

The Bluebird Newsletter



The official newsletter of the Bluebird Yacht Association of Victoria Inc. The articles and opinions expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily represent the official views of the BYAV.

Too Good to Miss.....

Lipton Cup Regatta 16–18 November 2007 including Twilight Invitation Race on Friday 16 November

....great prizes and social weekend

Full details at www.rycv.com.au

From the President

Once again our Bluebird fleet made a major impact on Hobsons Bay during the Winter Series. With eleven official entries it was the most hotly contested series yet held. It was won by Peter Roberts and Glenn Hall (again) with four straight wins and a second. However they did not have it all their own way as new-comers to Bluebirds, Dave Wallace and Craig Black in *Drambuie*, had two wins and a second with only three races completed. Dave and Craig bring enormous experience to our class having previously been national Diamond champions. I expect it wont be too long before we once again see the name *Drambuie* engraved on our perpetual trophies. Other race heat wins came from *Paramour* and *Moody Blue* who took out second and third respectively in the series.

However not all the impact left by our



Coming up to a mark, Bluebirds in close competition during Race 1 of the Winter Series 'Bluebird Cup'

fleet was positive, with both *Revel* and *Tandeka* sustaining damage caused by competitors in the Brass Monkey fleet. In the case of *Tandeka's* major collision in Heat 8, we are very lucky that the crew were not injured. It will be noticed that next year's Winter Series 'Bluebird Cup' is scheduled for opposite Sundays from the Brass Monkeys for this reason.

Our very popular presentation night in April once again attracted around 50 people who enjoyed another well-catered meal followed by the presentation of trophies by Honorary Life Vice-President Max White. Our guest speaker this year was well known yachtsman, Tom Smeaton, who came up from Geelong to share some of his most exciting recent cruise around

South America's Patagonia. Another highlight of the evening, was the presentation of a most beautiful half scale model of a Bluebird to Life Members Norm and Jean Price, for long and dedicated service to the Bluebird Association. See inside this newsletter for more about this.

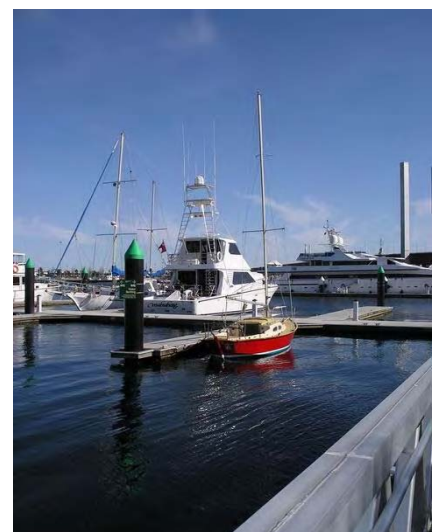
One of our most recent social evenings included the AGM to which about 30 people attended. A more comprehensive report can be read later in this newsletter.

The Committee have all contributed to the draft content and structure for our website which is being designed

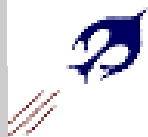
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There's plenty of space for a little Bluebird in amongst the cruisers at Waterfront City Marina, Docklands.



HAMMO WEEK (or a race report by a non-racing sailor)

By Alistair Sinclair

Reportedly Australia's largest yacht race regatta, some 210 yachts converged on Hamilton Island Marina for Race week 18th-25th of August.

Your reporter was "crewing" on Happy J a 42 ft Jeanneau. We were in the cruising spinnaker division along with other Jeanneaus, Benneteaus und das Bavarias mit spinnakers. I quickly deduced that our cruising Division was defined by the manufacturers as a yacht where 2 heads are better than one!

The first race out and around Lindeman Is. and return was on the Saturday so the day prior was set aside to prepare for some serious competitive racing. This preparation involved the following in order of importance:

1. Issue all crew with matching caps, T- shirts and shorts. (all screen printed with a suitable Tax deductible Logo)
2. Attach sponsors flags and decals, guaranteed to be worth an extra 1-2 knots.
3. Empty all water tanks
4. Refer to all ropes as sheets, halyards, downhauls, uphauls, topping lifts, etc.
5. Remove dodgers, biminis and any other form of shade or protection from the elements.
6. Take on the appropriate amount of Voyage Ballast

(generally referred to as VB's)

This was all very time consuming so a decision was made to spend the remainder of the day by discussing tactics rather than tire out the crew practising setting of the spinnaker. We also reluctantly decided to drop off the dinghy from the davits for race week. We had hoped to slot in some snorkelling if we were far enough ahead of the field during a race.

There were 6 race days spread over 8 days, all races saw the fleet cross the start line heading North with both Wind and Tide behind us, Rumour has it that the Insurance Blokes thought it would be cheaper for them rather than having 200 yachts all tacking up to the start line screaming "#*?^**!ing STARBOARD"

Our skipper revealed his Irish background by insisting that we eat our sandwiches 15 minutes before the start to reduce the weight on board.

Most days saw a good S/E breeze for the start and then generally dropping off in the early afternoon, one particular race saw us just reach the finish line as the wind dropped off completely. Skipper complimented the cook for the generous egg sandwiches that day allowing us to create a breeze and leave many other yachts languishing in the

doldrums.

Thursday, traditionally a lay day for cruising yachts, is spent partying/ogling on Whitehaven beach, a beautiful 7km long gentle arc of wide white sandy beach with perhaps 150 boats of all shapes and sizes, all in beautiful condition anchored off the beach and well over 1000 people of all shapes and sizes, all in beautiful condition on the beach.

Friday's race start found us with wind and tide pushing us down towards the start line. We timed everything to a T, however we are all convinced that the Timing Box went to sleep and sounded the start "hooter" about 5 seconds late!! So just to maintain the peace we went around the start buoy and restarted. Reckon we were on target to win that race too!

Most races finished mid to late afternoon allowing the yachts to be tied up just on Beer O Clock. One Bavaria skipper I spoke to preferred a run home (mit spinnaker) so that he could get an early shtart barbecueing his Bratwurst sausages mit out ze boat leenink over".

The final race was around South and North Molle Islands. Back to Hamilton Is was the track for Division 1 and the IRC yachts -

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Gaylene – Race 1, Winter Series



Resplendent in orange, Jay and her crew prepare for Race 1, Winter Series.



Ian Lewis surfacing from his ritual Winter Series pre-race scrub of Shadow.

Winter Series ‘Bluebird Cup’ 2007 Final Results

Yacht & Final Placing	Owner	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Race 7	Race 8	Race 9	Final Points*
Tandeka 1st	Peter Roberts & Glenn Hall	1	1	2	DNF - 8	DNF-7	1	1	DNF-9	DNS-12	6
Paramour 2nd	Ivan Knight	3	2	3	DNF - 8	1	5	4	2	3	11
Moody Blue 3rd	Mike & Narelle Grey	2	DNS-12	DNS-12	DNS-12	DNS-12	3	5	1	4	15
Jay 4th	Ryan Blackstock	4	4	5	DNS - 12	DNF-7	2	3	4	5	17
Shadow 5th	Ian Lewis	7	5	DNF-10	DNF - 8	2	7	6	3	7	23
Drambuie 6th	David Wallace & Craig Black	DNS-12	DNS-12	1	DNF - 8	DNS-12	DNS-12	2	DNS-12	1	24
Gaylene 7th	Tim & Lee Blunt	6	DNS-12	4	DNS-12	DNF-7	4	DNS-12	5	6	25
Manjimup 8th	Christian O'Halloran	8	3	6	DNF - 8	DNF-7	6	7	DNS-12	8	30
Secret 9th	Jock Murphy	DNS-12	DNS-12	DNF-10	DNF-8	DNS-12	DNS-12	DNS-12	6	2	38
Bounty 10th	Bruce & Peter Hocking	DNS-12	DNS-12	DNF-10	DNF-8	DNS-12	DNS-12	DNS-12	7	9	46
Revel 11th	Warwick Norman	5	DNF-7	DNS-12	DNS - 12	DNS-12	DNS-12	DNS-12	DNS-12	DNS-12	48

* points from best 5 races



Docklands Cruise

Our first overnight cruise for this season was to Docklands on October 6. Six Bluebirds and two other yacht types from our membership attended, amounting to 17 people.

Immediately after welcoming in the new season by participating in the HBYC Opening Day sailpast, the yachts all made their way over to the river. It was a glorious afternoon with an easy southerly to push us along.

We docked at the berths that had been reserved for us at Waterfront City Marina about an hour after starting out



Paramour at Waterfront City Marina, Docklands, just a stone's throw from the city.



Secret followed by Manjimup on their way up the river.

and decided the time was right for that honoured tradition of all cruising sailors – the sundowner. There's no shortage of eating and drinking holes at Docklands and we made a bee-line poste haste for Mecca Bah, a favourite of mine. In fact we were so speedy, that we had to send a search party out for Andrew and Karen Blackstock of *Big Blue* who we lost along the way. A few ales, wines, felafels and pizzas later, the world felt right.

After dinner, those of us who were staying the night squeezed onto *Big Blue* for a night cap before hopping into our own cosy bunks for the night.

If you go up to Docklands to stay the night, be warned, a healthy night cap

is a must; we discovered in the morning, that those who'd had more, heard nothing of the nightclub, that kept the rest of us awake until the wee hours!

Waterfront City Marina is one of four marinas at Docklands and costs just \$30 for overnight berthing. Free bathroom and laundry facilities are included. The Marina also has a lounge with TV and reading material that is currently only open from 9am-5pm, but there are plans to make it available to guests after hours.

Louise Avery



Ned Murphy at the helm of Secret with dad Jock, uncle Sam and cousin Rose.

Your Committee for 2007/08

President	Ivan Knight	Ph. 9398 2177
Honorary Life Vice-President	Max White	Ph. 9459 7736
Vice-President	John Owens	Ph. 9314 7763
Secretary	Ian Lewis	Ph. 9699 1996
Treasurer	Louise Avery	Ph. 9398 2177
Ordinary members	Tim Blunt	Ph.9397 7024
	Jock Murphy	Ph. 9853 0143
	Glenn Hall	Ph. 9397 5319
	Warwick Norman	Ph. 9397 6294
	Christian O'Halloran	Ph. 9380 6727
	Ryan Blackstock	Ph. 0414 408 679



Some of the folk who cruised up to Docklands enjoying the meal and view at Mecca Bah.

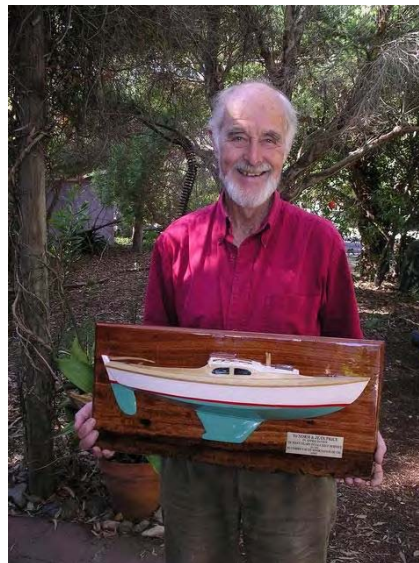


2007 Presentation Night

One of the highlights of Presentation Night was the presentation of a half scale model to Norm and Jean Price.

Norm and Jean have been involved with the Association for more than three decades, have held officebearer positions on the committee and Norm has been our race starter for more seasons than any of our present sailors are aware of.

Our gratitude and thanks went to retired boat designer and builder Mr Kan Walker for producing the masterpiece model to a scale of one inch to the foot. Kan was kept busy at the end of the evening discussing the model with many of our interested members.



Kan Walker displaying the model Bluebird he made.



Karen Blackstock and son, Ryan, owner of Jay, enjoying Presentation night.



Also enjoying Presentation Night is Lee Blunt, crew on Gaylene.



The characteristic Pollywoodside Perpetual Trophy was on display at presentation night. The trophy is now residing in the cabinet at HBYC after spending some years at Royal Melbourne Yacht Club. It was used as the perpetual trophy for a non-



Ivan Knight receives the Triad Trophy from Max White for coming first in the 2007 State Championships



Jock Murphy is awarded 3rd place....



spinnaker division.



...and Ian Lewis receives his 2nd place trophy.



Bluebirds in New Hands

The Bluebird scene in Victoria continues to grow as yachts that have been idle for a while are moving into new hands, with their new owners keen to compete and cruise with the rest of the fleet.

Logan Stuart, new owner of *Kotare*, can be seen quite regularly out on the bay with partner, Cara, as they get used to handling their Bluebird and making her ready for the 2007-08 season.



Cara and Logan enjoying the 2007 Presentation night.

Drambuie has changed hands yet again and is now the pride of David Wallace and Craig Black.



David Wallace and daughter Sarah on Drambuie giving us all a run for our money during the Winter Series.

After a long absence from the water, we hope *Motley Crew* will soon once again join the fleet in the bay. New owners John Owens and Michael

Hanel are working overtime to get her ready for the Geelong Passage Race in January. As can be seen below, family members are also being conscripted to help.



Liam Hanel gets to work on Motley Crew.

Alistair Sinclair, has purchased a larger yacht to allow him to cruise a little more comfortably. No sooner had he told the President of the Association that he would be selling his Bluebird *Nunyara*, than David Barnett, dinghy sailor at Williamstown Sailing Club, was beating a path to Alistair's door. David and wife, Heather, are already enjoying their new purchase, taking part in the HBYC sail past and cruise with other Bluebirds to Docklands.

AGM and Winter Series 'Bluebird Cup' 2007 Presentations

Our AGM was well attended by about 30 people, who were rewarded with an interesting evening.

After the business formalities of the AGM, a short discussion was held on future activities for our Association. By the show of hands in response to some suggestions thought out by your president, the Committee should be kept busy matching action to words.



pride and enthusiasm for Bluebirds

Max White then presented the 'Bluebird Cup' Winter Series trophies and the winner, Peter Roberts made an encouraging speech from which his pride and enthusiasm for Bluebirds

shone through.

Warwick Norman then shared his experience holidaying on a luxurious charter yacht in Croatia with his wife Geraldine. Once again, the HBYC data projector was put to good use,



showing Warwick's stunning photographic images.

A delicious supper was organised by Vice-President John Owens, during which everyone socialised and enjoyed watching video footage of

one of the Winter Series races. The footage was shot by Peter Roberts during Race 8. It was amusing as well as enlightening to see various sailing techniques including "down wind death rolls".



Third place getters in the 2007 Winter Series, Mike Grey with crew, wife Narelle and Mike Kavanagh.



(Continued from page 1)

by Andrea Drobnik. Andrea is kindly doing the work on a *pro bono* basis and we hope to have the website completed before year's end. We expect a website presence will improve our exposure to the sailing and wider community.

Since our last newsletter a further three Bluebirds have changed hands and enquiries from people trying to locate Bluebirds for sale continue to be made. Judging from the interest and enthusiasm shown lately we can expect a record fleet on the water in the coming season.

It is great to see our youngest owner willing to contribute to sailing management. Ryan Blackstock, owner of *Jay* has joined the Bluebird Association Committee as well as the HBYC Sailing Committee.

Ivan Knight
President

Did you know.....

According to a recent survey by Yachting Victoria, "the average cost of an entry level boat is about the same as a good bike".

Secret underway during the 2007 Winter Series.



(Continued from page 2)

for those familiar with IRC no explanation is required, if you don't know, then it doesn't matter, does it? All other divisions sailed a shortened course to the southern tip of South Molle and return. The Race Committee argued that the course was shortened due to the wind probably dropping off again, resulting in a long slow homeward leg resulting in many boats returning late. The theory goes something like this: if the wind drops off, the sails will fall away, this will result in many boats arriving home late and sales (of grog) will also fall a w a y . All in all a great week of sailing

Editor's note: Many thanks to Alistair for sharing this experience with us. Alistair is currently on another adventure with his wife Marilyn, on a narrow boat in the English canals. Hopefully we will hear about this one in the future.

Bluebirders on Stinkboats

Through government funding, HBYC was recently able to offer a heavily subsidised TL3 advanced power boat handling course. The offer was eagerly taken up by Bluebirders Ivan Knight (*Paramour*), John Owens (*Motley Crew*), Jock Nurphy (*Secret*) and Mike Grey and his crew Mike Kavanagh (*Moody Blue*) who were among the twelve who completed the course.

The aim is to share the crew work of the *Shirley Freeman* among a larger number of members. Race management requires on the water race starts, buoy laying and supervising yachts crossing the shipping lane. HBYC is most appreciative of the offers already made by Bluebird members to skipper

or crew on the *Shirley Freeman* and to help with the Sunday Summer Pursuit Series races.

If you would like to help out, please contact David Judge on Ph. 9398 0003 or 0417 526 438.



Crew, Andrew Lucas and Louise Avery with Paramour skipper, Ivan Knight and trophy, for coming 2nd in the 2007 Winter Series.



2007-08 Race Calendar

And for those busting for a real challenge.....

Bluebird Victorian Championships		
Date	Heat	Start
February		
Sunday 3	1	1120 hrs
Sunday 17	2	1300 hrs
March		
Sunday 2	3	1300 hrs
Sunday 16	4	1300 hrs
Sunday 30	5	1120 hrs
Bluebird Cup Winter Series		
Date	Heat	Start
April		
Saturday 26	1	1300 hrs
May		
Saturday 10	2	1300 hrs
Saturday 24	3	1300 hrs
June		
Saturday 21	4	1300 hrs
July		
Saturday 5	5	1300 hrs
Saturday 19	6	1300 hrs
August		
Saturday 2	7	1300 hrs
Saturday 16	8	1300 hrs
Saturday 30	9	1300 hrs

Bluebird Long Course Series (Safety Cat. 5)	
Date	Heat
Saturday January 26	1
Geelong Passage Race (34 NM) Entry details from www.geelongweek.com	
Saturday March 1	2
Short Course Port Phillip Sea Pilots (42 NM) Entry details from HBYC	
Saturday April 19	3
Don Thompson Trophy to St Leonards. Entry details from HBYC	

Lipton Cup Regatta (Royal Yacht Club of Victoria)
Friday November 16
Twilight Invitation Race
Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 November
Race Program
Full details at www.rycv.com.au



Tandeka is a sorry sight after sustaining a blow from a yacht that was competing in the Brass Monkey series. She is currently on the hard stand at HBYC awaiting repair.