

MERRICKS MOMENTS



O c t o b e r 2 0 1 0
N E W S L E T T E R

**Social Update, The
Master, & Yongerset
Report**

The latest on the season ahead

Page 2

**Commodores Choice
Wines**

VIS visit Merricks

Page 3

**Want some free
money?**

**Nothing about
defibrillator**

Page 5

**Merricks Sailors at
Hobie Worlds**

Pages 7

COMMODORE'S REPORT

October 2010

The new season is upon us! The weather, although typically unstable for spring, has certainly warmed up, and the bay looks really inviting. This year we are trying something a bit different with our sailing, and as an example, the opening series will be sailed on Sundays. On two of those days, we will sail with Westernport Yacht Club in common waters off Palmer's Bluff. The idea was to increase our fleet size and create more interesting racing. For more information, please see the Sailing Master's report.

On the social side we have another fabulous program for the year, and we have also just purchased a wiz bang coffee machine. Please come down anytime the club is open and enjoy the view and a cup of premium coffee. I guarantee the best prices and views on the peninsula! Thanks to Richard Cottle and Cottles Coffee for their assistance in getting the machine and cups etc. Richard is also planning on creating a special "Merricks Blend" upon feedback from our members - stay tuned for details!

Upcoming events

*October 30th,
MYC Opening day and
cocktail party*

*November 20th
MYC/Foreshore Committee
joint working bee - 10am*

Special thanks to one of our newest members Ewan Campbell, who is supplying the Commodore's Choice wines. More details elsewhere in the newsletter.

Spring is such a great time in Merricks, and I look forward to seeing many old and new faces around the club over the next few months.

Richard Jagger

commodore@merricks.org - 0418 125 646

NOTE ~ Foreshore working bee

As our planned date for our foreshore working bee was cancelled due to bad weather, we have rescheduled it for the morning of Saturday November 20th, starting at 10:00am at the Yacht Club. If you come down and give us a hand for an hour or so, that would be great. This event is part of our lease agreement with the foreshore committee.



MERRICKS MOMENTS

Sailing Masters Report

Hi everyone, I hope all the winter boat maintenance is finished and the boats are ready for opening day! It's going to be a big season this year at Merricks with a few updates and changes around the place to make racing a little more competitive for those serious sailors and a little more social for those in the "Cruising Division". These are sure to be the cure to your weekend woes.

We have Sunday racing for the Opening and Autumn Series to mix it up and for those kids with

Saturday sports.

There will be some very exciting combined races with our neighbours at Westernport Yacht Club. This means we have to sail about 500m further to the start line off Palmers Bluff but we can race against a significantly bigger fleet. It also helps ease the pressure in finding people to crew on rescue boats etc. We're going to ease into this with only 4 combined races over the season.

We have updated some areas of the Sailing Instructions to make racing easier and to keep up to date with other clubs. The divisions have been tweaked a little and don't be late to the new 3 minute start sequence! The flags will be the same as a 5 minute sequence except when your div flag goes up you have 3 minutes to the start. All will be explained at briefing and your Commodore has invented some nifty little cards for your life jacket.

We're going to mix up the courses a little bit to give all different styles of boats a run on their preferred courses but what courses we sail and

how we run the races is up to you! If you have any ideas or preferences feel free to let us on the Sailing Committee know.

Hope to see you all at Opening day for the boat christening at 1pm.

Cheers James Wierzbowski

Youngerset Report

Summer is on our doorstep so here's a few dates for the younger members and their parents to put in their diaries.

The first two weeks after Christmas are a busy time, with movie nights on Tuesday 28th December and Sunday 2nd January. They will feature a G-rated movie for the younger kids at 6.30pm, followed by an M-rated movie for the teens at 8.30pm. Movies will be advertised around Merricks a couple of days before hand.

The Little Dudes Disco will be on Tuesday 4th January at 6.30pm, so dust off your frocks and dance pants, and start practising your moves, kids. It promises to be another action-packed event with loads of prizes!

For the young sailors, we'll be running a Junior Race Series with short races at 11.00am on Tuesday 28th and Thursday 30th December and Wednesday 5th January. These races will be followed by BBQ lunch for all sailors.

The Sand Modelling Competition be at 10.00am on Sunday 9th January.

There will be plenty of other things going on for families at MYC during the holidays so keep your eye on the program and look out for notices around Merricks during January.

NEWS FLASH! The Youngerset have spent the funds they raised last summer

on a portable amplifier and microphone for MYC to use at indoor and outdoor events. Well done and thank you to our young members!

And if you are thinking of a present for a teenage reader, you could hardly do better than the great new novel, *The Cure*.

Rosemary Nolan Youngerset Contact

youngerset@merricks.org

The Master

We had two very successful working bees, and the club is looking in great shape, and the yard all spruced up ready for another season.

But our joint working bee with the Foreshore Committee had to be postponed due to the weather.

So I hope you can put down that excellent new book, 'The Cure' from author, Richard Jagger, and join us for the rescheduled foreshore working bee.

See you on the water in October.

The Master

Peter Balka

Yardmaster@merricks.org

8644 1307 0488 445 146

MERRICKS MOMENTS

Commodore's Choice Wines

Last year we introduced a premium line of wines at our bar. This year, the supply of wines comes from Phaedrus Estate in Moorooduc, and Ewan Campbell, one of our newest members. We will be stocking their Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir and Shiraz varieties. When you try them at the club, you will be tempted to join Phaedrus' Wine Club, which offers excellent discounts on their wines. Details can be found on their website at www.phaedrus.com.au Many thanks for their support.

Victorian Institute of Sport comes to Merricks

In September, Merricks Yacht Club played host to a "boot camp" run by the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) for its Olympic class sailing athletes who are aspiring to represent Australia at the 2016 Olympic Games. Over the weekend they were set a number of physical and mental tasks, aimed at uniting them as a group, and helping prepare their mental toughness. Activities included cardio training on bikes and rowing machines, carrying water filled balls up and down the ramps, an orienteering exercise on the foreshore between Point Leo and Somers, and a challenging problem solving exercise that began at midnight and went through until about 6 am. The weekend was run by the VIS senior management and coaches, and they all commented on what a great location we had for sailing and socializing. Unfortunately the participants didn't get much time to sit back and enjoy the view!

A new Merricks Yacht Club website

We have recently updated the club's website and will be working to keep it more current this year. If you have any suggestions on items or links we should add, please email newsletter@merricks.org We also have a facebook page - with only two friends - so sad. So sign up now. We are yet to have a Twitter account, but we are making the transition by having several twits on the Committee.



Banking change

An important point to be aware and as noted on the most recent annual invoice, the club banking details have changed as Westpac is no longer our primary banking facility. The decision was made to support the local Bendigo Bank as they continue to support Merricks Yacht Club in both support funding and through providing excellent and flexible local banking services. The Westpac account remains open and will be closed within the next 2 months. Please ensure that you make the necessary changes to the details in your electronic banking facilities.

The new Bendigo Bank details are as follows:

Account Name: Merricks Yacht Club Inc.

Account BSB: 633000

Account Number: 135460665

A message from your friendly Treasurer - Memberships payment status

As at time of print, the club has had many members confirm their commitment to MYC for the coming 2010/2011 season through payment of their subscriptions. However there are a number of members who have yet to formalise their commitment to the club by failing to pay their MYC invoice. The committee is now making contact with those members that are currently un-financial and would appreciate prompt payment or advice as to their decision on continuing membership by providing a courtesy letter or email advising their intentions. The requirement to chase people for payment takes significant time and effort which prevents the committee from focusing on the more important issues associated with the coming season.

MERRICKS MOMENTS

Barman wanted!

As Daryl is spending more time with his family now, we are looking for a willing member to oversee the bar operations. This would involve tending the bar, or organizing a roster of capable assistance, managing stock and sales and working with the social committee to purchase stock. If you think you might be interested, please contact Simon, our social coordinator @ social@merricks.org or the commodore - commodore@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 coming 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 Opening Cocktail Party (6:00pm, Saturday October 30st) and introduce them to a few members. I am sure

they will thank you for it!

Rosters

If you'd like to get more actively involved around the club, perhaps helping out on the rescue boat during races, or enjoying the wonderful view from race control, then please contact the sailing master on rearcommodore@merricks.org

Does the club offer credit at the bar???

Well yes, we do!

The following members have each been awarded with a Complimentary '\$50 Merricks Money Voucher' for encouraging and proposing new members to the Club.

Congratulations to Andrew Taylor and Trevor Wilcox for their continued support and encouragement of new people to join Merricks Yacht Club.

The committee is encouraging Trevor and Andrew to keep us all informed of when they will be attending the bar to enable us to share in their good fortune and generosity.

This month's joke from our Social Secretary

A woman was having a medical problem - her husband was snoring very loudly and every night ! So she called the doctor one morning, and asked him if there was anything he could do to relieve her "suffering."

"Well, there is one operation I can perform that will cure your husband" said the doctor, "but it is really rather expensive. It will cost you \$10,000 down, and payments of \$1000 for 36 months, plus payments for extras of course."

"My goodness!" the woman exclaimed, "that sounds like I'm buying a yacht!"

"Humm," the doctor murmured, "too obvious, huh?"

Social update

There's plenty to look forward to over the summer months and hopefully the same enthusiasm that is always evident at the opening cocktail party will shine through for the rest of the season.

The next event to look forward to can involve all the family with our 'Big Pie & Hot Dog night' on Wed 29th Dec, (this has absolutely no relation to the unmentionable result in the AFL).

Check out the programme for all our social events and make sure you get down the club to join in some of the activities.

Further information on what's happening at the club on New Years Eve will be sent out as soon as we can come to some kind of consensus!! (There will definitely be no mud wrestling...even though the drought's broken).

If you'd like to get involved in helping or running any of the activities please don't hesitate to contact us....even assisting in anyway on the night is much appreciated.

Thanks to all those who have donated prizes for our raffles, especially Martin Corden who's donated a new printer! (Wonder where he got that from....?). We still require more prizes, so if you can strong arm business into donating something, again it would be greatly appreciated.'

Hope to see you soon.

Simon Webster
Social Co-ordinator
social@merricks.org

MERRICKS MOMENTS

Merricks Community

Foreshore Reserve Working Bee

Sunday 31 October 2010

Beach Cleanup

Sunday 7 November 2010 - 9am

Bill Carroll Reserve Committee Meeting and Working Bee

Sunday 7 November 2010 - 9.30am

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.

Amazon, No discount for MYC members, but it does sell the great new book, The Cure

Letters to the editor

*To the General Committee
Merricks Yacht Club*

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Merricks Yacht Club and the rescue boat crew for coming to our rescue on the 25th of July 2010.

The end result could have been a lot different if the response had not been as quick and efficient as it was.

It has been a big learning experience for all involved and, as stated in the Merricks Yacht Club newsletter, precautions which should always be followed prior to sailing when there is no rescue boats around (such as signing in a log book, carrying safety equipment and respecting the conditions of the bay) were not abided by and we now know to stay well away from Middle Bank as rogue waves are common and can put people and boats in great danger.

We are very fortunate to have such a good relationship with other Yacht Clubs in Westernport Bay and once again express our thanks for your help.

We are all keen sailors and hope to see you out there at the next joint Westernport regatta.

Sincere thanks,

Caitlin Davies, Daniel Stone and Michelle Bursa.

Merricks Yacht Club would like to welcome the following new members and their respective families to the club

- Ben and Amy Baring and family, Allegra and Nicholas
- Ewan Campbell and partner Maitena Zanvoort and family, Fergus, Tori, Misha and Dylan.

Newsletter Contributions

- Got something to say?
- Something to sell?
- Some hot gossip?
- Contact Simon at newsletter@merricks.org,

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

Anyone for coffee?

Hmm, smell that aroma of freshly ground coffee.

Where is it coming from?

It's coming from the MYC clubhouse and is available to our members and guests on days the clubhouse is open.

Meeting friends for great coffee?

Why not meet at the new Merricks

Coffee club? The coffee house with the best water views in town.

This year we would like to encourage our social members to visit the club on race days, and to make their visit more pleasant we have purchased a top quality Coffee machine; a DeLonghi Perfecta Graphic Touch Automatic Espresso Machine. With a name like that you

would expect the coffee to be first quality. Try our MYC special blend.

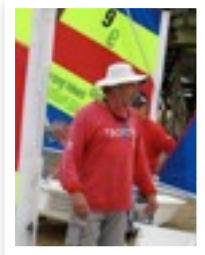
The cost? \$2.00 per cup

Social members and non sailors are encouraged to come down to the club whenever the clubhouse is open and try our great coffee for themselves.

MERRICKS MOMENTS

See MYC website

We have recently redeveloped the yacht club website, and

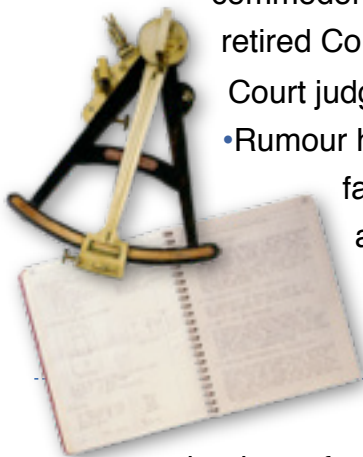


have included lots of useful resources about the club and community. It's a great spot to find information on

fees and club policies, contact lists, sailing and social events, photos, rosters and newsletters, and links to our weather station and web cams at Westernport Yacht Club. Why not have a look around next time you are on-line. www.merricks.org"

The 2010 season opening

- A reminder that the club's 2010 season will be officially opened by Graeme Crossley, former commodore and retired County Court judge.



- Rumour has it that famous author Richard Jagger

will also be there, for a book signing and sales. See you there.



STOP PRESS NEWS

The Cure has been released on Amazon, and while it is not yet in a waterproof edition suitable to read while sailing, it is a great read for the beach.

[Ed. See if you can spot an article in this newsletter that does not plug this great book]

Right, Hobie sailors delay start of their race while they finish the unputdownable 'The Cure'.



SAILING



Hobie Worlds, Weihai, China, August 2010

In April this year myself, Chris Wierzbowski and Pip Pietromonaco decided to compete at the 2010 Hobie 16 world titles in Weihai, China. With extremely short notice for the announcement of a World Titles there was lot's of training to do especially for myself and Pip who had never sailed together before nor had I ever skippered and Pip had very little time on the front of the 16.

Training began at a fantastic time of year being the end of autumn and the beginning of winter and we found ourselves sailing 3-4 days a week. As they say time in the boat is the most important thing to improving your race results and even though most of this training was by ourselves this turned out to be true.

4 months of training done and we found ourselves at the Hobie Worlds for the start of the Youth series with one regatta under our belt. The weather for the whole of the series was perfect 15-20 knots offshore and 30+ degrees. You wouldn't recognise this as a sailing event as there were 100's of photographers on the beach for the local media outlets and 1000's of spectators which really built the suspense and the nerves as you left the beach.

We got our boat allocations and started off with boat #1, a good start... Little time to rig a quick run to the start and the race committee was straight into the start sequence, not even enough time to check the line out!

The last minute to the start and everyone was cautious to make there approach and were looking very late.

We made the call to go for it and it paid off with a great start at the boat end covering the fleet. My heart is beating through my lifejacket with my stomach in my mouth, never thought I could get so nervous about sailing. Coming into this regatta we had absolutely no idea where we would place. Could be first or last. This race we managed to break from the fleet and pace around the course with the current youth world champ. A massive confidence boost.

The rest of the regatta seemed to play out in this fashion, with a bit of time up the front of the fleet and a lot of time spent starting off from the back due to my shocking starting ability and working our way through the fleet.

Through the range of conditions with a majority of patchy, shifty and gusty 15 knots we were on the pace for 2nd spot spending the first day and a half tied equal 2nd with a French team. No room for mistakes. Going into the last day we were 3 points behind and felt we had a speed edge on them. Round the top mark first in the first race we were in a good position however after a shocking downwind we were back in the fleet.

The French team finished 3rd and us 7th. Still expecting another 3 races for the day we were still positive. Next race we were 2nd around the top mark with the French back in the fleet we finished 3rd and them 9th and the margin back to 3 points. In for lunch where a storm rolled in and no more racing was to be had... We were a little disappointed

feeling we were faster than the 2nd team but we were still stoked with a 3rd at Worlds for under 21 year olds.

Time for the Opens Qualifying racing. A big range of conditions eventuated throughout the Qualifying and Finals with lots of wind, no wind, rain and sun. We felt we were sailing well and had some good results through out the qualifying except for some mistakes at some crucial times. However we fixed this to pull some great results in the finals including a 4 and a 13 going into the last day of racing sitting in 16th position!

One race to go in the series and a average result was all that was needed. Some bad luck and we found ourselves dead last around the top mark and things were looking bad. We managed to claw our way back to 42nd we were a bit disappointed. With only 7 races completed in the finals due to a lack of wind that result put us back to 24th out of 85 boats which we are still extremely happy with. Pip teamed up with Chris Hancock from W.A. and they had a good regatta finishing 37th.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in getting to the Hobie World Titles and we would not be able to get there without you. Hopefully these results are just the beginning with plenty of interstate trips in the next few months.

James Wierzboski