

BENDIGO YACHT CLUB INC.
The Sailing Centre for Central Victoria

MAINSHEET

No. 512

MARCH 2016

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Dueling Pacers Lady Skipper Race 20th February



Kimbolton Series - Race 7 27th February

Coming Up

- **Cruising - Myall Lakes NSW**
29th March - 8th April
- **Final Sailing School of the Season**
2nd April
- **Hudson Handicap - Sternchaser**
9th April
- **Closing Day Luncheon -**
16th April
- **Ancient Mariner Series**
Final Race - 16th April



BENDIGO YACHT CLUB

The Sailing Centre for Central Victoria

Incorporated Association Number A0002316Y

PO Box 244, Bendigo, Victoria 3552

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BENDIGO YACHT CLUB ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF:

- *Bee Happy Orthodontics*
- *City of Greater Bendigo*
- *Fosterville Gold Mine*
- *Goodall Design*
- *Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise*
- *McKern Steel*
- *Sandhurst Accounting*

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:
FRIDAY 15TH APRIL**

**NEXT SAILING COMMITTEE
MEETING: TUESDAY 12TH APRIL**

**MAINSHEET DEADLINE
APRIL EDITION:
DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY 20TH APRIL**

*Race Day trophies are
donated by
Beast Yacht Racing
& Russell Denholm
Automotive*



COMMODORES COMMENTS



Well the club is doing well with great attendance with each week of racing, working bees and social events even though we are overall down on membership by around 70. Whilst a drop in membership could be expected due to water levels, as a committee we wanted to look into it further and try and combat the reasons for the drop off the best way we could. On analysis the drop in membership seems to be attributed to several areas.

The largest reason would be the bad press at the beginning of the season re-water levels or in some cases, reports of no water, caused many members who occasionally attend the club to social sail to make alternative plans. I have spent many hours trying to educate those who post negative stories both on social media and in the press that, exaggerating the lack of water to try and prove a point to GMW and the politicians, would only have a negative effect on people using the lake when, although the water is down, there is plenty to use for recreation for all. In fact the water levels this year has had virtually no effect on our racing this season to date. However I do feel for the local businesses and clubs who have lost income due to the low water levels and subsequent bad press, and I agree something needs to be done, but a positive campaign usually brings positive results where as a negative usually gets nowhere. Whilst the water levels are a big issue and largely we have little impact on weather and those who manage the outflows, I have been meeting with local and federal politicians with some promising talks regarding recreational use of the lake. I'm hoping to have some down to witness our situation personally, hopefully on our closing day but due to their busy calendars, no promises at this stage.

The second reason which isn't far behind the first, is a combination of busier lifestyles and allocation of finances. As we all know we seem to be trying to fit in more and more into what seems to be a diminished timeframe of life. The problem with sailing is it is a large commitment taking at least a full day out of the week, not to mention boat maintenance and washing, drying and preparation of the gear we wear that is usually done during the week. It's also a big investment as boats, gear, insurances and fees add up which is compounded significantly if one has a family and several boats etc. What we have been trying to do at the club is promote the club as a part of a lifestyle by not just putting on good racing, but by adding a bit more fun with, on most days, presenting trophies for various reasons after racing thus bringing everyone together socially after the race. We have also run several very successful social events, the latest being the Pasta Night with Greg Goodall as guest speaker. This was a great night with good food and a very informative and entertaining session with Greg. There is no doubt he is a very talented man being successful at the highest levels in virtually everything he has put his hand to such as sail making, boat design and of course sailing itself where he has achieved more than what most of us could only dream about. Naturally, and as he mentioned he couldn't have done this without Helen and his family who are equally talented in many ways also. A big thanks must go to all of our members who spend endless time organising and running these events that bring our members together for fun times.

Other areas to improve the club experience is the promotion of after sailing BBQ's where we now have a more family dynamic with much laughter and wild stories going late into the night. We also have invested in the Big Screen TV which has proven to be very popular when replaying the racing from previous weeks. The fire pit, although not used during the warmer months, was very popular earlier in the season and I'm sure will be again now we are getting into the cooler months. In doing these things we are hoping we are supplying a good return of the investment in time and finances therefore making it well worth the effort. To help further we are looking into finances with it looking like there will be no rise in subscriptions for next season and to make it a little easier we are introducing a part payment plan for those who need to spread the financial burden over time rather than handing out a lump sum prior to the season.

The third reason is natural attrition where we historically have a 30% drop off of membership which has been the same for many years. To date this hasn't been an issue as we normally pick up 30% of new members. Of course we have been working hard to reduce the drop off and working harder to pump up the uptake of membership but it's hard to sell a product such as ours when water levels are low. One may comment that a 30% turnover is very high but to explain this a bit further we need to look at the sailing school where trainees may come, join and train then move on to a new experience to learn. This season Mick and Anita, along with everyone else who dedicate their time to the school have done a terrific job in introducing the trainees into the club lifestyle we offer and judging on the many faces who are around the club their efforts have worked a treat. I'm sure due to their efforts we will see better figures on next seasons analysis.

Anyway enough from me, however I would like to thank all of our members who have stuck in and enjoyed the club thus far this season. I'm hoping we will all do the same next season and bring our friends. If the water is low, which I'm sure it won't be as we are expecting a wet winter, we will find things we can all enjoy together.

Finally, as many would be thinking that a drop in membership would mean a drop in income and we must be suffering financially. Well you would be correct and we have taken a drop in income of around eleven thousand dollars but it's not all bad news. The committee has worked diligently with cost savings and even though we have outlaid significant funds for the road rejuvenation and other required club maintenance, we are currently running with a small profit excluding depreciation. Whilst we are expecting further expenses, we have further income from school camps and some bad debts which should leave us with a good balance around the time of the AGM. We are also looking at further cost savings in such things as Yachting Victoria fees, which have increased 50% this year even with a drop in membership, in our power consumption where we spent annually around \$3500 and in waste removal which costs us annually \$2500. I'm sure with some good solutions here, in other smaller areas, and with the support of our members we will not only be in a very sound financial situation we will be able to knock off the club renovations which we are all looking forward to enjoying.

Regards to all Russell.



KEN'S RACING REPORT

Boat skippers can check all race placings by going to Sailres.com, Bendigo Yacht Club, Kimbolton Series and all race results are there.



Saturday 13th February - Cairn Curran Challenge.

Congratulations to the Junior Trophy winner Eliza McKinstry who sailed a great race in conditions that were far less than ideal.

Twilight Race - Wednesday 17th February .

Unfortunately I didn't race as the weather forecast was for 10 – 15 knot winds which didn't suit old sailors, however the race was still held and those sailors who competed were tested in the conditions.

Saturday 20th February - Trophy Race 5 - Lady Skipper Race.

The weather was kind with about 5 to 10 knots of wind and a nice sunny day. There was a really good show of boats - about 20 in all. I think everyone was happy with the course laid, but the start was difficult with the length of the start line being short. Several boats had minor collisions and many crossed the line too early. This is the first time I have laid a course and so got the start fairly wrong. I always thought sailors were happy, gentle folk but the encouragement I got on the recall and resetting the start buoy just raised my confidence to do the course setting again. The good thing about the course chosen was that the race started in front of the clubhouse.

The day was fairly uneventful with only a few capsizes and cartwheels and everyone came off the course feeling they had a good sail.

Trophy winners being 1st **Mosquito** Ewan Watson, 1st **Mono** Russell Denholm, 1st **Lady Skipper** Lillian Maher.

Twilight Race - Wednesday 24th February - the last Twilight race for the season.

The weather was warm and a wind of 3 to 8 knots and thunder storms appearing on the horizon. It was a triangle course of good length in front of the club. All of the 8 boats racing had an enjoyable sail and BBQ tea following. Russell came first and Mick was second.

Kimbolton Series Race 23 and 24 - Saturday 27th February.

It was a perfect sunny day with a easterly wind at 5 to 8 knots. There were 23 boats competing which was the best number for a long time. The first race was a triangle course and everything went to plan, a good start and the race went for about an hour. The second race was a windward and return and although it appeared to go well many boats hit a submerged tree and broke centreboards and rudders.

Russell gave out trophies to sailors who battled on after either having difficulties at the start line or who damaged their boat and continued on to race. With some tongue in cheek Russell offered to repair damage caused by the tree.

Winners for Division 1: Stuart Ridge, Division 2: Russell Denholm, Division 3: John Foreman.

Kimbolton Series Race 25 and 26 - Saturday 5th March.

Saturday arrived in the heat wave and no wind and everyone waited, however no wind came by 3pm. During the wait Russell gave a impromptu talk on race rules which everyone enjoyed and joined in with lots of questions and comments. At 3:30 the wind arrived but it was too late however some boats took to the water and enjoyed just sailing around. In the evening Greg Goodall gave a talk on sail making which all enjoyed.

The Fun of the 2016 Lady Skipper Race

The Lady Skipper prize
money was donated to
Lillian's favourite
charity ~ the RSPCA



Lady Skipper of the Day.
The delightful
Miss Lillian Maher



Local Schools Sailing Program

Recently 250 students from Epson and Strathfieldsaye Primary schools participated in the Local Schools Sailing Program. With the help of Yachting Vic's Mobile Boatshed crew, Di and Mick Floyd and Bernie Young these kids had a fantastic introduction to sailing in near perfect weather





90 HAPPY BIRTHDAY Ken Hill

The Control Room King.

Turning 90 years young early next month, Ken Hill is an icon of Bendigo Yacht Club. His dulcet tones and professionalism across the airways on Saturdays helps to ensure that race days run smoothly.

Born in Korong Vale, Ken was the youngest of five children and the family moved to Golden Square when Ken was quite young. He and his lovely Ruth met when they were both teenagers and they have recently celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary.

Ken became a projectionist during his army years and following this he worked at most of Bendigo's theatres retiring in 1991. Ken had, and still has, a keen interest in radio electronics and when television came to Australia, he and his brother built a television with a 6 inch round screen which had pride of place in his parents home for many years. Ken was also responsible for the installation of the first sound system in the Bendigo Talking Trams. His interest in radios, in fact in most things electrical remains today and his knowledge is deep and wide on how to get the most from these pieces of equipment. A passion that has also served Bendigo Yacht Club over a long period of time.

Ken's passion for sailing began in 1965 when he began crewing for his brother-in-law Cliff Swatton, on an 18 foot heavy plywood Manta catamaran. Cliff was an original member of Bendigo Yacht Club. By this time Ken was hooked, as was his young daughter Sue. At the beginning of season 1966 the Hill family applied for membership of Bendigo Yacht Club.

Ken's first yacht purchase was a little green Sabot in which he hoped his girls would learn to sail in. He and Sue circumnavigated the islands on one of their first adventures and, with daughter Janet also showing an interest, it was soon obvious that another boat was in order. The construction of an Arafura Cadet was next on the agenda and the hulls were built in Ken and Ruth's bedroom necessitating the removal of the windows to get them out. After an incident with the Arafura Sue decided she was a mono girl. This led to construction of another craft - a Sailfish this time for her. With the girls now very accomplished sailors, Ken went solo on a Quickcat which were all the rage at that time.

Ken became a very active member of the club as a member of the Sailing and of the General Committee, holding the positions of general member, rear, vice and Commodore. He and Ruth became editors of Mainsheet for a number of seasons and Ken took on the responsibility for ensuring the Public Address system was always operational and that the radio communications to the rescue boats were in A1 condition. Ken also designed and built the buoys which were used for many years. He sourced washing machine tubs, cordial bottles which he filled with polystyrene blocks cut on the hot wire and held these in place with pouring foam. These buoys were then semi permanently moored in the lake and had flags (sewn by Ruth) attached to conduit poles so were visible from the control room. Ken's ingenuity at work!

With Ken and the girls out sailing, Ruth too began to show an interest in the on-water activities so a Sonata 6 was purchased and Ken and Ruth sailed and raced. They also became part of the cruising fraternity which frequented the Gippsland Lakes numerous times and ventured to Goolwa in 1998. Ken had also become even more involved in the Race Control side of the club - rescue boat duties, race control/start boat, control room and Sailing Committee. In these duties he excelled and has a wealth of knowledge and expertise. Ken has a love of sailing and for this club and for his service he has been bestowed the honour of Life Membership.

Ken and Ruth have travelled widely throughout Australia. He is a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. On the eve of his 90th birthday and with 50 years of continuous service to Bendigo Yacht Club, this gentle man is wished fair winds and smooth seas.

Thankyou to Sue Hill who supplied the information for this article.

Ed.

Pasta Night



Well done to Marg Grant who put in a huge effort with the catering for the club's recent Pasta Night.

THANKYOU to all those who hopped in and helped out on the day and with the clean up afterwards.

Fantastic.

2nd April
Final Sailing School morning
Plenty of Fun & Activities.

Sausage Sizzle Lunch



Lady Skipper Race
20th February



Due to unforeseen circumstances
the **Trivia Night**
that was to be held
on 2nd April will be postponed
until next season.

9th April

Hudson Handicap Sternchaser

16th April

Closing Day Luncheon

If possible, please bring
a plate of finger food to share.

Last race in the
Ancient Mariner Series.



Just a Reminder

To assist the cleaning staff, before leaving the clubrooms
after an evening or a function please remember to place
the chairs up on the tables.



Bull Sheet



The Cruising group usually share memories, photos and experiences after returning from a cruise, but Rob and Judy's incident on the Newell Hwy on the way home from the Fraser trip was a hard story to beat.

The Lost Wheel

After having a fantastic Fraser Island Cruise, we decided to stay in motels on the way home for comfort and convenience.

We stayed with my brother who lives in Noosa the first night and set out on the second day to reach Goondiwindi that night. All was going well until we were about 100km from Goondiwindi when one of our tyres was punctured and was shredded before we could stop. I changed the damaged wheel and tossed it into the rear of the car and then continued on. We booked into the Swagman Motel in Goondiwindi and was told we could park the boat at the rear of the motel where other trailers and trucks were parked.

The next morning we went into town and replaced the damaged tyre and put it in the back of the car. On returning to the motel we hitched up the boat and drove off to Moree, about 90km away.

We decided to have a coffee at Moree and pulled up outside the shop on the edge of town. When we got out of the car Judy noticed that a wheel was missing on the boat's tandem trailer. When I looked I noticed that the brake drum and all the nuts were missing. On examining the axle and the studs on the wheel hub there was no damage, so I concluded that the wheel had been removed by someone back at the motel in Goondiwindi. Fortunately, we had a spare wheel and bought a new set of wheel nuts. After fitting the wheel we continued on our way without further incident.

The most concerning part of all this was that the trailer has 13 inch Holden wheels, hubs and brakes. It is almost impossible to get original replacements. I was looking at replacing all the wheels, hubs and brakes to the trailer. However, Major Trailers were able to get replacement wheels and tyres that fitted to the original hubs. I was lucky enough to get a brake drum from a wrecker in Castlemaine. The event set us back about \$300. A complete replacement of the wheels, hubs and brakes would have cost about \$1500.

It was a good outcome overall because I now know that I can get replacement parts for these from any good trailer retailer in most towns.

Rob and Judy Heath

PROPOSED CRUISES 2016

March Tues 29 - Fri April 8 (4 days travel included)
Myall Lakes (NSW)

May Fri 20th - Sunday 22nd
Picnic Point (Murray River)

September - Sat 12th - Thurs 17th
Mildura to Wentworth

October - Sat. 16th - Sun 18th
Ovens River Yarrawonga

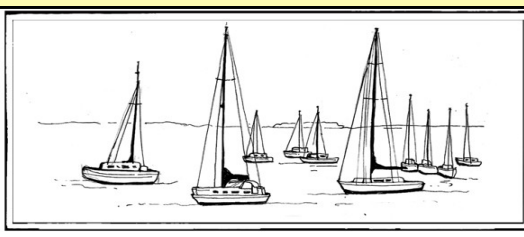
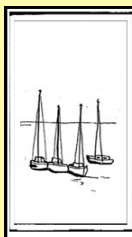
November - Sat. 9th - Sun 20th
Cowens Creek (NSW)



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DUTY ROSTER - MARCH/APRIL 2016

Date	Event	Control Room	OOD	Crews
Sat 5 Mar, 2016	Kimbolton 9&10 Championship 25&26	Ken Hill	Rob Lott	Mark Hawkins, Elliot Hawkins, Alyssa Hunter, Campbell McEwan, Colin McEwan, Anita Hunter
Sat 12-Mon14 Mar	No Sailing at BeYC			
Sat 19 Mar, 2016	Championship 27&28 Ancient Mariner 11&12	Ken Hill	Marg Grant	Ian Grant, Kenn Mann, John Cooper, Carol & Dane Boag, Peter & Wendy Rogasch
Sat 26 Mar, 2016	Easter	No Sailing at BeYC		
Sat 2 Apr, 2016	Championship 29&30 Ancient Mariner 11&12	Ken Hill	Stuart Ridge	Greg Devlin, Doug Carswell, Andrea McGregor Turner, Ron Mason, Warren Matheson
Sat 9 Apr, 2016	Hudsons Handicap (Sternchaser)	Don Ridge, Ken Hill	Sailing Committee Member (OOD)	Volunteers
Sat 16 Apr, 2016	Kimbolton 15&16 Championship 31&32 Ancient Mariner 11&12	Ken Hill	Ewan Watson	Mark Gillies, Steve Phillis, Dennis Scammel, John & Lilly Maher, Jake Mildren
Note: If you are unable to attend on your allocated day, it is YOUR responsibility to swap. Actual roles undertaken are flexible. Regular Rescue Boat skippers Craig Pitt and Ken Coulsen will attend as often as possible in addition to those listed above.				



GENERAL COMMITTEE

Commodore	Russell Denholm	0418 996 753	beastyachting19@gmail.com
Vice Commodore	Colin Nankervis	0419 371 289	colin@alliedconsultants.com.au
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Boat Storage	Rowan Gillies	0432 624 293	<u>rowan.gillies@bigpond.com</u>
	Andrea McGregor	0402 930 805	<u>andrea.turner@overnewton.vic.edu.au</u>

CO-ORDINATORS/MANAGERS

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SAILING COMMITTEE

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Commodore	Russell Denholm	0418 996 753	<u>beastyachting19@gmail.com</u>
Secretary	Ewan Watson	0429 204 859	<u>ewanmwatson@gmail.com</u>
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General Member	Ken Hill	0417 300 821	<u>ken.hill@intermode.on.net</u>
General Member	Brenton McDonald	0427 393 546	<u>brenmarg@gmail.com</u>
General Member	Sarah Floyd	0400 215 787	<u>floyd.sarah.m@gmail.com</u>

SAILING PROGRAM - 2016 POST CHRISTMAS

Date		Overall Series	Individual Series	Sub Series	Social	Sailing School
Jan	Fri 1	Opti Cup	Opti Cup			
Jan	Wed 6	Twilight Race 1			Post Race BBQ	
Jan	Sat 9	Trophy Race 4				
Jan	Wed 13	Twilight Race 2			Post Race BBQ	
Jan	Sat 16	Race 17-18 Championship	Kimbolton 1-2	Ancient Mariner 7-8	Family BBQ	
Jan	Sun 17	Working Bee	All club participation			
Jan	Sat/Sun 23-24	Regatta (All Club)	Australia Day	Timpenny Nationals		
Jan	Wed 27	Twilight Race 3			Post Race BBQ	
Jan	Sat 30	Race 19-20 Championship	Kimbolton 3-4			Yes
Feb	Wed 3	Twilight Race 4			Post Race BBQ	
Feb	Sat 6	Race 22-23 Championship	Kimbolton 5-6		Happy Hour	Yes
Feb	Wed 10	Twilight Race 5			Post Race BBQ	
Feb	Sat 13	Bendigo/ at Cairn Curran	Curran Challenge Reservoir			
Feb	Wed 17	Twilight Race 6			Post Race BBQ	
Feb	Sat.20	Trophy Race 5	Ladies Race	Ladies Race	Happy Hour	
Feb	Wed 24	Twilight Race			Post Race BBQ	
Feb	Sat 27	Race 23-24 Championship	Kimbolton 7-8	Ancient Mariner 9-10		Yes
Mar	Sat 5	Race 25/26 Championship	Kimbolton 9-10		Pasta Night Guest Speaker	Yes
Mar	12 - 14	Labour Day weekend	Marley Point	Overnight Trailable		
Mar	Sat 19	Race 27-28 Championship	Kimbolton 11-12		Happy Hour	Yes
Mar	Sun 20	Sailing School	Picnic Cruise & Family Day	All Invited		
Mar	26	Easter	Lake Boga Regatta	No Sailing at	BeYC	
April	2	Race 29 -30 Championship	Kimbolton 13 - 14		Trivia Night	Yes
April	9	Trophy Race 6	Hudson Handicap Sternchaser	Hudson Handicap		
April	Sat 16	Race 31-32	Kimbolton 15-16	Ancient Mariner 11-12	Closing Day Lunch	

If undelivered return
to:
Bendigo Yacht Club
PO Box 244,
BENDIGO 3552
I.A.N.: A0002316Y

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Federal Member for Bendigo

LISA CHESTERS MP

Hudson Handicap
Sternchaser - 9th April

Ancient Mariner Series
Final Race - 16th April

Closing Day Luncheon
16th April