

Pittwater Sailors

April 2026 NEWSLETTER

**Next Race Sunday 3rd May. Start Time 12.00 midday
Chicken Dinner 6.00pm.**

Hi Everyone,

The conditions looking up Pittwater prior at the start were strong and gusty westerly. There were, however, patches with little to no breeze and patches with strong gusts near the start line. Some had to fossick around to get started while others started in good order and speed, yep that's a westerly!

We had 3 starters in Yellow Division and 5 in Blue Division, we have a total of 14 entered in the 2026 series so it would be good to see more come along and race.

Ron Seldon selected Course 6 so we raced mainly in the southern end of Pittwater, and the start boat had a good view of proceedings. I could see everyone racing gave it their best shot in the gusty variable conditions which made for excellent sailing. It was particularly tricky on Nickerlyn as a bird had damaged the windvane which pointed in the most bizarre manner. We really had to sail by the seat of our pants!

Special thanks to Phil O'Leary in CE VU providing our start boat and Ron Seldon our Race Officer, and Andrew and Elaine Latimer and Veronica his young daughter.

As most people know by now, Andrew Bray is in hospital with an undiagnosed problem with his left leg so both Andrew and Vicky are no longer able to manage and prepare our dinners. Fortunately, Vicky did the supermarket shopping and bought the steaks which were in the fridge for us to prepare the April dinner, which was a great help indeed, thank you Vicky.

It was all hands-on deck to prepare the dinner, BBQ the steaks and lay everything out. Everything was prepared laid, out steaks BBQed for one of the BBQ workers Paul Toomey to ring the bell.

Reliving the race before dinner was a bit limited as we all had tasks to do.

Prior to announcing the results, I was able to hand out to the skippers in attendance their boat crew record sheet in a clear folder and Biro to be kept onboard and signed prior to the start of each race please. This is required amongst other measures to meet Australian Sailing requirements to sail our races as Australian Sailing Sanctioned Events. I wish to thank the skippers for attending to this and other matters during March.

I shall be away and will miss the May race, returning for the June race. Fortunately, Kim Russell has offered to hold the fort in my absence. So, please give him all the assistance you can as he has much on his plate.

Phil O'Leary with CE VU will be absent for the May race but Jason Arruzza has kindly agreed to let us use his boat as the start boat, thanks Jason. Bernard Kennelly is coordinating with Jason the use of his boat on the day.

The place getters in Yellow Division were first Sumono, second was Cruzen and third was Nauti Gal. The place getters on Blue Division were First Nickerlyn, second Rhythm and third Spirito. As an aside Nickerlyn's results so far in 2026 are such that TopYacht will see to it that she gets her comeuppance with a new start time hopefully before Rhythm starts!

The raffle had its usual amusing moments.

Volunteer Rollcall, for the Dinner for Sunday 12/4/2026.

<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>Dinner Prep and Layout</u>	<u>Astrid and Mathew King</u>	<u>Pat Seldon</u> <u>Elaine Latimer</u>	<u>And many more</u>
<u>Catering etc</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 order and pickup</u>	<u>Vicky Bray</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>Pat Seldon Elaine Latimer</u>	<u>Many others boggled in one way or the other</u>
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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 Kim Russell (0490 347 465 or kimrussell44@bigpond.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.