

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PSC

FROM THE BILGES



SEPTEMBER 2021

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STAY CONNECTED



@portarlingtonsc_offical



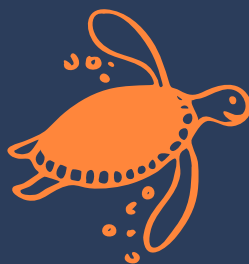
Portarlington Sailing Club



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COMMODORE'S REPORT

LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT SEASON

Hi all,

Well, what a year so far! I'm saddened to say we have not had much sailing but instead got handed plenty of lockdowns. However, there has been plenty going on around the club. Starting with the brand-new paint job, a big thanks to **Kevin** and **Stuart** for making this happen. Well done, it looks great!

The AGM via Zoom went off without a hitch, and all formal elements of the meeting were achieved. And our new committee members, Chris and Andrew, are providing valuable input and actively participating in matters relating to the general committee. Welcome aboard guys.

We are all working on getting the season started as soon as Government Health Regulations will allow us. Here's hoping for a better start to the season with fine weather and plenty of boats on the water. Not that note, please make sure you get your boat registrations and relevant paperwork submitted, this will assist us in getting the season underway smoothly.

We also have several different boat classes requesting the use of our facility for their State Championships in March 2022. We should all be very proud that we are a much desired club choice for so many of these events. We are looking forward to working through these great opportunities to showcase the club.

Looking forward to a great season and plenty of boats on the water each week; dust those cobwebs off your boat and get those little jobs done in preparation for some good sailing fun.

—Neville



SOME HEROES WEAR OVERALLS

THANK YOU KEVIN!

A huge thank you to Kevin Holland (with help from Stuart Boyd) for putting in a considerable amount of work to paint our clubhouse! The club looks fantastic with the new colour scheme and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Thanks again, Kevin!



CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

EXCITING CHANGES TO THE SEASON

Although it looked like we would have had a cracking start to the season, it seems like COVID had other plans. However, once restrictions allow, we will endeavour to start off the new and revamped sailing calendar.

In the past, our sailing season has been broken up into four series (three series' last year). However, this year we have adopted a more simplistic method. We will have only **one** series, but **more** races—with **two** races held nearly every week— and a long race held nearly every third week. The winter series will remain a stand alone event.

We also have a preplanned OOD roster and encourage everyone to read through it and check/ensure your availability for your assigned days. If you're not able to make it, please try and organise a replacement yourself. I will endeavour to have an assistant available every week—either myself or a volunteer—but feel free to supply your own substitution.

We hope these changes will make rigging up a more worthwhile experience! The change will also allow us the time to have a social lunch (possibly the occasional sausage sizzle) in between the morning and afternoon races.

Please approach me if you have any questions about all things race management. I'm always happy to help. If you wish to access the calendar to check your OOD date or to jot down the races in your diary, it can be found [here](#).

—Jacob



2021 Calendar

A QUICK LOOK

SUN 19TH SEPT

Ice Breaker & Working Bee
14:00 Race start
OOD Neville Stuchbery

TUE 21ST SEPT

Special Regulations
19:00 Zoom meeting
Presented by Andrew Merlot

SUN 26TH SEPT

Short Race & Trailerable
Long Race
11:00 Race start
OOD Kevin Holland

SUN 3RD OCT

Two Events
13:30 Race start
OOD Harry Clark

SUN 10TH OCT

Two Events
13:30 Race start
OOD Malcom MacDonald

SUN 17TH OCT

Short Race & Trailerable
Long Race
11:00 Race start
OOD Harry Mann

SAT 23RD OCT

Opening Night Function
(Details TBC—Covid pending)

SUN 24TH OCT

Two Events & Open Day!
11:00 Race start
OOD David Marshall



AN INTRODUCTION TO SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Tuesday 21st of September • 7PM
Online Zoom Seminar:

<https://deakin.zoom.us/j/86588804647?pwd=UjBSL0lzbjE2QjhuUmJyZ0ZLOkw0UT09>

Our new PSC committee member, Andrew Merlot, is a Sailing Australia National Equipment Auditor; a race official qualified to conduct safety audits. The Australian Sailing Racing Rules and Special Regulations describe boat owner responsibilities as: to establish uniform minimum equipment, accommodation and training standards for racing boats. The Special Regulations are also a guide for cruising boats and PSC has adopted the Special Regulations (Category 5) as the standard required for club cruising events.

As PSC needs to improve in this area, the committee is adopting an approach of education first, enforcement later. The club will help boat owners by providing support and information, beginning with an online a seminar

via Zoom, at on **Tuesday 21st of September at 7PM.**

Throughout the seminar, Andy will guide boat owners through their responsibilities under the Australian Sailing Special Regulations and answer any questions that members may have regarding what steps are needed in order to get up their boats up to requirements. As Covid restrictions ease, we will be hosting additional information nights which will be held at the club for further support.

The committee **highly recommends** that all owners of trailerable yachts attend this seminar as further into the season boats will be audited and non-compliant boats may be disqualified from racing or from participating in club cruising events.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

BOAT REGO



LIST OF DISCOUNTS

All boat owners are asked to jump on the PSC website to fill out the Boat Registration form for the upcoming 21-22 Season. And in order to promote participation in club events we will be offering a **discount** on boat storage fees for each event a boat participates in. These are calculated as per the rates below:

(Please note, due to the pandemic these are doubled for this season)

- 2% discount per cruise event
- 5% discount per working bee, Sunday Racing or OOD
- The maximum deduction is 30%
- If no working bees are attended the maximum deduction is 20%
- If only one working bee is attended then the maximum deduction is 25%
- There is a list of applicable dates you can submit below,

In order to claim your discount for last season and to be registered for the upcoming season, please fill out the form as soon as possible using the link listed below:

- <https://www.portarlingtonsc.org.au/events/108826/?>

A night visit



*A beautifully written submission by an esteemed member of PSC.
Inspired by a night aboard in Duck Arm, Paynesville*

The lap of the water against the hull
Soothes my mind to a lazy lull
The distant channel lights flashing red and green
Light the way of the channel unseen

All is quiet, calm and slow
Except for the tide in gentle flow
The night so black no lights around
All's at peace, not a sound

Sea birds quiet, just an occasional flash
Of bait fish jumping in a splash
Of silver water flashing wide
As they ply their trade in the rippling tide

Its nights like this I love the peace
In the ghostly shadows my stresses release
I feel my mind unwind and ebb
And relax in the beauty of natures web

Suddenly I hear a welcome sound
That floats on the silence and echoes around
It's the welcome sound of a dolphin's blow
As it glides on past, majestically slow

And then there's another and another and another
A pod of kiddies trailing their mother
I fancy I hear their squeaks and chatter
As they glide on past, with family natter

Oh now my evening repast is complete
The magic of this mammal is hard to beat
A visit from dolphins brings a joyful calm
Their visit is like a healing balm.

—Ian Pritchard



CLUBOPS EXPLAINED



Last season we switched things up and moved to a new results system called *ClubOps* (which runs the Sailor App). Understandably so, with our race results so readily available, we have had a lot of questions about how handicapping works. Hopefully this article will explain the handicap system in a manner that is easy to understand!

The first type of results you may see is **based off elapsed time**, and due to our fleet's speed varying so significantly we do not typically publish these results. But in a nutshell, it means: the first boat to cross the finish line, takes the win. You can think of this one a bit like who gets to Hobart first in the Sydney to Hobart; typically one of the Super Maxi's!

Secondly, we have **yardstick**; you may see yardstick in the *Gough Strain Outsider Series* at PSC. These results are based on the theoretical performance of the boat, rather than the skipper's sailing potential. These yardsticks are based off what *Australian Sailing* publish annually under **Class Basic Handicap (CBH)**. The formula for CBH (this includes trailerables and sportsboats) is a system which uses a series of measurements of the hull and rig of a boat to provide even, and fair racing. Therefore, racing success is primarily determined by the skills of the crew.

A great way of thinking about this is if you compare it to the *Tattersall Cup* in the Sydney to Hobart, where the elapsed time and handicap are combined; giving a "corrected time". Example: if a Super Maxi needs to beat a 31 footer by three days, but they are only two and a half days ahead, then that means the 31 footer is considered the winner.

Lastly, we have **handicap**. These results are based on the performance of a boat's previous five races on a rolling average. These results can be seen in the *Club Champion/ Wendy Searle Series*. They aim to compare how well the crew does in a particular race compared to how well they have been doing in the past. You can view the settings currently calculating these handicaps in the image at the top of this article. In order to win on handicap, our best advice is that you must sail consistently and sail well.

As per the Club Captain's report, we have revamped the sailing schedule this season to make things simpler and easier to understand. This new schedule will reward those that turn up, sail consistently and provide a general sense of continuity throughout the season.

Race results can be viewed throughout the season here, or on the Sailor App.



Easter weekend

THE REGATTA YOU CANNOT MISS

This year was the the 59th *Yachting Western Victoria Easter Regatta*, and not ones to ever miss out on a sailing holiday, the Stuchbery's made their annual pilgrimage down to Lake Bullen Merri at Camperdown, Victoria. And this year they were joined by the Condor family who took the ILCA and the RS 500. As for the Stuchbery's boats...well, miraculously, they only brought one! The Thompson 590 that is well known to most members.

Day one was a hot and very light northerly. Lake Bullen Merri is an ancient clover leaf shaped lake formed by two overlapping maar volcanoes with a depth of 66 meters. When the breeze comes rushing down the walls of the crater, it can be a bit of a challenge to race, particularly in light, shifty northerly winds. It was a day of tactical racing that was truly enjoyed by all. >

Day two produced an intensifying north-westerly breeze with gusts that might have reached 30 knots as they funnelled down the crater. The most memorable part of the day aboard the Thompson was doing a consistent 15.7 to 16.5 knots of boat speed down the northern shore of the lake under masthead spinnaker. To put just how windy it was into perspective—even with our crew weight 145kg over the 220kg maximum specified by designer Steve Thompson—we were actively dumping both main and the number two jib constantly simply to keep the boat on her feet upwind. All the while another sports boat just in front of us got knocked completely flat, with her spreaders in the water.

Day three greeted us with both chocolate and a cooler southerly breeze. Due to the local geography and the stability of a dense southerly in Western Victoria, it made for extremely enjoyable racing conditions. Racing was incredibly tactical, with plenty of passing lanes available both up and downwind.

Day four is always reserved for the Jack Lane Memorial Sternchaser. The Sternchaser's start times are based on the results of the previous races. The course is a one lap sprint around the lake, which means the slower boats are often on the final beat by the time the faster boats start, so often the winner is a boat from somewhere in the mid-fleet,





I regard this particular race as one of the most challenging to win in yachting; you could commission a "Bullen Merri specific yacht," from a world famous designer, and spend four years training full time at Camperdown and yet still finish mid fleet!

On the day, the southerly breeze had backed round to the south-east. Onboard the Thompson we started nearly last. As expected this was a great challenging race, with big lulls and a lot of tactical decisions required. Fortunately, we were able to and make up a few positions in order to finish mid-fleet.

This regatta is an absolute must do for any sailor and family. It has it all! The coziness and beautiful scenery of camping alongside the lake, the epic storytelling around the campfire, dark skies to assist you on a satellite or shooting star hunt just before the moon pops up over the silhouetted hills and much more!

Hopefully, you and your family are able to make your way along to the 60th year of *Yachting Western Victoria* running an epic Easter Regatta in 2022,





— “

*I must go down to the seas again, to the
lonely sea and the sky, And all I ask is a
tall ship and a star to steer her by, And
the wheel's kick and the wind's song
and the white sail's shaking, And a
gray mist on the sea's face, and a gray
dawn breaking*

— John Masefield

” —

Lynden's new boat

HELLO TO NEW HORIZONS

The evergreen Lynden Haskett has sold *Bottom Line* and bought a magnificent Fisher 32, known as *Hagar*, a beautiful double ended vessel. Haskett has been searching high and low for a Fisher, and finally got hold of his dreams.

Hagar is 9 tonne of beautiful seagoing boat, and Haskett has big plans to broaden his horizons, but still hopes to compete in PSC events if the boat is not too slow.

But the club has not lost a sailor nor a boat. The buyer of *Bottom Line* is Martin John and as John is a local, The boat will continue to stay at the club. What a fabulous outcome for PSC!

John is an absolute surprise package! Trained as a marine biologist, he has been self employed all his life in many capacities; among them, he owned aquaculture leases in Tasmania. Upon our chat he told me he was headhunted to advise and set up the Indented Heads aquaculture venture.

He currently operates the Swan Bay nursery and also finds—on his many outback journeys—gem stones, which he polishes and then sells. This is a man of many talents who “just can’t sit still” and “loves to work” as he joked.

"I wanted a gentleman's boat to suit an older man—a little ship"

Currently, John has *Bottom Line* up on the gantry on his five acre back yard and is re-building the boat's trailer. John is a self-confessed talker, but one well worth talking to, as he has so many stories and experiences to share.

In other news Harry Clark is in lockdown up in Cairns. He is awaiting a covid reprieve in order to fly out to Fitzroy Island for a change of scenery. Kevin and Chris are swanning (read caravanning), around the Eyre Peninsula, South Australia. And me? Well, I've been working on my boat. As a cruiser, I have made an important addition. A wine glass cabinet! Just shows where my priorities are...

—Ian



Photos: Ian Pritchard & Graeme Castles

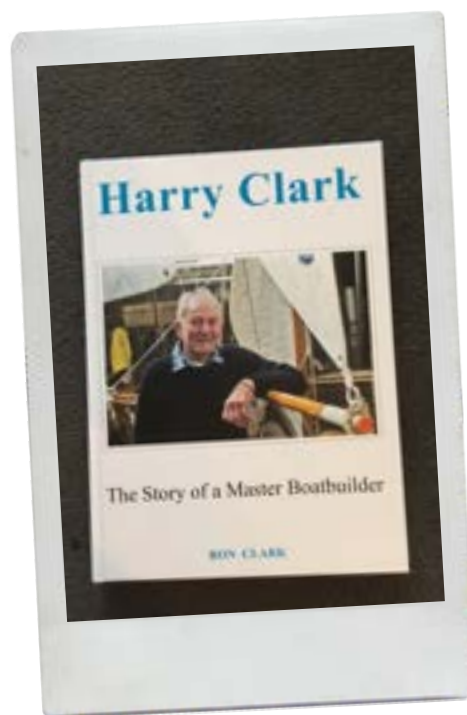




AUTHOR RON CLARK

Ron and Harry Clark, two PSC members, have boating in their blood. Their father, Harry Senior, was a boat builder his whole life. Ron followed this career for a number of years and now he has written a book about his father. This is a fine coffee table book of 238 pages; it takes you through the family album and documents of a number of Harry Senior's builds which took place in the backyard of the family home in Newport. It also offers an insight into the maritime life around Williamstown in the days before fibreglass boats.

Harry Clark: The Story of a Master Boatbuilder is now available to read for \$50 in paperback. Call Ron to order on 0418 588 545



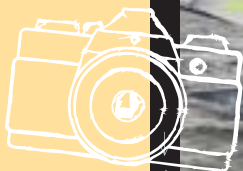
A must read

SAIL BELLARINE

On the first weekend of May our Portarlington Sailing Club members assisted with the highly successful *Sail Bellarine Regatta* at Indented Head Yacht Club, sponsored by Ronstan.

Both days featured a lumpy north-easterly breeze which provide plenty of opportunities for those willing to muscle a boat around the course.

A huge thanks to all our PSC volunteers for helping to raise the profile of sailing on the Bellarine. Hopefully we will be able to have a few more PSC boats competing next year!



LEARN TO SAIL

We have an adult learn to sail course kicking off Early November. Contact Alastair Conder (Discover Sailing Instructor) for further details: 0417031187 or email info@portarlingtongsc.org.au



LOCKDOWN PROJECT #3

After impulsively purchasing an old Moth at the start of last season, I found myself totally addicted to Moth sailing once again. Late April saw me standing in the corner of the yard at Royal Geelong Yacht Club looking at yet another Moth. This one featured a Thorpe hull, CST rig and custom foils; all things that are a slight upgrade to my old boat.

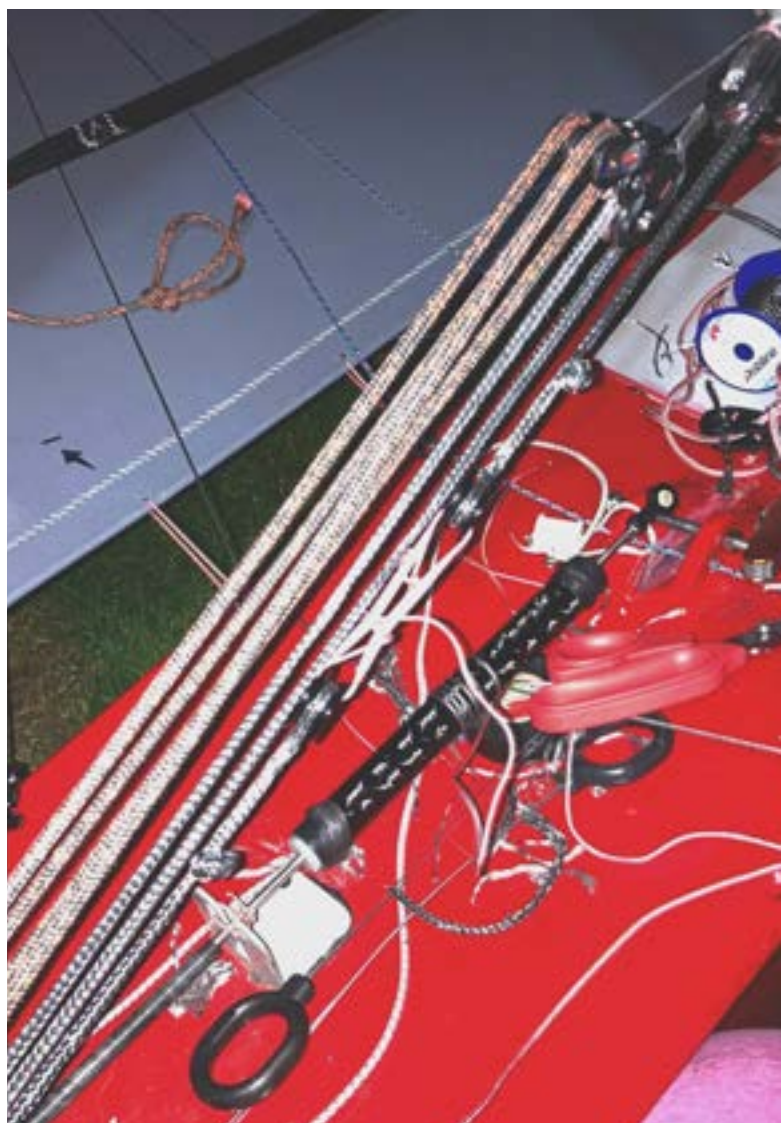
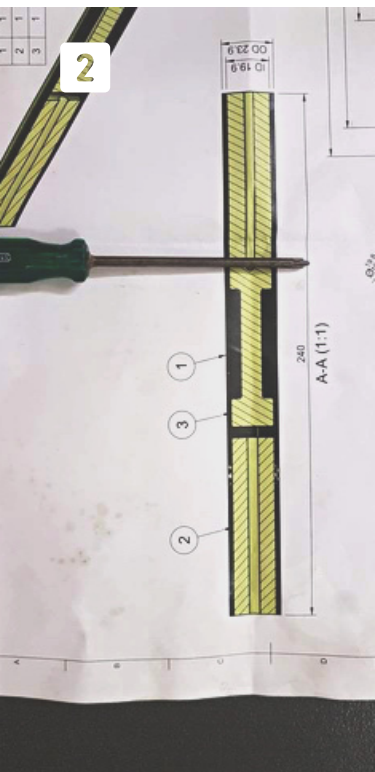
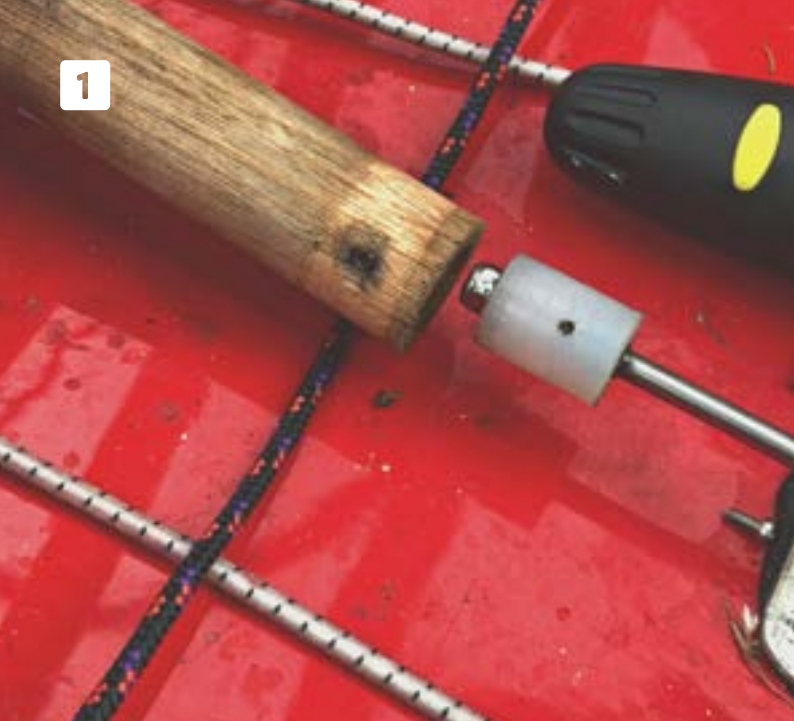
My friend, who happened to be the owner of this boat pictured on the right, had offered to sell it to me as his calendar was full with other sailing commitments. I later found out it was also originally owned by a previous world champion, so I felt like it represents astonishing bang for buck, which I obviously couldn't go past.

I picked up my new boat in early May and managed to sail it once before we were plunged into another lockdown. I then got to sail it once more, in early June, in a rapidly fading breeze, before we went into the current lockdown we find ourselves in. Like any sailor that finds themselves unable to sail, I took this opportunity of being stuck at home as a means to try and get the boat to a reliable and as ergonomic as possible. Essentially, I pulled it all apart and put it back together again; addressing any issues I found along the way.

The new modifications include a new vang, new custom ride height adjuster (designed by Jacob), restitched trampolines, new control line take ups, custom universal tiller universal joint, higher forestay position and more. I can't wait to get it back out on the water!

—Thomas







Workers Playtime

When Andy Merlot and Jen Thompson moved to Portarlington they sold their 38ft cruising yacht, *New Brunette*. Although moving to the Bellarine and selling your boat feels wrong, it is a step they had to take as there were no berths available at Portarlington Safe Harbour.

After a couple of years away from boat ownership the pair started looking for a new boat and soon enough they found a trailer sailer hull in Gippsland. The Peterson designed Seaway 25 would be perfect hull that would suit racing and short cruising on Port Phillip. The only down side was its terrible name, *Slippery When Wet*—unacceptable. Instead it was renamed *Workers Playtime*.

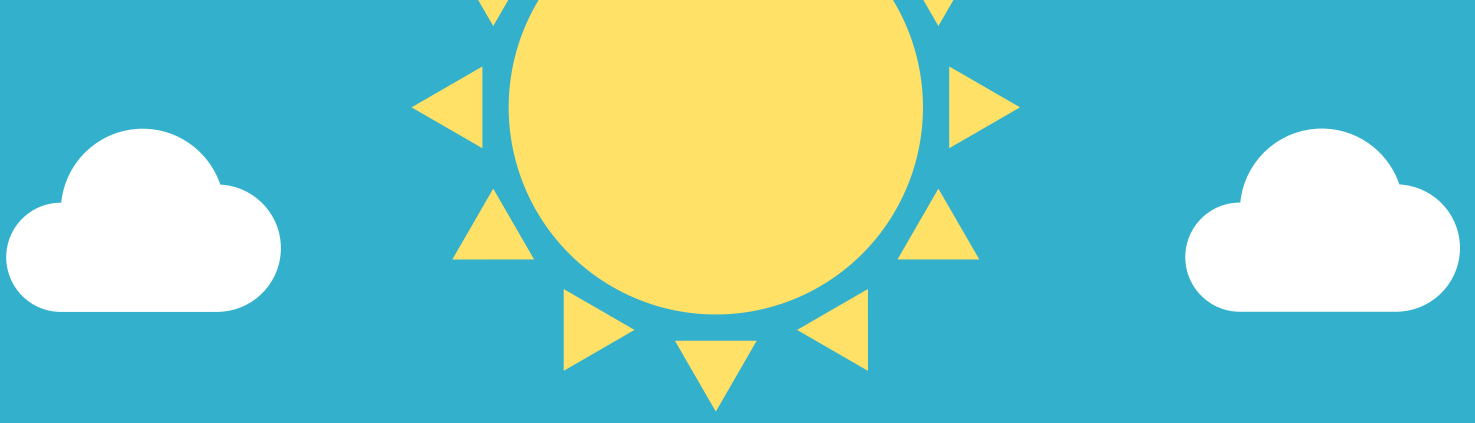
Being a bit rough around the edges, and full of rainwater, they needed to start the restoration. Luckily, a friendly boatbuilder in Paynesville fixed up the hull and gave the 25 footer a gleaming new paint job. >





The boatbuilder also addressed the shot deck and cracked rudder. And since bringing the boat to Portarlinton the rig has been painted, the deck gear replaced and new running rigging was fitted.

With less than 26cm of LOA and 80kg of displacement separating *Workers Playtime* and the reigning Long Race Champion—Garry Fair's Sonata 8—*Sea Ya* it will certainly be interesting to see how the upcoming season pans out at PSC. Both yachts were designed by the notable USA based America's Cup designers in their prime; *Sea ya* by Gary Mull and *Workers Playtime* by Doug Peterson. With so little to separate these boats on paper, the overall results will come down to tactics and boat speed. I'm confident we'll see both in the top five or six by the end of the season, but only time will tell.



Portarlinton Sailing Club

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following are quick club reminders, if you have any questions
please relay them to your nearest committee member





SHUT THE GATE!

Recently committee members have attended the club on various occasions throughout the week to find the gates open and the club unattended.

Please be sure to check the gates are closed when you leave the club to keep our precious racing machines safe!



SPEEDING TO BOAT RAMP

We have received feedback from community that have witnessed members of PSC driving too fast between the club and Pt. Richards Boat Ramp, particularly past the miniature train station.

Please slow down to a walking pace through these parts as we do not want members of the greater community to perceive PSC in a negative light or even worse, for an accident to occur, thank you.



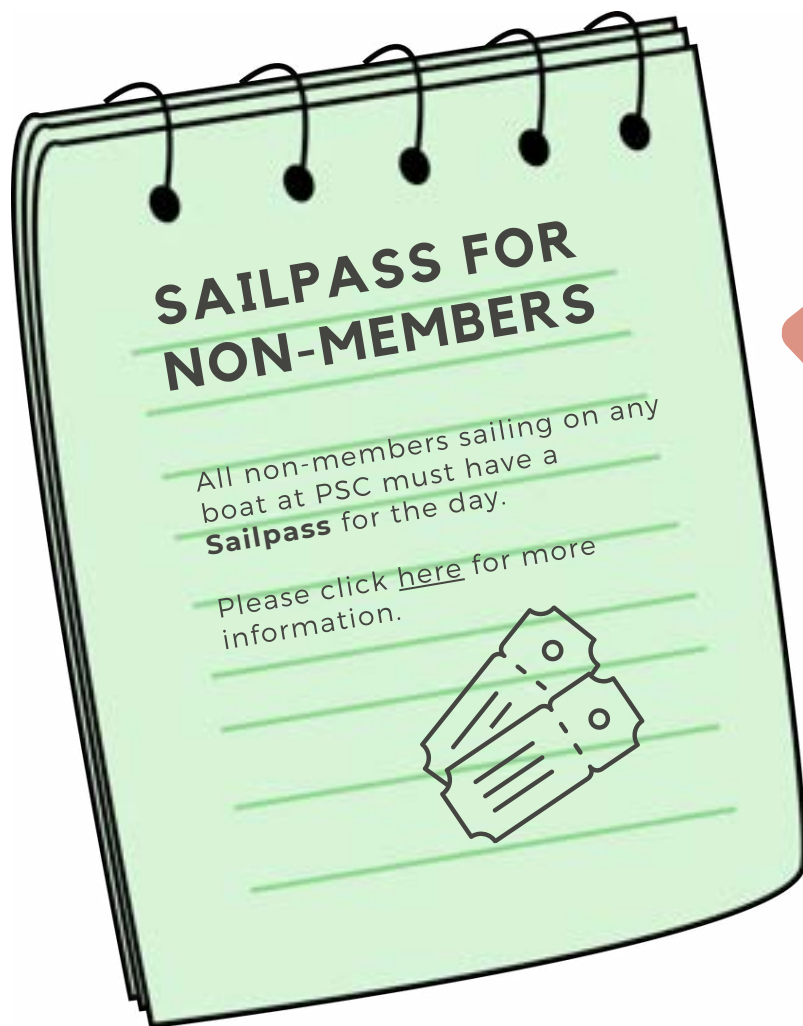
MAINTENANCE

Please inform Jacob of any maintenance issues you notice around the club so that they can be addressed as soon as possible.



SAILING ON TV

Tune in and watch the SailGP on Kayo Sports. The next event is on the 11th and 12th of September—this weekend—let's hope the Aussies can keep their lead! The next event is on the 9th-11th of October.



IMPORTANT!

SIGN IN

Please remember to sign in with the club's QR code whenever you enter the premises. Keep sanitising and maintain a 1.5 meter distance with each other whenever possible. More information on the current government covid regulations [here](#). Stay safe everyone

