

MERRICKS MOMENTS



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COMMODORE'S REPORT

Commodore's report September 2010

Hello all, and welcome to our first edition of the newsletter for the coming season. I'm really pleased to see some new boats have made their way into the club over winter. It looks like we might have a fleet of single handers building up again. Why not see if you have one tucked away in the back of the shed and join us for the opening series?

We have some new committee members this season, and there is a lot of activity surround our new program. Some new features include:

The trial of some combined races with Westernport Yacht Club. These races will be sailing in 'neutral' waters off Palmers bluff, and are designed to give sailors from both clubs the opportunity to sail in a bigger fleet. We will try some races in the Opening Series and the Autumn Series and ask for your feedback.

We are also scheduling some Sunday races (Opening Series and Autumn Series) to allow our juniors to participate in school sports as well as sailing.

All the best from our Social program last season will be back this year, plus a few more. See Simon's column for details.

We have a few working bees scheduled for the start of the season, including our foreshore working bee on October 16th. We need as many hands on deck as possible for this please – even just for an hour. We plan to start at 10:00am at the club. Yacht club working bees are also important for getting the facilities in shape before the season, so any help there is also appreciated.

Don't forget our fantastic Opening Day, with the Mark Sefton Race, and the Commodore's Cocktail Party, beginning at 6:30, October 30th.

Time to go and see if the tire has come in for my laser trailer.

I look forward to seeing you at the working bees and Opening Day.

Richard Jagger

commodore@merricks.org - 0418 125 646

Working Bees

October 2nd, 10:00am

- yard & clubhouse

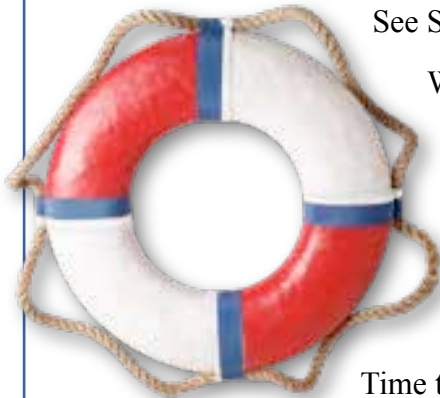
October 9th, 10:00am -

yard & clubhouse

October 16th, 10:00am

- Joint Club and

Foreshore Committee



MERRICKS MOMENTS

Social Programme Update

'Sexually Speaking'.....I mean 'Socially Speaking'

There's a great new social program being organised for next season, so we're looking forward to seeing you all at some stage at the club.

"What's on?" From last season the Wine and Cheese Tasting, Paella & Pinot and Beer & Pizza nights are all up and running. You can also look forward to a couple of new events - The Big Pie and Hot Dog Night (sponsored by The Greens), a Gourmet Sausage Sizzle (Aka "Pick that Sausage") and a Curry & Crownies night.

A few of the social nights will require bookings so please keep an eye out and book in early so you don't miss out.

Also we're going to have another crack at a NYE function - there'll be no entry fee and it will kick off from 9 pm so if you've got no friends and nothing to do keep an eye out for further announcements

Donations - At the moment we're looking for any sort of donations to use as raffle prizes - vouchers, products, 'services', if you've got something to offer or know someone you can 'strong arm' into donating it would be great fully received. Just think, you'll even have the opportunity to buy raffle tickets during the season to win your own donation back!

During the season we'll be looking for a number of members to 'put their hands up' and help with some of the evenings. So if anyone wants to come on board and get involved, maybe even running/organising one of the events, please don't hesitate to contact me, I don't bite....as much (mainly due to the Court order).

See you on the beach.

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

Youngerset Report

As a member of the Hansford family (or you may know us as the Hannies) I grew up spending my summers swimming and sailing at Merricks and now love to see our children enjoying the same activities and freedom that we did! Although I am the designated Youngerset representative on the MYC Committee, I will be assisted capably this Summer by my support crew including family and friends. Most of the children's social events are organised and run by a group of kids known informally as the Youngerset committee. Any children (or parents) who would like to help out running these events are very welcome to join us.

Well, summer 2010-11 looks like being another action-packed time for the younger members of MYC with plenty of activities both on the water and on land. Merricks nightlife will include the much anticipated Little Dudes Disco, several movie nights, and some casual family BBQs.

It was great to see lots of our younger members out on the water last summer. For the budding sailors and those who would just like to give it a try, we will be running several short kid's races during January. There will also be some "Introduction to Sailing" days for children and their parents to come along and have a go. The Club has a fleet of three sparrows, an FJ, and a catamaran available for members to use.

Quite a few of the Merricks kids participated in the Tackers Learn to Sail program last summer at Westernport Yacht Club, (including my three.) This program is run by a group of very experienced sailors including Merricks' own Trevor Wilcox and John Hollander. The program is completely safe and loads of fun, and by the end of the week all participants are capable of sailing on their own. I'd encourage anyone with children who are interested in getting

involved in sailing to join the program. It's a great way to start.

As you can see, there will be lots of fun around the club for our younger members this summer so keep your eyes on the program for details.

Rosemary Nolan
Youngerset Contact
youngerset@merricks.org

The Master

It hardly seems a year has nearly passed since the start of last season. Well it has, and the season proper commences with the working bees on Saturdays 2, 9 and 16 of October.

There's no better way to kick off the season than to come down to the club, roll up the sleeves, pull on the gloves and prepare the house and yard for a summer of sailing and beach fun.

All the usual jobs are on offer, mowing, clearing the growth from the fences, painting, cleaning up the ramps, a few sign and fence repairs, tractor and winch maintenance and a few loads of rubbish to get to the tip. And for those gifted with handyman skills and tools, there are some minor house repairs.

So come on down, don't pay the absentee fee, pay the fee and come along! You know it makes sense! Bring your tools of preference, shears, shovels, rakes, hammers, saws, etc. The sumptuous barbeque lunch to be provided is reason enough to come along on its own.

It's going to be a great summer and we want the club to be in great condition for the season.

Any suggestions or ideas, please call or send me an email. See you in October.

The Master
Peter Balka
Yardmaster@merricks.org
8644 1307 0488 445 146

MERRICKS MOMENTS

HOLD THE PRESSES REAL NEWS IN MERRICKS MOMENTS!!! Sea Rescue

A few weeks ago, Merricks Yacht Club was involved in a dramatic winter sea rescue. A Hobie 16 catamaran from Somers had been dismasted in the large waves on middle bank. Luckily, a laser had been sailing nearby, and she sailed into Merricks – the closest port, and began looking for help. This was about 4:00pm on a cold dark winter Sunday afternoon. Luckily a member was walking their dog, and she helped raise the alarm with a couple of our sailors. Others got the call, and soon we had a rescue boat crew and tower observation crew ready to go. Luckily our rescue boat had already been in for its Winter service and repairs, and was ready to go. The boat launched about 4:30 in the fading light.

A Hobie without a rig is next to impossible to see, but luckily the crash boat came upon them, about five kms from Merricks in the shipping channel on an outgoing tide. They were only spotted when about 200 yards away. By this time it was close to 5:00pm, and the Volunteer Marine Rescue had been called. There was concern if the boat was not found before dark, we would not see them in the dark.

Fortunately the crew were in good shape, albeit cold, and Merricks Patrol was able to take the crew on board and tow home the yacht. Minutes later, visibility was reduced to metres, as a rain squall came up the bay. The sun had set. If the Rescue boat had been launched ten minutes later, they would not have been seen. The boats made their way carefully across middle bank, and towards the welcoming lights of the Merricks control tower.

The word ‘luckily’ has been used a lot in this story, and I genuinely believe it could have been a disastrous one at a number of points without a lot of luck. We have lots of great winter sailing days, but it is very important to be aware how lonely the bay can be at these times. A few simple steps can help prevent disasters from occurring:

- Always fill in the log book. This gives people on shore an idea of where you are sailing (or boating), and what time you are expected to return.
- Before you go out, telephone someone and advise them when you are expected back, and call them when you are back on shore to let them know you are ok. If they don't hear from you, they can raise the alarm.
- Think about carrying a flare, or mobile phone in a waterproof pouch.
- Plan to be back on shore well before dark, to allow for any unforeseen delays – such as loss of wind.
- Respect the conditions of the bay. Middle bank in particular is not a friendly place for boats. Waves pop up out of nowhere, and they are very big and powerful.
- If you plan to become an entrant in the Darwin Awards (<http://www.darwinawards.com/>) why not try parachuting instead.

Many thanks to those members who came to the club to help out on this rescue.

A message from your friendly Treasurer

Yes, its that time of year. The invoices have been sent out and we are getting a steady flow of membership renewals, many using electronic banking. But remember to include your name or member ID in the payment, and send back your renewal form in the envelope provided so we know of any changes to your status. And by the way, the Club's constitution states:

“Any member failing to pay any fees to the Club within two months of the same becoming due and payable may without prejudice to his or her membership be by resolution of the Committee suspend from all privileges of the Club until such outstanding fees have been paid. If the fees shall be overdue for twelve months or more his name may, by resolution of the Committee be struck off the list of members unless the non payment shall be explained to and accepted by the Committee.”

MERRICKS MOMENTS

Safety Equipment

Last year you may have heard the committee decided to add a defibrillator to our first aid equipment at the Club. If you haven't heard that then you must have missed every social event.

It has been installed under the clubhouse in a protective enclosure, near the briefing board. This location was deemed best suited for access by the greater Merricks community, including the beach, club yard, and the village. The unit will be in the case during the sailing season or up in the control tower the rest of the time.

Hopefully it's a piece of equipment that will never be used, however data (New England Journal of Medicine, October 2000) suggests that survival rates are highest when defibrillation is delivered within three minutes of the time of collapse. Considering the remoteness of our community, this could only be administered from equipment kept in the area.

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 31st) and introduce them to a few members. I am sure they will thank you for it!

A view of MYC from the Honorary Secretary

My first year in the role was a real eye opener with many and varied issues to be discussed, minuted, resolved, negotiated, organised, recognised, developed,

Does the club offer credit at the bar???

- Some members may be wondering, "Rather than putting some spare cash on my card at the club bar so that I able to buy a drink, could I just get a bit of credit?"
- The Committee has thought carefully about this, and while Lehman Brother's banking licence is probably available quite cheaply, and Merricks Patrol may be worth more than several UK banks, we have determined not to go into the business of offering credit. So please don't ask for credit this year, but think seriously about putting depositing (or investing) a lazy \$50 with the barman at the club. Our financial advisors are constantly reminding us of the importance of liquid assets, and you don't get any more liquid than the fine wines of the new Commodore's Choice selection.

facilitated, documented, captured, produced, distributed, written, posted, emailed, read and considered, I am much the wiser to take on the second year.

As we (the committee) develop a more solid understanding on how the club operates, it is good to know that the hard work put in by many is starting to bear fruit, in that we are beginning to find the time to look to new

ideas, events and facilities to ensure that Merricks Yacht Club remains viable for those current members and also to hopefully encourage new people to join and enjoy the club as a sailing, social and community hub at Merricks Beach.

Moving forward (heard that recently) into my second year can be described as significantly easier and while the responsibilities remain the same, they are more familiar such that more time and effort can be expended on the good stuff of running the club.

It is always a concern when seasoned committee members move on to greener pastures and a life, conversely it is great to see new people join the committee this year who are injecting new ideas and concepts to build on the good work of those before us.

I'd have to say my favorite job is 'bar attendant' but it is difficult to get the regular 'bar blokes' out from behind the bar area but they have many more years of experience where they can always be there to ensure that I don't muck up.

If you have any questions or require assistance, please feel free to email me at secretary@merricks.org and I will see what I can do to assist. All the best to our member base for the coming season and I look forward to see you around the club or on the water. Happy boating! rgds Andy Parkinson.

In the interests of balance, the club expects to see 'Real Action', on and off the water (ed.)

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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. We are planning some joint events and initiatives, one of the first being a ...

Foreshore working bee

To follow on from our successful working bees in the last year, we are planning to continue tackling the Melianthus infestation along the foreshore towards Point Leo. This has been deemed by the Foreshore Committee and Yacht Club to be a "Yacht Club Project", that goes towards the required hours of work as part of our lease arrangements. It's a great opportunity to catch up with other members, help us cover our required hours, and do something good for our local environment. I encourage each of you to consider donating an hour or so of your time, from **10:00am Saturday Oct 16th**.

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.

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor

Why is the Master apparently sending in his contributions from Beringovskiy, far eastern Russia? Is he getting some mail order helpers for the working bees?

Puzzled member

A REAL LETTER TRULY!

*Dear Commodore,
After many years of membership of Merricks Yacht Club, I have decided that the time has come to leave - resigning sounds too negative! It is a great club and, although not a sailor, I have been pleased to support it is a community activity of the highest order! You all do great work. With best wishes. (Editor - name withheld)*

A big welcome to new members

- Megan Douglas and Dean McIntyre and kids Edward, Harry and Angus.
- Hugh and Jenny Falcon and kids Oliver and Francesca

Newsletter Contributions

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

For sale - Sonata 16

Yamaha 8 HP and 2003 Tracer trailer - \$13000 -
Neil and Katrine Bayton
Contact - Ph. 5989 1054

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

Jokes to fill up a bit of spare space

Apparently, one in five people in the world are Chinese. There are five people in my family, so one of them must be Chinese. It's either my mum or dad. Or my older brother Colin. Or my younger brother Ho-Cha-Chu. But I think it is Colin.

Raffle Prizes anyone??

We are looking for quality items for raffle prizes for the season - donations would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Simon

Webster, Social Co-ordinator on 0414 469 656 or social@merricks.org

Duty Roster

Stay tuned for this season's duty roster, which will be emailed soon.

Help us out at Y. C. events

If you are willing to lend a hand at a social function, or maybe the control tower for a day, please contact the Social Co-ordinator or Rear Commodore

MERRICKS MOMENTS

New MYC website

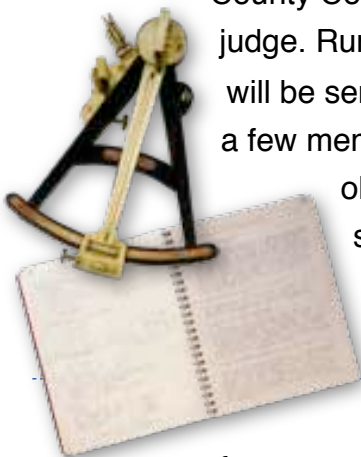
We have recently redeveloped the yacht club website, and

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

- The yacht club will be officially opened by Graeme Crossley, former commodore and retired County Court judge. Rumours he will be sentencing a few members for old times sake are unlikely to be true.



(so its safe to attend Simon). See you there.



STOP PRESS NEWS FROM HOBIES WORLD

Merricks youth sailors come 3rd in the hobie 16 worlds. 6James Wierzbowski and Pip Pietromonaco sailed a brilliant regatta in Weihai, China to take third overall in the youth division on the Hobie 16 world titles. At the time of writing, James and his brother Chris were in 16th place overall in the open division. A big congratulations to James, Pip, and Chris for such outstanding results, and flying the Merricks flag high.

