

REGATTA

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE GOOWLA REGATTA YACHT CLUB

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COMMODORE'S REPORT

Presenting a report to you has been most difficult this edition due to the tragic events occurring during July. On the 6th of July our dear friend, fellow member and club patron Leslie W Reynold Short passed away following heart surgery. The loss of Leslie will be felt for many years to come. Then on Monday the 27th July our club manager and very dear friend David Ian Hansen passed away suddenly as the result of a heart attack. David had settled into his role and was enjoying his time at the club. Our members who have had the opportunity to get to know David will miss his friendly easy going attitude and his enthusiasm towards developing our club in these difficult times.

On a happier note it is a pleasure to advise that the Clayton Regulator will be completed by the time this edition reaches you. It is an ugly piece of work to look at as it divides our river, hopefully not for long if we can get some flows from upstream! Pumping of water into the Goolwa Channel will commence immediately and take approx 6 weeks to bring the levels back to AHD + .30 mtrs. Spring rains and flows down the Finnis River and Currency Creek should bring this level to +.70 by summer.

We have prepared an action packed calendar of events for the coming year involving racing, cruising and social activities. At this time we are very confident that the Goolwa Lock and access past the Murray Mouth into the Coorong will be operational by the beginning of

October, so scrub up your boats and get ready as "Goolwa Becomes Better Than Ever". We would love to see a marina full of boats for opening day!

The Club will miss David Hansen's enthusiasm for developing GRYC in these difficult times.

I can't wait to see you all out on the water enjoying this beautiful environment again

Keith Parkes, Commodore

Flag Officers, General Committee and Sailing Committee for 2009 -10

The following Office Bearers and Members of the GRYC General Committee were elected at the AGM on Sunday 14th June.

Commodore: Keith Parkes
Vice Commodore: Don Richardson
Rear Commodore: Brendan Murray
Secretary: Trish Rees
Treasurer: Rich Eylward
Members: Simon Barrow
Ian Campbell
David Howard
Bram Portus
Brian Southcott

Sailing Committee: Bram Portas (Chairman)
Simon Barrow
Malcolm Doley
Rick Eylward
Peter Fagan
Brendan Murray
Bruce Pattullo
Peter Shipside
Murray Symonds

Significant Coming Events

Please note the following events:

- 1 **155th Anniversary of GRYC** to be celebrated with a: **"Hot August Night"** curry on **Saturday 29th August** at 7pm
- 2 **Cruise from Wentworth to Customs House** on SA/NSW border starts **Wednesday 9th September**. Contact David Smallacombe on **0408 816 232**
- 3 **Car Boot Sale and Auction** at GRYC **Sunday 13th September 10.30am-3.30pm** — book your space by calling **8555 0196**
- 4 **Sail past and Opening** of the 2009-2010 Sailing Season **Saturday 10th October**.

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VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT

While there is so much to look forward to as we approach a new season I would like to start this article by looking back. At our recent AGM our then Vice Commodore, Linda Mills, stood down from her role and the opportunity to make history by being the club's first lady Commodore. Over the past years Linda has worked tirelessly for the GRYC and we have so much to be grateful to her for. Her withdrawal has plunged me into new and unfamiliar territory however I am extremely pleased (and somewhat relieved) she has agreed to continue chairing our Social Committee and sharing her enthusiasm and experience with us.

The more I learn about the management of the GRYC the more I recognise its similarities with the running of a commercial business. We have a CEO and a Board of Directors in our Flag Officers and General Committee. They give the club direction as well as dealing with the day to day operational issues and being responsible for its fiscal management. For example those members who attended the AGM were advised that 2008/9 saw our membership income reduce by >\$22,000, due principally to low water levels and an inoperable marina, and heard of the decision to reduce rather than increase subscription fees during the current season (Family & Associate fees are reduced, Seniors & Veterans remain the same, the joining fee halved for new members and waived for past members] - a strategy that will hopefully provide the stimulus to a healthy membership in the coming season.

A sustainable business is not just about its bottom-line, it is primarily about the service it delivers and of course at GRYC our members are our 'customers'. If we don't offer you thrilling and safe sport, a comfortable and friendly social environment or value for the money we cannot expect to retain your membership. Your Board is attuned to this and will be offering more 'bang for the buck' in the coming year. So what can you expect? Deep water; approximately 50 yacht races; the restoration of a Cruising programme - anticipating operation of the Barrage Lock and subsequent access to the Coorong; a coaching programme for Junior sailors; 50 Friday night 'Bistro's'; 10 Club BBQ's; 50 Sunday 'Breakies'; a 'Sailability' programme for people with disability a 'Retired Sailors' social programme and of course one of the best clubhouses in the State. You know this is SA's best kept secret, so why not share it?

As you renew your subscription for the coming year you will be asked to up-date your personal records. This will allow us to provide you with regular electronic up-dates of club activities, both on and off the water. We intend making far more use of this medium than of late, so help us help you.

Finally two dates for your diary, on Sunday 13th September we will be holding an 'Auction and Car-Boot Sale' with proceeds going to 'Sailability' and Junior Sailing. It costs nothing to come along so be there, you might just pick up a bargain. Then on 29th August we celebrate the 155th Anniversary of the GRYC. The Club BBQ will be replaced by a "Hot August Night" to which you are invited to bring along a curry (contact Linda to liaise on this). We will have music, an auction and lots more fun things to make the evening very special.

Don Richardson, Vice Commodore

REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT

Hello to everyone in the club, I'm the new Rear Commodore, I've been a member of GRYC since the early 90's. In that time I've had a range of boats and now sail a Blazer 23 called "Wobbly Bits". We are out there having a whole lot of fun and sometime soon we may even learn something about this great sport of ours. You may recognize the boat or myself. Short overweight and a little excitable.

I hope that I can fulfil this role to the standards that have been passed down over the years by the dedicated office bearers, such as John Blunden (our most recent life member) and our immediate past Rear Don Richardson.

This year we have changed the traditional duties around a bit and I'm going to looking after the on-water activities. The Sailing Committee has finalised the programme for the 09-10 season and it looks fantastic. Try to make some time and study it carefully. We will continue the very popular Friday night twilight races, which have become so much a part of the town of Goolwa and GRYC over the last few years. We must be the only club that has regular spectators lining the banks to watch the races. In some areas we have moved away from tradition, and the summer series instead of being run on Sundays is going to be held on Saturday afternoons followed by the club BBQ.

So members from Adelaide and those that cannot get to the Friday twilights, can hook up the boat on Saturday morning come down to the club and "Rig, Race and Rage" and then wander home when you are ready or stay for Sunday breakfast at the club. I think that sounds like a plan for good times. (That is my other job!)

Then we will have the longer races / cruises generally a fortnight apart from the Summer series races, starting with the Alexander race on the Sunday after opening day. (Oh what a feeling)

Congratulations must go to Brad Briggs - Brad is our club champion for the 2008-09 season, a pretty good effort, from a possible 40 races he could enter with his Flying Fifteen Flying squad he achieved 30 first places on scratch (3 races he did not compete in) That's a fantastic effort. Unfortunately it has slipped the club's attention but congratulations should also be given to Clive Arnold he achieved 2nd place in the Flying Fifteen classics division world championships in Melbourne at Christmas time. Congratulations to both.

Reminder time - All skippers it's your responsibility to make sure that your crew are abiding by our AGM resolution - that is that the club will be sticking by the three race rule that is used throughout other yacht clubs. After three races they must join as associates or your results will not be counted.

To be able to keep our club going we must have boats on the water for those of you that regularly sail the summer series try to get a friend, or past sailor to come and join us, on the Saturday afternoons, we will have the water back by the start of the summer series. Let's make it a summer we will all remember with the return of water we can race, cruise and enjoy the fabulous facilities that the club founders have established for us.

If any members need to contact me please feel free to do so at home (08 8364 0437 after 7.30pm) I can't help if I don't know the problem.

See you on the water, Brendan Murray, Rear Commodore

Club Patron: Leslie Reynold Short

It is with much sadness that we record the death on Monday 6th July of the generous GRYC patron Leslie Short. Leslie was the beloved husband of Barbara and much loved father of Christopher, Andrea and Victoria (deceased). Leslie was a rumbustious and generous man who lived life to the full within his family, his business as long time Founder and Chairman of Dominant Chemicals Australia Pty Ltd. and in his sporting and recreation life. Leslie was also a sponsor of Wheelchair Sports Association of South Australia to whom donations were directed at Leslie's funeral. The up front personality and love of a good shiraz with Flag Officers and members of GRYC belied the sensitive and concerned man that was Leslie Short. In the club's current difficulties no one was more concerned than Leslie about the club's declining membership due to falling water levels.



It was of course in his sporting life that GRYC came to know Leslie. His many sporting interests involved the South Australian Jockey Club of whom Leslie was a generous sponsor (Leslie was passionate in his love of jump racing

and on this subject had many fine and humorous stories to tell). Ever sensitive and aware of individual need

Leslie Short believed that GRYC would be resilient in these difficult times.

Yet he believed that our 155 year old club will prove to be resilient and return to again champion sail racing, cruising and Sailability. On the latter Leslie showed a keen though unheralded and little known interest in the lives and aspirations of people with disability. Leslie Short had a 20 year association with GRYC and on Milang -Goolwa race days his much loved *Dominant Star* was the race and club flagship. Similarly *Dominant Star* was for many years the GRYC Flagship for the Commodore's sail past at the October opening of the Sailing season. In the last few years there have been Wednesday cruises on *Dominant Star* especially since she had found her new home at the Cruising Yacht Club. Ever able to tell a good story and joke at GRYC functions Leslie Short will be fondly remembered as our Patron, resilient and visionary club member, and loyal friend.

Editor

David Ian Hansen 1947-2009

Until the evening of Monday July 27th David was the popular GRYC Club Manager. He is fondly remembered by members of GRYC. The club sends its



condolences to his wife Wendy and all members of David and Wendy's family. David Hansen was a regular member of the Australian Navy and a veteran of the Vietnam War. Upon retirement from the RAN David became a train driver with Australian Railways and following that career he managed hotels in Port Pirie and Goolwa. David had sailings with the RAN to South East Asia and the Far East and regaled many of us with humorous and informative stories of those times. David was an experienced chef. His Friday night stews and curries were a feature of those club nights made all the more memorable because of David's ebullience and generous spirit. Laughter was never far away from David. David also made a most significant contribution to GRYC with his early morning Sunday breakfasts which were enjoyed by members of the general public as well as members of GRYC. I shall best remember David for his humour, his willingness to support and help his club colleagues but above all for his adage about the importance of "always loving your children and friends whatever the odds!" Farewell David and thanks for the memory. We shall miss you very much!

Editor

CRUISING NEWS

Welcome to 'Cruising News'. I am responsible for looking after the cruising aspect of the club for this season. I think I have the job as I have run aground just about everywhere from Tauwichee to Tailem Bend and plenty of spots in between, so at least I know where not to go... But this season will be different to every season in the club's history as we will not be able to get further upstream than Clayton! By the start of the sailing season we will have the 'environmental regulator' in place, and hopefully the new 'Goolwa pool' will be back to our normal boating level. Also the lock into the Coorong should be open for more (all) of the sailing season.

I have only been a member of the club for a couple of years, and my favourite cruising experience was the last Narrung race, in fact I enjoyed it so much I went back virtually the next week and did it again! But the reason that I had such a great time was that it was a 'cruise in company' and that is exactly what club cruising events are about - cruising in company. It doesn't matter if you have just bought your first boat or have been to the same spot a hundred times it is the company that makes the event memorable. And there is always someone to help if you are not quite sure about something.

I will organise a cruising event once a month with a mixture of picnic days and overnight cruises and perhaps a multiday cruise or two as well. These events will normally be on weekends and will be additional to the OSSDI days on the last Wednesday of each month.

Lastly I am looking for ideas from members with more experience than me - where are the best places to go, what works and what doesn't work, and if you are interested in helping with more than just ideas then please let me know. I can always be contacted on 0438 319908 or by email at simon.barrow@dfc.sa.gov.au

Simon Barrow

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GRYC Life Membership for John A Blunden

At the annual general meeting on Sunday 14th June the Commodore presented John Blunden with the honor of Life Membership of GRYC. John has had over 40 years commitment to GRYC. He selected the site, helped plan the original constitution and on a voluntary basis built the clubhouse. John was one of the original guarantors to build the clubhouse. John has been a GRYC general committee member, Rear Commodore, Vice Commodore and also Principal Sailing Officer. John was an original winner of the back-to-back Milang-Goolwa races. As a state and national sailing champion John has brought sailing distinction and status to GRYC. The success of GRYC and its contribution to our community and to sailing is a priority for John Blunden. Thanks John and congratulations!



New GRYC Life Member John Blunden and his wife Christine

Club Profile: Helga and the Auld Scot - The Campbells

When you think of Ian & Helga, most members equate with their venerable Ross 780 ZEALOT and the antics of the capsize at the start of the 2004 "Dauntless" cup. Apparently 2005 was their best year with a few glasses and their trophy for line honours in the Milang-Goolwa "bum" class (Ian's description).

That is the tip of the story. Helga, a Berlin girl, au-paired in UK learning English before hitting Melbourne in the early 60s, thence to Hong Kong, Lufthansa and eventually her own inbound travel agency.

Ian out of Edinburgh as an architect, emigrated to Canada, and having only done rowing before, took up sailing, first in dinghies, then built a 20ft 'Bobcat'. Bob Harris, formerly of Oz, supplied the hulls. (Bob Harris of USA designed the Tiger Cats). Items of note - 1959-61 Presidents Trophy (Eisenhower) in the Potomac, and 'One of a Kind' regatta in Lake Erie. The illustrious names in the international set in cats at that time included McCalpine Downey (the Pom), Tornados which were the first cats in the Olympics, Hubbard Bros. out of Stanford, the Houston Boys etc. They started the little America's Cup and the three cat classes. Ian took home minor trophies.

Helga and Ian met in Hong Kong, Ian on projects in Malaysia, HK, and Kuwait with HK becoming Ian's new home for 30 years.

Initially the pair were sailing on the old Olympic class "Stars" in the Royal HK Yacht Club. (There were only 7 STARS, reparation payments from the 1936 German Olympics).

They then took on an Irish built 'Ruffian' Class (20 in the club), a 24ft keel boat, and also crewed on a number of China Sea Races to the Philippines (some successfully). In the early 90s they acquired a 38ft Farr (a 1980 NZ product) and named it 'Auld Intrigue', campaigned it until their departure for Oz in retirement in 1996.

As Ian says: the 'auld' Ross, the 'auld' sails and the tiller man are creaking and groaning, but will be on the line come summer season to look at the boats ahead!



'Auld Intrigue' – Ian at the helm!

The Editor

I refer to the section "Who is the Editor?" in the recent Regatta (April 09) apparently attributed to me. I would strongly emphasize that I did not pen that paragraph. Most of us sailors have gained the skill of capsizing from time to time and also valued loyal crew. No - our new editor, Emeritus Professor of Disability Research/Neuroscience - Roger Rees offers a lot more than that.

For our readers' information I would explain that since Roger agreed to become editor of Regatta I have pressed that his profile should be published to inform members of his widely varied life experiences, his achievements in academia and his fascination with works of literature. To that end I extracted (with great difficulty) some background from him and submitted an article for all to read.

Modesty (I assume) has prevented Roger publishing this to date. I hope eventually to see it printed in full. In any event it is of interest to know our editor's first job in UK was "timing the strawberry cream centre girls on the enrober (chocolate shrouding) belts" at a Cadbury Factory and that after a number of wide ranging jobs he subsequently gained various degrees both in UK and Monash Victoria.

Coming to SA he was appointed Professor of Disability Research with focus on neuro trauma and became the founding director of the SA Health Commission Rehabilitation Program from 1990 to 2005. In this role Roger started an outreach program on Hindmarsh Island which in turn led to him settling here in Goolwa.

He holds a particular love for literature, has served as editor of several influential publications and has published in excess of 30 journal articles and five books as well as featuring prominently on the ABC Science Show from time to time.

GRYC is fortunate that he recently refused editorship of the world wide International Journal of Neuroscience and agreed to take on Regatta instead.

A keen sailor, he whimsically quotes his greatest regret in life saying

"I should have gone sailing 60 years ago instead of going to church!"

Malcolm Doley



Vice Commodore Don Richardson with Andrew Pipe (aged 14) - winners of the June dinghy class winter race on 'Mexican Wave'. This was Andrew's first competitive race. Andrew has been recruited from GRYC Junior Sailing!

Harry Cooper at North Star Camp - Hayward Wisconsin USA

This is Harry's third year at the North Star Holiday and Recreational Camp at Hayward Wisconsin USA. North Star Camp, with log cabin accommodation for over 200, is sited alongside Spider Lake. The lake is surrounded by pine forests with extensive walking tracks. Harry will be there from June to September. The camp is a feature of US holiday programs for children during their long summer break. Two hundred boys age 10 -15 attend the camp for up to eight weeks. This year Harry is Head of Sailing but anticipates becoming Head of Waterfront which means that he is in charge of all water sports which besides yachting includes wind surfing, canoeing, and water skiing. The children sail Barnetts 13ft single centerboard (similar to Lasers) along with 14-20 Hobi Cats.

This year Harry is Head of Sailing at the North Star Camp.

Besides being principal instructor of sailing and water sports Harry is also involved in other sports. Other camp sports include archery, rifle shooting, rock climbing, hiking and golf. Naturally Harry is a popular organizer and sought after participant in the club's extensive social events. Besides Australians, other overseas staff at the camp include; New Zealanders, British and Israelis. Harry advises that he has no problem getting up in the morning because "the kids wake me up!" Harry demonstrates much insight into the behaviour of children at the camp. He comments that naturally there is the potential for bullying but this only occurs when children are bored or trouble makers are not identified and monitored. Hazards at the camp are few but there are strong winds on the lake, and black bears, cougars and reintroduced wolf packs along with the American bald eagle live in the surrounding



high country. Harry's background with GRYC, and learning to sail program with Victor Harbor Aquatics has given him the knowledge to become a compelling aquatics instructor and leader. His enthusiasm and adventurous spirit, allied to his excellent interpersonal skills clearly create a high demand for the popular Harry Cooper. Well done Harry, a fine achievement!

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Point Sturt Sandbar

When you can't go sailing what do you do? Something to do with sailing, that's what!

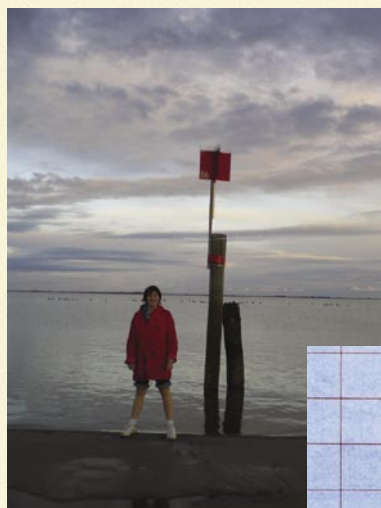
I decided to map the extent of the Pt. Sturt sandbar, so with my daughter Amelia we camped under the cliff at Pt. Sturt and with waterproofs and GPS set out to see just how big the sandbar was. The first picture is taken from the Pt. Sturt cliff top and is looking out into the lake. Normally this is all covered in water, but as you can see the sand extends to the horizon. We walked as far out as we could and the GPS says that was 4 kilometres!

There has always been talk of a secret channel through this sandbar and indeed it exists, but it is a 'blind' channel and only cuts half way through. In fact the Milang exit is protected by a limestone cap at the same height as the rest of the sandbar.

And the sandbar is exactly that - sand, except for the cap mentioned above. It rises very gently from the Milang side to a pronounced 'lip' on the Coorong side that at this time is about 300mm above the water level.



This is as close as I could get to Beacon 87 without getting wet, but for those of you who have sailed on the Lake, it's a long way from shore



However, we could get to Beacon 86 where we found hundreds of pelicans. Amelia would be completely under water if the lake were to be filled.



Because the sandbar rises so gently from the Milang side, this map is really an approximation only, but I have a set of GPS points if anyone would like a copy.

A Wall of Water

"I'll never forget when the low hit us, about 30 miles into the strait. I had just called for another reef in the main, and then ... I turned to look west sou-west to see what more was coming. There, a couple of miles away was a great wall of water and wind bearing down on us. I screamed, "Get the @*%\$ mainsail off ...!" It was now up to the Gods to decide who got through.**

Ed Psaltis overall winner of the Fatal Storm 98 Sydney Hobart

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Looking back towards Point Sturt



Looking back at Point Sturt from on the sandbar



Looking towards Goolwa and Beacon 83



And the last picture is of the '001 grit sandpaper' limestone cap that extends for hundreds of square metres around the Beacon 83 area.

Simon Barrow

Reflections:

Leslie Short and David Hansen

And death shall have no dominion ...*

Over these men, our friends who
Each in their turn knew life's winds, rain and shine,
Though no more may gulls cry at their ears
Or waves break loud for them on seashores,
We are fortunate for we drank, laughed, reminisced and
Shared with them, fond memories,
So death shall have no dominion.

RJR

* Re - Dylan Thomas

*I*sn't it time you cleared out your shed
or made space in the attic? Why not
get rid of those unwanted items at our
**'Auction and Car Boot Sale' on 13th
September?** Boatie or non-Boatie items
are more than welcome. You can donate
items or put a reserve price on them. All
proceeds go to 'Sailability' and Junior
Sailing so clear out your junk and help the
club with this fund-raiser. **Contacts: Don
Richardson or David Smallacombe.**

The Lower Murray

This river, again lost
By every regulator, dam,
Now searched for at exhausting cost
Of debate, anguish and time.

Bureaucrats have their model-substitute
Temporary boulders, rubble and emerging silt,
So many tons, metres, hectares and gigitalitres.
To watch is to feel the heart's guilt.

But lost it is despite all wishes,
Neither river fresh, nor sea estuarine,
But terminal, blocked, regulated.
No flow, a pond in all but name.

Roger Rees
Goolwa
July 2009

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