



McCrae Yacht Club
Mornington Peninsula - Australia

Club Captain's Report

Sailing Season 2016-2017

The pre-Christmas period was a challenge for the Sailing Committee and sailors alike with only 6 club races on 4 days being completed out of a possible 10 sailing days. Fortunately, the weather came to the party for our traditional November Catamaran Championships with 62 boats turning up for the event. Hopefully next season's Championships will be even bigger with the event to be heavily promoted by Australian Sailing. Thanks go to Race Officer Bronwyn Evans for squeezing 5 heats into the two days.

The Australian "A" Class Championships were run in early January 2017 with 49 entries attending. This was an exciting event which ran seamlessly due to the long-term planning of Regatta Manager Mark O'Brien and careful analysis of the weather patterns by Principal Race Officer Bronwyn Evans who got 9 heats in for the week (plus 2 practice races). Thanks to all the volunteers both on and off the water.

Although the domestic season was regularly fractured by the weather, we still managed to run 22 heats of the prized Aggregate and Skipper of Skippers trophy. The winners were duly rewarded at the Club's recent Presentation Night along with recognition of some (but not all) special people who contribute so much to McCYC.

As predicted during Opening Day formalities, McCYC's reputation is such that Associations were approaching us requesting that we host their state titles. Ultimately, we decided to host 2 regattas on the Labour Day weekend – a true test of resources both human and otherwise as well as the planning abilities of Regatta Manager Steve Berryman. Our thanks go to Steve who was indeed challenged by managing 2 associations' expectations. Both the Hobie and Impulse Associations left well satisfied with the way their racing was run. Thanks go to Impulse RO Peter Merritt who stepped in to assist Alistair Watson on the Impulse course.

Next season sees the Club hosting the International Contender National and World Titles in January. Planning for this has been underway for over a year with Regatta Manager Mark O'Brien leading the campaign.

We are beginning to receive approaches from associations regarding the hosting of state titles over the Labour Day weekend; the 9er and 420 associations among them.

The Sailing Committee has delivered 4 major regattas this season as well as a solid domestic season which sees the club retain its reputation as the most active off-the-beach sailing club in Victoria, if not, Australia. This would not be possible without the commitment of a great many volunteers and committee members Haylee Berryman, Peter Cass, Cameron Dunwoody, Bronwyn Evans, Jan Lind, Simon Merritt and Richard Nicholson.

Haylee, Peter, Jan and Simon leave the committee after serving the club in various capacities for several seasons. Thank you for your service. We will enjoy watching you turn up simply to sail next season – you have all certainly earned that privilege.

The good news is that nominations for new Sailing Committee membership have been received from Steve Brayshaw, Jamie Caithness, Dave Parker, Andrew Pritchard and Alistair Watson. Additionally, Brody Riley is to become a co-opted Committee member which, all proceeding smoothly at the AGM will mean not only a boost to the Committee numbers but will bring new experience, expertise and knowledge to the group... exciting times.

As usual there are too many volunteers to thank by name. The Sailing Committee does try during the season to see each and every contributor to ensure they understand how much their input is appreciated. To each and everyone one of you, the Sailing Committee thanks you sincerely on behalf of all the sailors who benefit so much from the time you sacrifice.

Stay warm, now. See you in September.

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Club Captain.