



BYRA BULLETIN

The official newsletter of the Bayview Yacht Racing Association

UPCOMING EVENTS

The sailing season is rapidly coming to a close!

While we fully intend to keep sailing past the end of the 'official race programme' below are some important dates to take us to end of this official sailing season.

Pop in your calendar now so you don't get double booked!

Relevant details for each event will be progressively released in due course.

Any queries in the meantime please email us!

3rd April

Centerboard Championship

Traditional Moth Regatta

Lean to Sail - Session 6

9 - 10th April

CatSHIT Regatta

Yes, a real thing!

For multimarans!

Could even be a spectator event!



Editor's Ahoy

Ahoy BYRA-ites and welcome to the BYRA Bulletin Saints edition! In this bulletin we celebrate not only Saint Valentine and Saint Patrick to whom we owe heart shaped chocolate and binge drinking, but also our under-the-radar *member saints* who have been devoting some serious time to the club.

First up - the paint saints! If you've not been past the club or sailing of recent, check out the new paint job!!!



17th April

Easter

AKA chocolate eating day!

NSW School Holidays

Sailing opportunities may still be available.... check whatsapp!

24th April

NSW School Holidays

ANZAC Weekend

Sailing opportunities may still be available.... check whatsapp!

30 April - 1st May

Skud 18 Pittwater Regatta

Hosted by RPYC/Sailability CB

1st May

Peter Loft Marathon

This is a very special BYRA event - more details to follow!

8th May

RPYC & RMYC Events

Lion Island Autumn Series

**We will also be having
BYRA prize giving and
general celeBYRAtions
- date to be
determined!**

Not quite complete but well under way thanks to Henry, Mal, Robb, George and James - this dream team has negotiated funding, managed the painters, and organised (plus completed!) a whole bunch of repairs to keep the club on its legs (literally). Super effort and much appreciated with **special mention to Henry and Mal** for the amount of work they have put in!

Another BIG thank you to the painters Paul and Darren from **PLMB Painting Services** who have provided a fantastic service. Big thank you also to the Watty trade store in Brookvale, who donated the bulk of the paint for free.

Watty What?!

Yes, you read that correctly - **FOR FREE!**

Watty trade store Brookvale gave us BYRA-ites a whole heap of Watty 'Solarguard Hydrachroma in classic Hamilton Blue - great for protection from paint fading and degradation!' to get the job done.

But wait! It gets even better!

The Watty trade store in Brookvale is also creating a special BYRA account that will enable all us BYRA-ites to purchase paint for our own digs at a significant discount to retail price.

That sounds like a win-win-win to me.

BYRA Big Days

Another saintly shout out needs to go to Maggie Strevens. Maggie's contribution to the club cannot be overstated.



For the past 8 - 9 years (almost a decade!) Maggie has been organising BYRA weddings, and all this work as a volunteer.

This is a massive commitment (excuse the pun) and so on behalf of us all, **THANK YOU MAGGIE** for all of the time and energy that has gone into not just managing a key BYRA income stream, but for allowing the clubhouse to frame a very special day in many couple's lives.

Let's hope there's been no divorces...

Don't have Whatsapp but open to it? Check out www.whatsapp.com for info. It's easy to use, secure, and free! If you need help installing it on your phone (or even your computer!) give us a shout and we'll help best we can.

I mentioned in the last bulletin that we might run a survey to get an idea of volunteering skills and abilities. Instead, we've gone one better and added a field to the BYRA website to capture the skills, passions, and preferences of our members when it comes to volunteering tasks.



A word cloud featuring the word 'Welcome' in the center, surrounded by its translations in various languages: 'welkom', 'witaj', 'Bienvenue', 'salve', 'hoşgeldiniz', 'velkommen', 'добро пожаловать', 'välkommen', 'bonveno', 'willkommen', 'ようこそ', 'benvenuto', 'vitejte', and 'bienvenido'. Each word is enclosed in a colorful speech bubble or tag.

If you are new, please don't be afraid to ask for help or information from anyone when at the clubhouse! We were all new once!

News from the Crews

Youth Sailing updates by Junior Captain Orlando Sadlik

While it is almost the end of the season there is still plenty of great news coming from the junior sailors of BYRA.

29er State Titles Round 2 - Woollahra Sailing Club

Two BYRA 29er teams attended the NSW State Titles Round 2, at Woollahra Sailing Club. The race course was set between Shark Island and Clarke Island. The wind was very shifty and came in squalls meaning you had to have your eyes out of the boat the whole time if you wanted to avoid going for a swim in the brown water.

How it was for Owen Gillmeister & Orlanda Sadlik - by Orlando

I loved racing at Woollahra on the harbour it was really good to get into a big fleet of 41 boats and even though it was very variable winds I liked it because it gave us a lot of opportunities to make some gains when we picked it right, but there were also times where we went from top 10 to the back of the fleet because we got it wrong.

We also struggled to keep our speed when it got choppy and wavy for the first few races, getting out to the course early definitely helped us figure out that the waves were smaller in some parts of the course and could even be used to push you to the top mark if you went out the left of the course.

I expected to place in the top 20 as we had been training quite often and I knew we were capable of making it into the top of the fleet. Owen and I fell short of our goal by 3 places and finished 21st of 41.

Our best result was 9th.

How it was for Sophie Aitken & Rose Cookson - by Sophie

I think it was a pretty good regatta, personally the conditions weren't great and I would've loved a bit more wind so we could get some more power into the boat.

Rose and I were expecting to place around 28th-35th. I am pretty proud of how we sailed and we definitely know what we need to work on.

We achieved our goal and finished 31st of 41.

Our best result was 27th

Narrabeen Lake Open Skiff Cup

Narrabeen Lakes Sailing Club put on an awesome fun regatta which was their first since their club burnt down from a fire. Josh Aitken and I attended and we both enjoyed racing in our respective divisions.

The venue was very shifty and it paid to pick the shifts - I went from thinking I was over course start but went back to being 4th around the top mark and 5th before the finish, until I capsized about 5 metres from the line because I pumped too hard on my final tack.

Josh had some good races in the silver fleet, snagging a 3rd and a 2nd.

I think it was a great fun regatta to go to and I think that the open skiff is an awesome class for juniors.

Photos below.



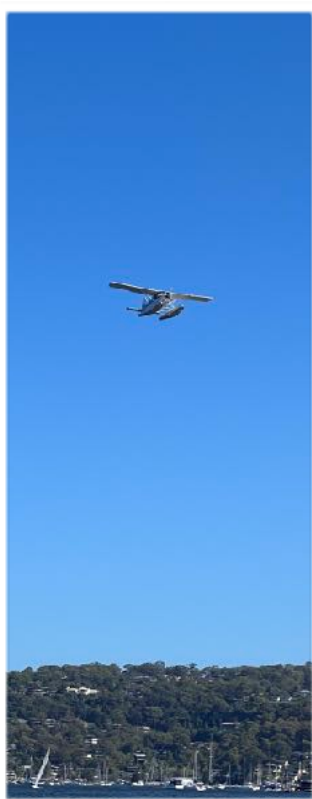
LTS + General Sunday Pottering + Some Racing (plus an emerging Après Sail scene!)

Thanks to La Niña and the deluge from the heavens it's been a mixed (sailing) bag of late.

Two 'Learn to Sail' days have had to be cancelled due to poor water quality (safety first!) and even the hardcore any-conditions-sailors have been forced to forgo at least one day on the water due to horrible conditions above and below the waterline.

There was, however, some good racing in February with conditions consistently above 10 knots - helps with COVID kilos (!) and also





essential if combined fleet racing is on the North pond, in order to propel us to the start line!

On at least two occasions the racing has been almost over before us BYRA-ites have even reached the race track, such has been the lack of wind when trying to traverse Pittwater.

I for one, almost resorted to kedging with my main sheet...

At least there has been some consistently great 'après sail' emerging to compensate for the either 'wild and windy' or 'light and flukey' conditions. Special mention to Martin and Alice for introducing us all to Aldi beer.

Last week also seen some lovely breeze in place by racing's end.

Plus who doesn't love racing on an air strip...

Pics courtesy of Commodore James.

Thank you James!



Meet the Members!

Welcome to our meet the members section!

This is a chance to put names to faces, and an opportunity to identify who to hit up for that extra pearl of sailing wisdom!

This week we feature our Paint Saint Henry Zylmans, a man who is never done fixing things around the clubhouse!

Henry, how did you get into sailing?

I started sailing in my mid-teens when I was asked by the postman's son if I wanted go sailing on his old VJ (Vauclause Junior). We sailed together a few times at Middle Harbour Amateur Sailing Club, until the boat required major repairs.

I was then asked by another member, Warwick, if I wanted to crew for him on his VJ "Design" which I did for a few seasons, and we were moderately competitive.

(see photo to right of "Design")

When Warwick wanted to sell the boat, I bought it from him and had early success qualifying 4th in the NSW team to compete in what was then called the Commonwealth titles off Glenelg, Adelaide.

Unfortunately, my regular crew could not come and I asked a non-sailing friend to crew for me. The mast frame of the boat was damaged on the trip to Adelaide. I repaired it on the invitation race day ready for the first heat.

We had a few more mishaps too so things were not ideal. We finished 23rd in a 72 boat fleet (there were 12 boats from each of the 6 states).

(see photo to right - crossing the line in 1968!)

Lesson learnt - PREPARATION!



What sorts of sailing have you done?

While sailing the VJ on Sundays, I also sailed as crew on a 16ft skiff on Saturdays. After the VJ, I built a Javelin (Polemic) and sailed it out of Middle Harbour 16ft Skiff Club for several seasons with my long-time friend Mark as crew. (The Javelin was a very popular class, being the progression of the Flying Ant 10ft, Cherub 12ft, Javelin 14ft). We had moderate success sailing in a very competitive fleet. When my wife Jill and I married, the boat was sold.

When first married, I took up an offer to crew on a Stingray Cat for a few seasons.

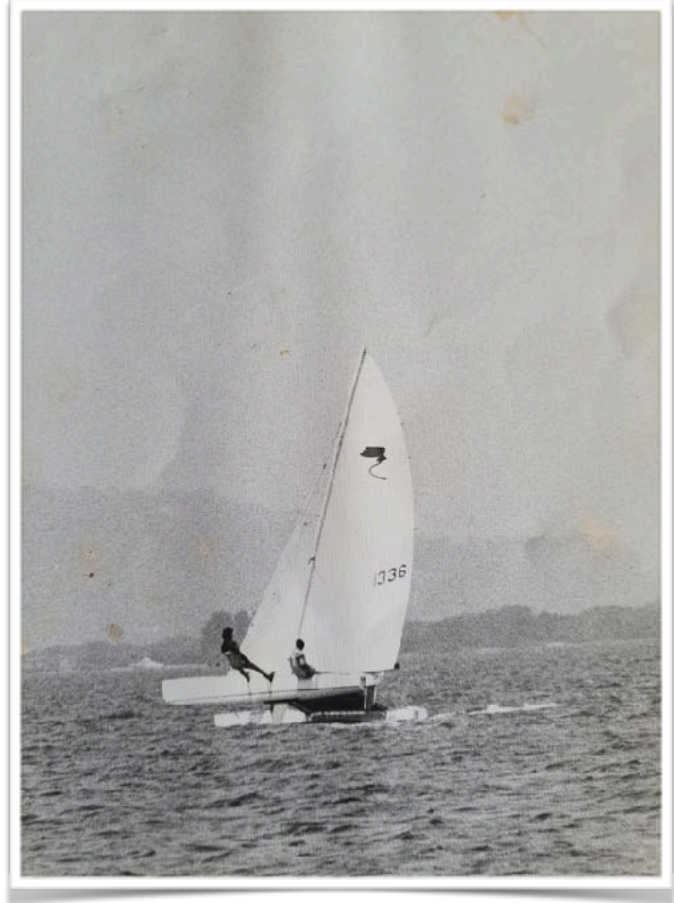
(see photo to right - this one is for George Sadlick! Henry trapezing on a Sting Ray on Wallis Lake in 1978!)

When my boys were 9 and 11 they sailed a Flying 11 for a few seasons. Then one got into crewing on a Northbridge Senior while the other got a Spiral. And that's how I got into Spirals. So to summarise, I mainly sailed on dinghies/skiffs, like Lightweight Sharpies, 505s, 18ft skiffs and Stingray Cats for a few seasons.

What do you enjoy most about the sport?

Picking the fastest way to get around the course using wind shifts, currents, waves, sail trim, boat trim, etc. while trying not to get involved with other competitors.

This approach came from the culture of sailing catamarans - I hope that culture still exists!



What do you love about BYRA?

Casual atmosphere, volunteering, BYRA's history, carrying on from the hard work of others.

Can you tell me a vaguely interesting fact about yourself?

I don't know why but I always end up on committees; Javelin Assn (secretary), Avalon Nippers, Newport Rugby Club (president), BYRA (several positions), Spiral Assn (president, race secretary, measurer, several positions!)!!!

Thank you Henry for being a wonderful interviewee. Please also note Henry's stylish BYRA shirt (available online!)

We look forward to more 'meet the members' in the next edition!

NAUTICAL NUGGETS

Did you know...

Saint Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland was born into either a Scottish or English family in the fourth century. He was captured as a teenager by Niall of the Nine Hostages who was to become a King of all Ireland. He was sold into slavery in Ireland and put to work as a shepherd...

(hence your faithful scribe is wearing a sheep hat in picnic pic...)

Patrick had a dream that encouraged him to flee his captivity and to head South where a ship was to be waiting for him.

He travelled over 200 miles from his Northern captivity to Wexford town where, sure enough, a ship was waiting to enable his escape...

For more on Pat's epic escape check out <https://www.ireland-information.com/articles/>

The 'Amazingly Successful Whatsapp Group'

The amazingly successful Whatsapp Group continues to, well, amaze!

The latest initiative to emerge from this communications super highway was a St Paddy's day (in some time zones) picnic on the rigging green week before last.

And what a time was had! Given the short-notice nature of the event, and the total unplanning of it all, it turned out a roaring success, with at least ten members enjoying some great conversation with 'previously unknowns' whilst enjoying at least twenty types of cheese.

Say cheese!



We're hoping to enjoy many more of these ad hoc events, planned on the fly for whenever people are keen and available.

Given that we all sail either solo or in small crews, it's a great way to get to know each other with minimal fuss or stress.

Remember, children and pets always welcome! BYO mosquito repellent...

We may also look to host a more planned event on the deck to double up as a clubhouse-warming event (new paint job and all!). We do promise to provide more than a week's notice!

Salty Tales

This edition's Salty Tale gives us cause for some celeBYRAtion!



Aero Ace Wins State Place!

Our very own Mindy Mehan scooped a massive **THIRD** in the NSW RS Aero State Championship Aero 5 division.

Hosted on 20th February by Balmoral Sailing Club (who I also thank for the below photos!) there were six races held over two days with the usual sausage sizzle festivities. BYRA Bulletin managed to snag an exclusive interview with the star - here's what Mindy had to say: "My first races back in 20+ years saw me lost at the front of the fleet, having forgotten simple buoy rounding - ha! Light winds were a welcome entree back to racing and day 1 was 2 x firsts and a third by a second or two. Day 2 a building nor-easter which landed 2 thirds and a drop of 5th. Delighted with my 3rd overall. Really tight and fun racing."

So a HUGE congratulations to Mindy for a job well done. Congratulations Aero Ace Mindy!

It's also got many of us thinking we'd like a go on one of these high tech speed machines...

Watch this space for a members 'try this boat!' day.....!



Gear Grab

Looking for some new duds to impress your sailing buddies? Or perhaps the world's best present? Or maybe you just need a sun hat. Well, look no further!

BYRA offers a range of classic apparel that is sure to put those Musto wearing folks to shame! Includes, long sleeved rashies, safety singlets, polo shirts, wide brimmed hats, and caps! And ALL for \$50 or less.

Check out a safety singlet in action - functional and fashionable!

All available online at <https://www.byra.com.au/shop/> or email us at sailing@byra.com.au.



Weather

If you want to be a weather junkie and have the edge on your fellow sailors, don't forget to check the BOM and Seabreeze for your forecasts!

Sponsors Corner

A big thank you to our ongoing sponsors for helping make it all possible. **Please note the new sponsor Watty!** If you need paint, you know where to go.

If you would like to add your brand to the illustrious list below please do get in touch!



Saint V & P Colouring-in Collaboration!

This week's colouring-in challenge is history reimaged:

'Cupid helps Pat rid Ireland of the snakes.'

Team work makes the dream work!



Remember, if you email in your completed pictures we'll include them in the next BYRA Bulletin!
Address below - submissions from all ages welcome, noting that colouring-in is a proven stress reliever for adults...