky with weather.

Our Safety Boats are about to undergo usual winter maintenance. The fleet is in fairly good order so there is nothing out of the ordinary to be aware of. To give you an idea a year's mechanical maintenance plan for parts only can be expected anywhere between \$4,000 and \$10,000. This is without any major break downs or replacements and excluding hull and safety equipment. Unfortunately while running up to seven boats on the water and two vehicles that take a hammering we need a maintenance program of this level.

Looking forward to next season we already have the Impulse fleet of approximately 30 boats booked in for their national championship. Also the YSA Tri-series is booked for early November, our club program is in development and Opening Day will be here before we know it.

I would like to thank Caroline Cowen for her two years for Vice Commodore and previous years working with me also. Caroline is a valuable member of the committee and I'm happy she will still be holding a place with us. Matthew Neale will be a good replacement of Caroline and I'm glad to have Barry O'Toole on board as Rear Commodore.

I'd like to thank all the committee and members who have supported me this season and I look forward to season 2013/14.

Matthew Carter
Commodore LBSC