

BYRA BULLETIN

The official newsletter of the Bayview Yacht Racing Association

EARLY 2022 EVENTS

Events for the coming weeks are listed below - pop in your calendar now so you don't get double booked!

Learn to Sail

Tailored for ages 7 - 18, Learn to Sail is a fantastic intro to the sport, helping kids/teens gain water confidence and safety skills along the way. And all in a COVID-safe environment!

The 2022 Learn to Sail programmes kicks off this week - Sunday 6th February, running every week until the 3rd April (excluding 27th Feb). Time 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Youth Sailing

Youth Sailing programs include Skiff Skills and the Harry Morton sailing program.

These are fantastic opportunities for those already with sailing experience to really get to the next level.

For more information on both of the above please contact Vice Commodore Neil Aitken on the BYRA email. Open to non-members also!



Editor's Ahoy

Happy new year to you all! If indeed it's not too late in the month to issue such sentiments. On behalf of BYRA I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and new year break and are safe and well, all things COVID considered.

On this front, the club continues to operate under COVID-safe practices. Please scan in and out, wear masks as appropriate, and socially distance from others best you can!

Now that we're almost into February (!) just a reminder that combined fleet racing has started but the Learn to Sail programmes do not kick off until this weekend - the 6th February.

BYRA will run a full range of programmes including Start Sailing 1, Start Sailing 2, Better Sailing and Start Racing. There is still time to register so if you are keen to know more please check out www.byra.com.au/events/.

Please also spread the word as BYRA is a great place for beginners, with its nice flat rigging green, super safe launching area, and plenty of open water away from the main channel.

Centreboard Racing

Official racing has started on the 30th January, but you can join any Sunday you want. You can join for all of the races (approximately three) or if you're unsure and just want to dip your toe in the waters of competition you can just join for one!

First gun 1:30 p.m. The course is always windward-leeward and may be just off BYRA or north of Scotland Island. Details are always released on the day!

If you've never raced before, don't be afraid to give it a go. There are plenty of novices sailing out of the RPA too.

Adventure Sails

If you're more Bear Grylls than Ben Ainslie, or fancy a picnic on one of Pittwater's many fantastic little beaches inaccessible from land, or simply want to hoon across Pittwater without the need to follow something as restrictive as 'a course' then adventure sailing is most definitely for you!

This is a fantastic way to meet other people, refine your boat handling skills on your own terms, and have an all round fantastic afternoon out.

All skills levels welcomed and supported on the water! Robb Warnes will be leading the expeditions. Dates to follow!

New Year New Ideas!

It has been no rest for the wicked on the BYRA committee front. Thank you to those who supplied thoughts and ideas on the future of BYRA to Robb. The committee has already had two robust brain storming session to discuss the future of the club and will continue this over the next few weeks. It has been a great example of diverse-thinking in action, leading to some great strategy ideas to ensure the long term sustainability and resilience of the club.

It's also been a reminder that **we are a club both for members, and fuelled by members.** To this end we may be issuing some super short membership surveys across the coming weeks to gather thoughts, availabilities, skills and knowledge to feed into our planning sessions.

So look out for these in your inbox!

New Members

To those who have joined or even re-joined of recent, we would love to welcome you here! So in lieu of specific individuals, please just take this as a WELCOME TO BYRA!



If you see a new face, or if you are a new face, make sure to say hi! Nothing beats a good rigging green chat!

EARLY 2022 'INTENTS'

Ask not what your club can do for you, but...

Look out for emails asking for feedback on club intentions and information on volunteering skills and availabilities.

As the committee reviews all things BYRA to make the club BYRA-better (!) these emails may be coming to an inbox near you soon!

The website will also be getting a refresh and we'll keep you all updated!

Please also spread the word about the Sail Pass scheme. Details on the BYRA website.

BYRA Dinghy Sailors

The new BYRA Dinghy Sailors Whatsapp Group for 'unofficial anytime sailing' is up and running and going from strength to strength!

If you would like to join please see Alice or Leah in the dinghy park or email sailing@byra.com.au.

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.

News from the Crews

Youth Sailing updates by Junior Captain Orlando Sadlik

It has been a busy few weeks from the BYRA youth fleet and has been great to see all the boats training hard.

In the 29er fleet:

- Nirvana, sailed by Owen Gillmeister and Orlando Sadlik have been training very hard working on their boat handling and racing manoeuvres.

- Destiny, sailed by Sophie Aitken and Rose Cookson have been working very hard on their sail trim, tacks, gybes and skipper crew positions for different wind speeds with their coach Angus Musgrove.

Youth Class in Focus: the "Open Skiff"

What is the open skiff?

- It is a 6ft hard plastic self draining open planing hull designed for young sailors looking to have the most fun while racing at a high level.

- 4.5m sail area.

- Ideal weight 30-65kg.

- Average age range 6-15.

- Rigged in less than ten minutes.

- Super light and easy to transport.

- Awesome platform to learn the skills needed to transition from junior classes to youth classes.



Pathways from the open skiff

The 29er

The look and the speed make the 29er a natural aspirational boat for the Open Skiff sailor. It is a more challenging boat with its 3 sail rig, trapeze and two-handed configuration but the open skiff acquaints the young sailor with the speed and fast reactions needed to sail the 29er.

Owen Gillmeister, who I sail with, is a good example of how easy it is to go from the open skiff to the 29er. After a few months we can now handle our 29er up to 25 kts comfortably.



Laser 4.7

The transition to this class is easy as it's a single handed, single sail, wet boat, often capsized, with very familiar sail controls, and it has good depth of youth competition. The boat is handled mostly the same so a junior can go from dominating in the open skiff to being highly competitive in the 4.7 straight away.

Interview with club Junior member Lola Sadlik about the Open Skiff

Q. What do you like most about the open skiff?

I really like that I can get out on the water within 15 minutes of arriving at the club. I also like how easy it is to sail and the speed of the boat.

Q. What are your favourite conditions to sail the open skiff in?

20-25 knots NE or S breeze because I go really fast.

Q. What do you find challenging about the open skiff with regards to boat handling and competition?

I find it hard to gybe the boat when it's very windy but I think I am getting better at it.

Q. What are your aspirations for racing in the future?

I hope to come around mid fleet in the next states and I wish to compete in nationals.

Q. What youth class will you move into after the open skiff?

I want to crew on a 29er because I like the competitive nature and the speeds of the boat.

Thanks Lola for answering all these questions!

And thanks to Orlando for great reportage on the Junior happenings of the club!

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 one of our most recently adorned life members Alice Lydement!

Alice, how did you get into sailing?

Well, I nearly didn't.

We owned a little trailer sailer when we lived in Brisbane, so little you could not stand up inside, not sit up either. We anchored at Mosquito Island, got eaten alive, then Baz lost the boat off the tow bar and destroyed the garage. That was the end for me. Years later in Sydney I started windsurfing and was hooked.

What sorts of sailing have you done?

I started in Etchells as a crew for 2 years. When the owner wanted to sell it I bought the boat. I also did offshore racing to Mooloolaba, Coffs, Southport, Hamilton Island, Lord Howe Island and many yacht deliveries.

I still sail on yachts on Wednesday afternoons and in the ladies regatta. And I love dinghies. NS14, Spiral, Laser and have even sailed on 16 foot skiffs from time to time.

What do you enjoy most about the sport?

I love the camaraderie on and off the water.

What do you love about BYRA?

The people, and the clubhouse in the world's best spot. Great rigging area.

Can you tell me a vaguely interesting fact about yourself?

I am the mother of 2 skiff sailors and have 4 grandsons, 2 who had their first sail this month in perfect conditions (too young to sail yet).

Thank you Alice for being a wonderful interviewee, and we look forward to more 'meet the members' in the next edition!

Learn to Sail

Again, the Learn to Sail programme kick off this weekend. As a taster, here's a recap of the last session in December by club junior patron for the 21/22 summer season Mr Michael Cramsie.

What a wonderful day. It started with plenty of boats out and LTS kids showing what they could do in a lovely classic summer nor'easter. In the next stage the sailors invited parents and friends to join them in their boats on the water. There were thrills and spills. I believe some sailors wanted to demonstrate how to recover from a capsize?? All smiles.



The final stage was the presentation in the clubhouse. Vice Commodore Neal Aitken started the presentation supported by the instructors for each of the divisions. The young sailors were enthusiastically applauded by supporters as they were awarded their Course Completion Certificates.

More photos including those of the presentations are all on the BYRA Facebook page. Check out all the young stars there!

Again, future programmes dates are 6th 13th, 20th February, 6th 13th 20th, 27th March, and 3rd April. Please note no LTS on 26/27 Feb. For more info including course content please go to www.byra.com.au/events/

NAUTICAL NUGGETS

Did you know...

If there's no wind and you can't get to shore you can always apply the art of kedging!

Kedging is to draw (a vessel) along by hauling in on the cable of a light anchor that has been dropped at some distance from it.

So who needs a paddle or a tow when you can use a grapple hook tied to your mainsheet...

For more information on this lost art check out www.sailmagazine.com/cruising/the-lost-art-of-kedging-how-to-set-a-kedge-anchorcruising

General Sunday Pottering + Some Racing

It is said that only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun... Well, we can now add at least 7 or 8 BYRA crews to that list too. Yesterday was a scorcher on Pittwater but there was racing and general pottering about to be had, and so BYRA was well represented on the water. The breeze was 10-ish knots from the North East, and gusting not much more, so a nice change from the no-wind-too-much-wind from the latter weeks of 2021. The heat however, was next level! So remember all, drink plenty of water, wear a good hat, and sun screen up. Feeling too hot? Time to practice capsizing drill...

The Amazingly Successful Whatsapp Group

But wait!

Yesterday was not the first foray BYRA sailors have made onto Pittwater in 2022. Thanks to the efforts of Alice Lydement, the BYRA Dinghy Sailors Whatsapp Group has not only been established but has been a roaring success with numbers still growing!

We're now very much riding the digital wave as the ease of communicating over the Whatsapp Group has enabled two fantastic days of unofficial racing / pottering in January. Both Sunday sessions seen around ten BYRA boats on the water

and no sooner had we set up our ad hoc windward leewards course than a gang from the RPA had joined us!

A big thanks to Alice for having the idea, and Martin for being Race Officer with his trusty two minute countdown signalling. There have been no protests as yet...



Check out all these boats! More photos on the BYRA Facebook page!

Salty Tales

This month's Salty Tale must surely be the Avalon Sailing Club's Australia Day regatta which seen a total of five boats depart at completely uncoordinated times from the BYRA club house for the trek towards the 'somewhere to the north' regatta course, which of course ASC had changed from the Sailing Instructions, which no one knew about because no one attended the ASC 11 a.m. briefing...

Good thing Pittwater is only so big and there are only so many regattas running on Straya Day!

Interesting side fact - ASC promote this as the oldest continually conducted sailing regatta in THE WORLD! Wow.

So, on the water we had George and Orlando in their Viper, Lola in her Bic, Ian in his fantastic foiling machine, Mindy in her (very cool) RS Aero, Leah in her (not quite so cool) Laser Radial, plus Henry who generously accompanied in a support boat to help lay marks and offer general on the water encouragement.

It was a blazing hot day on the water but not as blazing as Lola in her Open Skiff who scooped TOP PRIZE in her division. All others enjoyed some fabulous time on the water and either a sausage sizzle or an ice-cream in the park, depending on which route they took home...



So let's all congratulate Lola for a great win - well done Lola!

For an interview with Lola, please see the juniors section!



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 out our sponsors' sites for your forecasts!

<http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/>

<https://www.seabreeze.com.au/>

Sponsors Corner

A big thank you to our ongoing sponsors for helping make it all possible. If you would like to add your brand to the illustrious list below please do get in touch!



**New
Year**



Colouring In

J is for January... and also for Junk Boat!

Or Chinese Junk Boat in honour of Chinese New Year which is tomorrow - Tuesday 1st February!

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!

