

Pittwater Sailors

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Next Race and BBQ Sunday 1st March

Hi Everyone,

It's almost a repeat of the start of the December Newsletter in that we were anxious then that the southerly would have died enough to race and lo and behold for Sundays race the concern was that the southerly wouldn't build up too much for the start and duration of the race. Given that the strongest anemometer wind measured gust prior to the start was 20.5 knots and the wind was not forecast to increase until after the race would have finished, Ron started the race at 1.00pm.

Unfortunately, we only had 3 boats starting in Blue Division and none from Yellow Division, which was understandable to some extent given some of the alarmist forecasts. We will always do a mass text advising "race abandoned" in the morning of the race if there is no prospect of starting the race and the start boat will not go out to the start area. Having said this, it is always possible that the race start could be delayed or abandoned should the conditions at the time dictate so.

Rick Murry sailing Alfresco started first with a reefed main, next was Nickerlyn somewhat late starting having taken longer than anticipated to reef the main, something we don't do so often, and Richard Steel in Rhythm who was shorthanded and with a reefed main was also late starting.

By some remarkable luck, by the time Nickerlyn round Mackerel mark we had a sizable lead as we seemed to have had our own breeze to take us there well ahead of the others. We only had to hold it together for the remainder of the race, which was a challenge at times, while Alfresco and Rhythm had a good race with Rhythm prevailing.

It was interesting to note that after everyone had finished the wind did increase to about 25knots as the Start Crew were raising the anchor on CE VU to go home.

Special thanks to Phil O'Leary in CE VU providing our start boat and Ron Seldon our Race Officer, Bernard Kenelley, and Andrew Latimer and Veronica

his young daughter. I think these guys always have a pleasant afternoon while we face all sorts of rigours during the race!

I briefly explained that we look forward to finalizing the agreement with Byra Sailing Club to enable our races to be Australian Sailing Sanctioned events.

An early step that we have been able to take thanks to Jim Gordon's generosity was to offer Cat.7 Audits at no cost. Jim has audited 11 boats and when the outstanding items have been addressed along with a handful of boats that have current Cat.7 from Certified Auditors our fleet will meet A.S. boat safety requirements for inshore waters.

We look forward to meeting with Byra Sailing Club Commadore and Vice Commadore to finalise the agreement with them soon.

I announced that Len Ballie has stood down as handicapper and we are grateful for Len's work replacing Ken Plumb. The task was a challenge at times for Len due to the limitations of the handover he was able to get from Ken. I'm sure you all join with me in our appreciation for the work Len has done as handicapper. He remains on the Sailing Committee for which we are grateful.

We are also grateful that Frans de Wilde is now our handicapper and passed his first test by giving me short shrift when I suggested Sunday's result for Nickerlyn was an outlier! We are in good hands.

Special thanks to Andrew and Vicky Bray for again putting on an excellent spread and for Bob Cooper, Roger Mail and Paul Toomey for barbequing the steaks. The BBQ numbers were down with the combined effect of bad weather and the 4 boats that have left us. So, please encourage people to come along so we might increase the numbers attending the dinners.

The presentation of wine for the place getters was a bit limited, but the raffle had its usual moments.

Kim Russell, as our Treasurer and part time secretary, who does so much work keeping things moving announced the recipients present at the dinner for their permanent trophies from the 2025 season. There are many remaining to hand out, so I look forward to seeing you making it to the March Dinner so you can pick up your trophy.

Volunteer Rollcall, for the Dinner for Sunday 1/2/2025.

<u>TASK</u>	<u>Volunteer 1</u>	<u>Volunteer 2</u>	<u>Volunteer 3</u>
<u>Sailing Captain</u>	<u>John Marshall</u>		
<u>Handicapping</u>	<u>Frans De Wilde</u>		
<u>Treasurer & many other things</u>	<u>Kim Russell</u>		
<u>Start Boat</u>	<u>Phil O'Leary</u>	<u>Ron Seldon</u> <u>Bernard Kennelly</u>	<u>Andrew Latimer</u>
<u>Catering etc</u>	<u>Andrew Bray</u>	<u>Vicky Bray</u>	
<u>Club-room table setup</u>	<u>Roger Mail</u>	<u>Paul Toomey</u>	
<u>Supermarket</u>	<u>Vicky Bray</u>		
<u>Meat</u>	<u>Rick Murray</u>	<u>Sue Murray</u>	
<u>Raffle Ticket Vendor</u>	<u>Frans de Wild</u>	<u>Kim Russell</u>	
<u>Helping with cleanup is greatly appreciated</u>	<u>Astrid and Mathew King</u>		<u>Many others bogged in one way or the other</u>

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the many tasks not mentioned above and importantly with the clean-up.

Post Race Dinners:

The food for the dinners is purchased/ordered on the Thursday morning. If you have a permanent booking but you (or your permanently booked partner) won't be attending the Sunday evening post-race dinner, please advise Andrew Bray (0423 551 948 or aussiestarship44@gmail.com) by Wednesday evening. Similarly, if you (or a partner or friend) don't have a permanent booking but would like to attend, let Andrew know by Wednesday evening, and indicate how many people will be in your party. This ensures there is enough to go around but also helps minimise waste.

Regards,
John Marshall, Sailing Captain.