Pittwater Sailors

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Next Race Sunday 6th December. Start Time 13.00 followed by our BBQ Steak Christmas Presentation Dinner at 6.30pm. Please let Andrew Bray know of your attendance for the Presentation Dinner as per the note below.

Hi Everyone,

There was a SE to E breeze around 10knots before the start which promised that there would be a good afternoon's racing. And so, it was. Kim Russell, our officer of the day in Ron Seldon's absence, selected Course 4. All got away OK except for the late starters, some of whom staggered across the line in a failing breeze. However, once out on the course we enjoyed a good breeze from the east. It was good to see that Nauti Girl was able to join us along with Allons-y, there were a few others that were unfortunately missed. The race was quite intense, especially between some like Ride on Time leading Nickerlyn for most of the race, but the absence of a few boats made the close racing a bit limited for some.

Thanks to Rohan Smith in ACARA for being our start boat and as mentioned, Kim Russell as our officer of the day. It was good to see Richard Pearce as part of the start boat crew.

You may have noticed that there are no shots of the action as Andrew Lattimer was not able to come along. I asked Rohan if he could take a few shots, but he explained that it was just too intense as the fleet was finishing to identify, time and record each boat to be able to take any shots, thanks Rohan for giving it a try.

Prior to announcing the race results, I took the opportunity to comment and answer questions on a number of matters which include:-

1. Next race on Sunday 6th December will be the concluding race of the 2026 season, followed by our usual end of season Christmas Dinner and presentation. This will include results for the overall series in yellow and blue divisions and the Winter and Spring series etc. If you have permanent trophies, please return them to the clubhouse by November 27th please.
2. The race will also be race 4 of the current 2026/27 series.
3. The committee acknowledges concerns about the TopYacht handicap system, but wishes to retain it because it is computer-based, unlike the arbitrary 3, 2, 1 handicap adjustments used a decade ago. However, the committee is actively reviewing the system's settings, operation and results. I wish to add that for Sunday's race the early starters had an advantage with more consistent breeze for the first leg, whereas the later starters had patchier and less pressure for the first leg. The heavy hand of your Sailing Captain in adding 5minutes to the start times of the consistently faster boats earlier in the season still shows in the results! Sack him I hear!

4. Some sailors compared the time spent sailing close to other boats in our races with that in Woody Point races. Woody Point's passage races generally have longer legs, offering more opportunities to chase other boats. In contrast, our round-the-buoys courses within Pittwater tend to reduce the time boats spend close together.
5. I outlined how we were seeking to find a way to attract people who might like to crew on our boats and provide a means by which boat owners who lack crew might find crew. The limitations of the PAC website being inward looking is limiting to attract members of the public, but a recent chance conversation with John Buggy located potential crew using Facebook Local. I have been wondering how we may do a similar thing and fortunately Mira Healey (right age group) who crews on Nickerlyn offered to assist. So, let's see how this works out.
6. From October's race I have not been able to progress the idea of having a Rules Night in conjunction with BYRA.

Thanks to Andrew and Vicky Bray for seeing to it that we had an excellent chicken smorgasbord dinner. It is the consistency of quality and management of our dinners that we all very much appreciate.

The place getters were Yellow Division, First Nauti Girl, Second Cruzen and Third was Sisu. The place getters in Blue Division were First Alfresco, Second Moonlight Mist and Third Nickerlyn.

The raffle had its usual amusing moments.

Volunteer Rollcall, for the Dinner for Sunday 1/11/2026.

TASK	Volunteer 1	Volunteer 2	Volunteer 3
Sailing Captain	John Marshall		
Race Officer	Kim Russell		
Handicapper	Frans De Wilde		
Treasurer & many other things.	Kim Russell		
Start Boat	Kim Russell	Rohan Hall	
Catering etc	Vicky Bray	Andrew Bray	
Club-room table setup	Roger Mail	John Marshall	
Supermarket	Vicky Bray		
Meat / Chicken order and pickup	Rick and Sue Murray		
Raffle Ticket Vendor	Frans De Wilde		
Helping with cleanup is greatly appreciated	Astrid King Vicky Bray Sue Murry	Many others bogged in one way or the other	

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 before the race. 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 (SMS to 0423551948 or email aussiestarship44@gmail.com) by Wednesday evening before the race. Similarly, if you (or a partner or friend) don't have a permanent booking but would like to attend, let Andrew know your attendee names, and the boat name, by Wednesday before the race. This ensures there is enough to go around but also helps minimise waste. "

Regards,
John Marshall, Sailing Captain.