

MERRICKS MOMENTS



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COMMODORE'S REPORT

This time last year, the committee set itself two major goals with respect to activities at the yacht club:

- 1) Promote and create activities for junior sailing, and:
- 2) Develop a broader range of social activities for our members to enjoy.

The aim of these goals was to provide more value and pleasure to our existing members, and attract new members from our community.

This year saw many of our younger members complete one of the Tackers training courses. This is a terrific introduction to sailing in the Optimist boats, and was expertly run by Trevor Wilcox and John Hollander, in coordination with Westernport Yacht Club. In addition, we created a number of sailing days for these graduates, including a round robin race series, and revamping the Sailing Master's race to involve junior crews on all boats. The initial response was terrific, and we hope to capitalize on this next season in the subsequent phase of developing the future of our sailing fleet.

Our social program was enhanced with the inspired efforts of Simon Webster to bring us a vast and varied program. It kicked off with an excellent Cocktail Party on Opening day, and we enjoyed paella nights, wine and cheese tasting, spit roasts, curry nights, and of course the infamous beer and pizza night. It was great to see such a mix of members at these sell-out events, which we hope to build on further next season. Thanks must also go to the numerous helpers – too many to mention individually - at these events and the ever popular Thursday night sessions.

By continuing to focus on our future sailors, our social program, and improving our facilities, we hope to make our yacht club the hub of the Merricks Beach community, offering value and enjoyment for all. With this in mind, we need the help of all members to introduce and welcome our Merricks neighbours who are not currently members of the club. Remember that a \$50 bar voucher is available to anyone who introduces a new full member to the club!

Winter's here - time for boat maintenance!

Richard Jagger- commodore@merricks.org - 0418 125 646

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Sailing Report

The season 2009/10 was blessed with some excellent sailing breezes, making up for some previous opening series which were entirely blown out. Fortunately, we were able to sail most series without losing too many races to the vagaries of the weather, and those who participated enjoyed the healthy competitive spirit and camaraderie of the Merricks sailing fraternity. Our luck ran out on our final race day, as the breeze picked up to 25-30knots at start time, at which point we abandoned the race and commenced preparations for the off season maintenance activities. The success of the season's sailing programme events owes a huge amount to the efforts of the support roster, and particularly to those who have been able to assist when help was needed at short notice. It is the efforts of the support crews which enable the rest of the sailing community to enjoy the activities on the water, so it is vital that as many people as possible volunteer a day to help

share the load across the season.

Looking forward to next season, it will assist the sailing committee to have your ideas as to what sailing events and scheduling would improve the sailing program, and encourage participation – please discuss this with as many potential sailors as you can and let us know at the AGM / Presentation night, and by email to the address below.



Alex Campbell
Rear Commodore
rear.commodore@merricks.org
0414 469 65

Youngerset Report

As the 2009-10 season ends, question is what functions and activities should we organise next year? The Little Dudes Disco and Video nights are always popular, and this year, we saw an upswing in interest in sailing the club's

Sparrows over the Christmas period. Should we try another band? Should we have a junior sailing event? Other ideas very welcome, and offers of any assistance.

Simon Corden
Youngerset Contact
youngerset@merricks.org
5983 2194 / 9598 1132

Congratulations

to our new club champion, Alec Campbell and his crew David Wilbraham. They sailed "Beagle" brilliantly all year for a well deserved result!

James Wiewrzbowski & Tobi Cross
winning the Sparrow "Worlds" at
Merricks

Sailing results – season snapshot

On behalf of the sailors, a huge thank you to the dedicated race control personnel for their tireless support over the season. The race results were processed in a concentrated burst of activity from Derek Hollander and Commodore Richard Jagger over the last race day, and the calculations for VYC and MYC events finalised. Series results are as follows:

	Opening series	Summer VYC	Summer MYC	Autumn VYC & MYC	Commodores Cup	Aust. Day Regatta	Club Champion VYC&MYC
1 st	Richard Jagger	Alec Campbell	Trevor Wilcox	Doug Varey	Richard Jagger	Ian Jeffrey	Alec Campbell
2 nd	Ryan Wilcox	Trevor Wilcox	Alec Campbell	Alec Campbell	Tony Paul	Alec Campbell	Ian Jeffrey
3 rd	Alec Campbell	Ian Jeffrey	Ian Jeffrey	Ian Jeffrey	Ian Jeffrey	Tony Paul	Doug Varey

Other results and trophies will be awarded at the presentation night.

SAILING

Breakfast by the Bay

Once again our members were welcomed to the club on Monday morning of the Labour Day weekend with the inviting smells of bacon, sausages and eggs cooking on the balcony. June & Daryl Cowen turned it on for over a hundred members, sparking a quick dash to the supermarket for more bacon mid morning!

Everyone left satisfied, and energised for the day ahead

Yard Master's Report

Everything out of the Yard!

**IT'S COMING (SEWERAGE, THAT IS) !
and it's END-OF SEASON
CLEAR-OUT / CLEAN-UP
TIME**

Yes- all of our boats and gear now have to be taken back home for the winter.

This winter is a special one, as Sewerage is coming to the Club (as well as Merricks Village). The tank and pump will take up some room, but we don't yet know where.

As a result, the Club will have to completely reorganise the yard.

Last sailing season, the yard was chock-a-block full of boats, many of which never got into the water. Next summer, there will not be enough storage for all.

Next season, priority must be given those who are financial, and whose

boats are in active use. Unseaworthy ones will not be given yard space.

All boats must be movable: that is - on a trailer, with tyres pumped up, towable, and not locked down.

Under the terms of our Lease (the Club does NOT own the land) the yard is not a year-round storage facility.

If we do not get enough response to this notice, the Club will have to consider bringing in an off-season yard storage fee in addition to the current sailing season fee.

Please - take your boats home for winter maintenance now!

Perry Larsson
Yard / House Master
yardmaster@merricks.org
9813 2853 / 0408 360 816

FOUND

silver ladies watch near club gate on 19th April. Please ring Daryl for details on 5983 5321

LOST

Paper tiger sail, stored above the lockers under the club. Sail number 2845, in a faded blue bag. Please check your sail collection at home in case it made its way there by mistake, and contact Ralph Dalton or the Sailing Master

LEFT

A collection of clothing and hats - see the basket under the clubhouse ASAP!

Social Update

We're looking forward to a good turn out for the end of season celebration and Presentation Night on **Saturday 29th May**. Kick off is at 7pm and as it's a catered event (French Beef Ragout, Chicken, Lemon, Thyme, & White Wine Stew, and a Gypsy Bean Casserole with Sticky date pudding for dessert) bookings are essential and they can be directed to me (numbers of adults and kids) at social@merricks.org - costs for the evening are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Please respond by **Sat May 22nd** if you are interested so we can confirm numbers to the caterers.

For next season we're looking at setting up a social committee to coordinate and run the various events on the program, if you'd like to be involved or have any ideas or suggestions for next season, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Simon Webster
Social Co-ordinator
social@merricks.org
0414 469 656

Annual General Meeting

The AGM is scheduled for 3:00pm on Saturday May 29th. All members are welcome and we encourage you to come down and join us and hear about what's going on. Via email you will have received notification as well as nomination and proxy forms.

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Merricks History

In the last month Merricks Yacht Club lost a member of our family. Rod Johnson was a former commodore, sailing master, and club champion. He was responsible for creating our computer systems at the club, enabling us to run the yacht races, and compute the results. He masterminded the system for managing the Westernport Challenge results, and developed the software for the Balnarring weather station. He created and ran our website. He was a former chairman of Yachting Westernport.

Beyond all that though, Rod, was a really decent guy. He went about things in his typical understated fashion, making sure things were taken care of without fuss or issue. Always competitive on the water, he loved discussing the days events with a beer after the race. With a wry smile, he was able to sum up the day in just a few words.

Rod has been a big part of our history, and that of yachting on Westernport. In his honour we have created a perpetual trophy that will be awarded to the skipper with the best performance by a Merricks boat in the Westernport Challenge - trailable and off-the-beach events.

We'll miss our Rod. He leaves a big gap in our club. Our thoughts are with Sylvia, Ben, and Sarah and the extended Johnson family..



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Wanted: Fishing Competition Rules

The club is revising the rules for the fishing competition, and we are seeking a copy of the old rules as a guideline. If you have a copy, please let us know - either ring Perry on 0408 360 816, or send to M.Y.C., P.O. Box 90, Balnarring 3926.

New Lease Signed

Recently, the committee completed the negotiation of the new lease with the Merricks Beach Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management (MBFRCM) on behalf of the DSE. The significant points of the contract are:

- We have a nine year lease (instead of three), enabling us to plan future improvements and expenditures with more assurance.
- Each year our rent will increase by 3.5% or CPI, whichever is greater.
- We will provide 60 person hours per annum (up from 50) towards the maintenance of the foreshore as directed by the MBFRCM. These hours are valued at \$20 over the first 5 years, and \$25 for the final four years.
- Only power boats owned by yacht club members may be launched or recovered via yacht club facilities. PWC's, and powerboats exceeding 6m in length cannot be launched or recovered via the yacht club.



A couple of budding juniors (Lachie & Tom Campbell) take to the waters in a club Sparrow



Trevor oversees proceedings at the Start of a Sparrow State titles heat



The commodore signs the new lease

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Merricks Community

Representatives of the committees of the Bill Carroll Reserve, Foreshore, Residents' Association, and the Yacht Club have been working together to make the most of Merricks for everyone.

Irresponsible behaviour by anglers at Merricks Beach

At a recent MBRA Committee meeting, concern was expressed at the increasing problems arising from irresponsible on-beach anglers. The same concern was felt by MBFRCM members & Ben Scullin from the Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body (VRFISH) had addressed the MBFRCM meeting on 6 March. VRFISH is a n.g.o. funded by fishing licence fees.

Ben suggested a number of actions including lobbying the Mornington Council to send by-law officers to Merricks Beach to enforce the bylaws, documenting incidents and taking photographs and car registrations, talking to the

MERRICKS MATTERS – Those MYC Members who do not receive Merricks Matters and would like to do so please contact Jo O'Neil at jooneil@optusnet.com.au

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and contacting FISHCARE which promotes responsible fishing practices and care for aquatic environments. If the problem continues, the community could also consider flagging an area of the beach as 'fishing only' or

could ask that Merricks Beach be zoned a 'non-fishing beach.'

If you have any feedback regarding this issue, please contact MBRA, MBFRC or MYC.

Club Member Benefits

RITCHIES IGA – Community

Benefit Card can be used at any Ritchie's Supermarket or Liquor Store, for great discounts AND you can nominate Merricks Yacht Club as your chosen beneficiary by completing the Application Form.

Please ask at Ritchies IGA or contact 03 9784 2000 www.ritchies.com.au

Alternatively ... John Hollander has many Application Forms and is the Champion of spruiking this opportunity for Club members (!) vicecommodore@merricks.org 0408 137 647

Sport Phillip Marine, 1002 Nepean Hwy Mornington – 10% off for purchases over \$100

Sealand Marine, Westernport Marina, Mullet Street, Hastings – special discounts on a range of items available for Merricks Yacht Club members – contact sea.land@bigpond.net.au or phone 03 5979 1211.

Yacht Club Raffle

Many thanks to those generous companies that provided prizes for the raffles we have held this season. There have been some very happy winners indeed! If anyone has any services or items that would be suitable for next year's raffles, please contact Simon Webster at social@merricks.org

Free Money!

Do you know of someone in the Merricks community who is not a member of the Club, but you feel they would benefit enormously from our wonderful facilities? Often it takes someone to introduce new people to the Club to get things rolling.

As an incentive to all members, and to help with the membership drive, we are offering a \$50 bar voucher to anyone who successfully signs up a new member (individual/couple/family, social or sailing) to the Club for the season. Imagine being the generous friend and shouting the first round for your new members! Enjoy a nice bottle or two of the "Commodore's Choice" premium wine from the Club balcony as the sun sets over another peaceful Merricks day – all without dipping into your wallet! The incentive is here, so now's the time to convince your friends to give it a go. Why not bring them along to our Pre - Christmas BBQ (6:00pm, Saturday December 12th) and introduce them to a few members. I am sure they will thank you for it!

New Members Welcome!

Welcome to Helen Page & kids & Astrid Donadio!

We look forward to getting to know you more and more over the years, and we welcome you to the Club!

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Dear Editor,

Whilst the wimps who sail have given up their sport until October we fishermen continue regardless of the cold water and weather. This is the season for heaps of leather jackets, the odd pinkie or whiting, pike, cotta, and the big gummies. Did you know another name for gummies is "mother in law" shark? When they take their teeth out at night they have no bite!

Peter "Scales" Whiting

Dear Editor,

I am shocked to hear the "Barman" has been sacked for selling more cask wine than the Commodore's Choice wine this season. I propose there should be an honourboard for ex barmen as they are the most important person in the Club

I D Rinkalot

Have a good Winter everyone! See you in the Spring...

Newsletter Contributions

- Got something to say?
- Something to sell?
- Contact newsletter@merricks.org,



social coordinator points the way to the bar



Norma shows off her raffle "prize"



Youngerset Co-ordinator gettin' "Jiggy with it"