

Pittwater Sailors

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

Next Race and BBQ Sunday 12th April. Start Time 12.00 midday

Hi Everyone,

For the February race we thought we were at risk of having too much wind and lo and behold we were at risk of having not enough wind for the March race! You can't win.

We had 3 starters in Yellow Division and 6 in Blue Division, which was a welcome improvement on the last race.

We all started with some optimism as there was a steady breeze between 5 and 10 knots and all boats made nice progress initially. Course 3 is good in that both fleets remained south of Long Nose for much of the race, and we could see how everyone else was progressing. As time passed the breeze became lighter and "no wind patches" developed. This became an advantage for the lighter boats provided they kept in the breeze. Some boats at times did well finding the breeze and made good progress heading for Stokes mark like Alfresco only to eventually end up becalmed in a hole waiting for the next puff. It was a shame that two yellow division boats retired shortly before the course was shortened to Mackerel mark, however they would have had a lengthy stop start sailing up Pittwater to the finish.

It was good to see new entrant Sisu Spacesailor 24 sailed by Cleveland Rose in yellow division do well to finish first, it was also good to see Midnight Mist a nice-looking Northshore 33 sailed by Ken Bullen giving a good account of themselves in Blue Division.

Hopefully there will be better sailing conditions next race.

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.

We assembled at the PAC Clubhouse to enjoy a pre-dinner drink and re-live the race. It was great to welcome Cleveland Rose to his first dinner, and it appeared he enjoyed being part of the evening.

Vicky and Andrew yet again provided a superb Chicken dinner, which we all appreciated.

I briefly explained that we look forward to signing the agreement with Byra Sailing Club to enable our races to be Australian Sailing Sanctioned Events and we only had a few hurdles to resolve before we sign the agreement. This will follow with a flurry of things to do including each entrant in our Pittwater Sailors 2026 season registering through the Byra website.

We discussed the process by which crew sailing on the day are duly recorded as sailing prior to the start. We might need to start with a record sheet carried on the boat on which the details of each crew member's contact numbers and their Next of Kin is recorded. I passed around a copy of a sheet for Nickerlyn for people to inspect. Should this be necessary for the next race I will be in contact seeking those details so I can prepare the boat sheets for you should we go down that path. However, we are not yet done in the absence of Frans who has done some preliminary work on a crew recording system. Bernard Kennelly made a great suggestion we had not thought of before which warrants exploring.

On Monday I spoke with the Water Police regarding the Next of Kin requirement given that the next of kin could be elderly or overseas etc. They explained that Next of Kin in the context of on water activities is a contact you wish to be contacted should you be injured or worse during the activity. So, we will continue to use the Next of Kin designation to comply with Australian Sailing requirements but enter the desired contact.

We had the opportunity to thank Jim Gordon for conducting the Cat. 7 safety audits. It was fair to say that there was several non-compliances and those at the dinner acknowledged that it was good to correct these items. Once again thank you Jim. Next year we will do the safety audits with more time before the start of the next season.

As an aside for boats that sail without a Cat.7 certificate or have not completed their entry their result will be recorded as (Provisional) until the outstanding matter(s) have been corrected.

Please encourage people to come along so we might increase the numbers of people attending the dinners.

The place getter in Yellow Division was first Sisú, the other yellow division boats retired. The place getters on Blue Division were First Nickerlyn, Second Spirito and Third Alfresco.

The raffle had a nice highlight in that Andrew Lattimer wine a bottle and Veronica finally had her chance to collect a bottle.

Those who won trophies from 2025 season are encouraged to attend the April dinner to be presented with them.

Volunteer Rollcall, for the Dinner for Sunday 1/3/2025.

<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 / Chicken pickup</u>	<u>Rick Murray</u>	<u>Sue Murray</u>	
<u>Raffle Ticket Vendor</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.