

DECEMBER 2011

REGATTA



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE GOOWLA REGATTA YACHT CLUB

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THE EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING

The Marina Hindmarsh Island 2012 Milang Goolwa Freshwater Classic is now a few weeks away (on Sunday 22nd January) and the excitement is building in anticipation of the first Milang to Goolwa race for five years.

The closing date for entries is 6th January 2012. Entries via www.goolwaregattaweek.com.au should be lodged before then to avoid the late entry surcharge. If you have any problems with the on-line system, please ring JP on 088555 2617 for a hard-copy entry form.

The winners of each of the nine Divisions of the 'Freshwater Classic' will receive a \$750 insurance voucher presented by sponsor Nautilus Marine Insurance who have also donated a very significant yachting clothing package to be raffled amongst the competitors displaying the Nautilus Boom Sticker – supplied on registration.

The Marina Hindmarsh Island 2012 Milang Goolwa Freshwater Classic is the concluding event in the 9-day Goolwa Regatta Week, starting Saturday 14th January 2012 with The Marina Challenge. This will be a unique and exciting time-trial yachting event in the waterways of The Marina Hindmarsh Island, involving Barker, Sturt, Strangways and Hutchinson Lagoons. Presentation of the perpetual trophy and prizes worth over \$100s will be held at The Landing following the race, with some complimentary beverages available for a short period to celebrate the race. Then the focus will move to the Opera on the Wharf, with the State Opera

Company providing entertainment to complete a great opening day.

THE MARINA HINDMARSH ISLAND 2012 MILANG to GOOLWA FRESHWATER CLASSIC IS THE CONCLUDING EVENT OF GOOLWA REGATTA WEEK

The week includes a range of sailing and on-shore events guaranteed to keep everyone enthralled. The Wednesday Twilight provides a chance to fine-tune crew techniques and the hot shots will be going for bragging rights and \$500 in the Doser Freight Dash for Cash on Friday evening, ahead of the big one on Sunday 22nd. **Make sure you check Full details of daily events during the week on: www.goolwaregattaweek.com.au**

*Locky McLaren, Rear Commodore,
Event Director*

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GOOLWA REGATTA WEEK SA OPERA COMPANY PERFORMANCE PARADE OF BOATS

The Goolwa Regatta Week Program for Saturday 14th January has a performance by the SA Opera company and as part of the performance they would like a parade of boats similar to the "Fairylight Parade" at the Wooden Boat Festival.

This will take place just after dark.

It would be very much appreciated if as many boats as possible with decorative lights displayed could join the parade which will be guided by the Victor Harbor and Goolwa Sea Rescue.

The format is not complete but it is expected to last about 30 minutes, dependent on numbers and of course weather

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GOOLWA REGATTA WEEK 2012 Programme Summary

<p>Saturday 14th January Marina Challenge (Open)</p> <p>Sponsored by The Marina Hindmarsh Island Briefing: 1pm GRYC</p> <p>Opera on the Wharf By State Opera Company Picnic: 5.30pm Opera: 7.30pm</p>	<p>Sunday 15th January</p> <p>Vintage Boat Race</p> <p>Start: 1pm</p> <p>River frontage and Goolwa Wharf</p>	<p>Monday 16th January</p> <p>Sailability Regatta</p> <p>Venue: GRYC</p> <p>Racing 9.30 am and 3.30pm</p>	<p>Tuesday 17th January Model Yacht Racing</p> <p>featuring 'Phantom' class 2012 Australian National Championships GRYC Marina Sessions morning and afternoon and Blast From the Past Speed Run - STING Watch it from the GRYC Marina 12.30 pm</p>
<p>Wednesday 18th January Regatta Twilight Race (Open)</p> <p>Venue: GRYC Briefing: 5.30pm Start: 6pm</p>	<p>Thursday 19th January Junior Sailing Regatta (Open)</p> <p>Venue: Goolwa Aquatic Club Sessions: 10.00am and 1.30pm</p>	<p>Friday 20th January Doser Freight 'Dash For Cash'</p> <p>First Race: 6pm Post-race entertainment</p>	<p>Saturday 21st January BIG 'Brekky' Fashion Show Family Day Wine Appreciation Classic and Vintage Cars</p>



Sunday 22nd January

The Marina Hindmarsh Island

Freshwater Classic Yacht Race

50km Milang to Goolwa

Riverboats, family cruisers, racing yachts, dinghies and multi-hull yachts.
Join the sailors at the Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club for the post-race party.
Live entertainment. Food and refreshments available.



The Boat

The storm came on quickly. The crosswind surged in, filtering through the apertures in the rotten wood, sounding like a chorus of low moans. The boat began to rock. Hugging a beam at the top of the hatch, Mai looked out and her breath stopped: the boat had heeled so steeply that all she saw was an enormous wall of black-green water bearing down; she shut her eyes, opened them again – now the gunwale had crested the water – the ocean completely vanished – and it was as though they were soaring through the air, the sky around them dark and inky and shifting.

Extract from Penguin Books *The Boat* by Nam Le

Editorial

This Christmas edition contains some distinct features not least is: Locky's article about the 2012 Malang-Goolwa Hindmarsh Island Marina Freshwater Classic on January 22nd, Don's congratulations for John Turner's achievement in establishing GRYC as a registered Yachting Association Training Centre, the profile of club members Lyn Mateer and Murray Symonds and notice of the arrival at GRYC of the sail cruiser *As Good As It Gets*, generously leased by our new club member Gordon Phillips. A new feature for REGATTA is the inclusion of an historical 'as it happened' column which in this edition contains a description of the club Regatta Race in 1857. The brief extract from Nam Le's *The Boat* reminds us of the perilous voyages that asylum seekers are willing to undertake in order to try and start a new life in Australia. At Christmas time on Christmas Island we must all hope that they arrive safely.

Happy Christmas and New Year 2012 to all GRYC Members and Regatta readers!

Commodore's Special Thanks

My special thanks to all GRYC members who kindly donated presents at our Christmas dinner on Saturday 10th December. The presents are being distributed by the Uniting Church in Goolwa to children who may otherwise have a bleak Christmas. *Don Richardson*

REGATTA

Commodore's Report

Our 'New Members' Night and the Photographic Exhibition once again provided great curtain-raisers to the start of the season. I would like to extend my thanks to all those members who contributed to making those events so successful. And what a start to the season it was! The sun shone and we had one of the best turn-outs for Opening Day for many years. Geoff Boettcher, owner/skipper of 'Secret Mens Business 3.5', recalled stories of his early years sailing Holdfast Trainers and of his 22 Sydney-Hobart races culminating in victory in 2010. A very special guest.

With our social programme in full swing and the prospect of another busy sailing season ahead it is gratifying to witness the recent surge in membership. Membership is the lifeblood of any club and to see our numbers increase to the level they were 5yr ago should ensure a healthy future.

As many of you will be aware a group of dedicated members led by John Turner have been running our Sail Training courses for a couple of years and have successfully introduced about 50 people to our sport and the club. I am pleased to report that our course material has been audited by Yachting Australia which has recognised the GRYC as an **Accredited YA Training Centre**. This is a very significant development for the club and my thanks go to John and his team for their considerable effort. The next course will start in January so registering friends or family could make a great Christmas present!

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN TURNER FOR HIS EXCELLENT WORK IN ARRANGING FOR GRYC TO BECOME AN ACCREDITED YACHTING ASSOCIATION TRAINING CENTRE

Other registrations which are important at this time are those for **The Hindmarsh Island Freshwater Classic**. The 'Milang - Goolwa' race will be the concluding event of the **Goolwa Regatta Week**. Applications for this iconic event should be lodged before the 7th January to avoid the late entry surcharge. January's Regatta will take place between 14th and 22nd and be a great 'show-case' for the club. We have a spectacular programme of racing supported by a social package that offers something for everyone. So if your interest is wine, fashions, vintage cars or opera we have something for your friends to enjoy. Our racing will also come in various forms - 'Dash for Cash', Vintage boats, a Time Trial, Twilight racing, Sailability and even a championship for radio-controlled model yachts. There is plenty of publicity of all the events circulating at the club including more details in this edition of Regatta. Check out our website www.goolwaregattaweek.com.au.

Finally if you will be enjoying the facilities of the club during Christmas or January, and I trust you will, look out for the 'Old Potty'. The 'Auld Mug' (Americas Cup) may be better known but our 'Old Potty' has an equally remarkable history being awarded to the winner of the Milang Race for many years. Sadly it is only on loan to us.

Don Richardson, Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report - Racing

Opening Twilight Series sponsored by Ben Sanders from Sanders Wholesale

What a great way to start the season with beautiful weather, not too windy or hot. For the first series we averaged over 29 boats each night This gave everyone sailing some close and exciting racing!

The Restricted 21's had an intense battle won by Randal in *Nerana*. But ... take note Randal did not helm his boat for this series, instead he shared the helm with all of his crew. Well directed Randal!. Michael Venstra in *Dolphin* took 2nd place and Lyndon Bartlett in *Endeavour* was 3rd.

In the Mixed Fleet, Trailable Non spinnaker, Malcolm Doley in the beautifully prepared *Hammer* won the series followed by Tony O'Connell and Richard Hopkins in *Bandit* in 2nd place (curse you bandit) and 3rd place was won by the very consistent David Howard in *Vintage Red*.

The Flying Fifteens division was won by Brad Briggs in *Flying Squad*, with 2nd place going to *Full 'Frottle'* John Brice and 3rd place went to Commodore Don in *Mexican Wave*.

We are now well into the 2nd series of Spinnaker, and Non Spinnaker divisions. In the Spinnaker divisions the 21's are proving difficult to beat. With 14 or more boats in the Spinnaker division, 10 or 12 in the non spinnaker division and 6 or so Flying Fifteens it is wonderful site on a Friday night. I know that there are many city clubs envious of our fleet size and the competition we have. Our generous sponsors for this series are the three businesses at Captain Sturt Marina: Michael Veenstra The Slipway and Marina, Murray Symonds from the Captain Sturt Chandlery and Randal Cooper from Goolwa Masts and Welding. If nothing else come along on a Friday night just to listen to and applaud our generous sponsors.

Summer Series Sponsored by DSM Services and Escape travel

Escape Travel have offered a travel voucher of \$250.00 for the winner of each division; what a great incentive!

This year we have combined our traditional Saturday afternoon summer series with the long races e.g. Goolwa to Narrung. During the first race the winds came up a little and our sponsor Dan Haynes broke his mast. But his boat *Sirocco* is back racing Friday nights. Dan makes a point of flying his spinnaker when no one else will. Well done Dan!

Goolwa to Narrung

This was the first Narrung race in 5 years. We had 20 boats participate and from what I have been told even though the weather was not as predicted (and a lot heavier than expected) everyone had a great time. That night some people got some sleep while the 'noisy ones' played. The Narrung Progress Association is looking forward to a bigger event next year. Racing and sailing provide great opportunities to get to know our neighbouring communities.

< continued from previous page

News - New Support Boat

We are absolutely thrilled to take this opportunity to announce the purchase of a new support boat, a 5.8 meter Rib with side console. This makes the supervision of the racing fleet much safer for those on the water, efficient for managing the fleet and comfortable for those volunteers that continually give up their time so we can be out there racing. The new Rib is big enough to take some rough weather and if ever the need arises we can cope effectively with an injured person..

Insurance

When we sign our race entry forms there is a section that says that we agree to the rules that the race is held under. Part of these rules state that; *All boats have current third party liability insurance for yacht racing and have public liability insurance of not less than \$10,000,000.* Please make sure you have this in place every time you enter a race! This is the skipper's responsibility. We all love having more boats and increased competition but with this each boat must have the correct insurance.

Christmas Twilights

With many boats now back sailing the Christmas Twilights series will be an exciting and rewarding event. Enjoy your sailing!

See you on the Water

Brendan Murray, Vice Commodore

Sailability News

Sailability extends a warm welcome to all new sailors who commenced sailing on Saturday 4th December. This increases our numbers to some 30 sailors with a disability. Our new sailing friends attended the 4th December *Sailability* Christmas lunch, brilliantly organized by Lyn Roberts and her catering crew with Peter Reedman as anchor 'barbecuer' and a jolly Father Christmas. Seventy people enjoyed the lunch and festivities.!

Mention is made in a poem about Gordon Phillips generous leasing of his 19ft sailer trainer *As Good As It Gets*. This contribute significantly to sailing opportunities for people with a disability especially as, guided by their skilled helmsman Simon Thiele, they now sail in the Friday night twilight series.

On Sunday 18th December the committed and generous Brian's Southcott and Tapping leave for Nowra via Wagga and returning via Canberra to pick up four new 303 dinghies. This means that the club now has eight 303's as well as our two Liberty dinghies. These dinghies will be part of our fleet for the *Sailability* State Championships to be held at GRYC on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th March 2012.

Editor

Club Profile - Murray Symonds

"A Rookie but no Rookie"

It seems as though Murray has been a member of GRYC all his life and for most of that time Chairman of the Sailing Committee and also principal handicapper - such is his impact and contribution! 'Influenced by Randal' he bought his Ross 780 *Baku* in 2004 but he says it has taken him six years to realize that *Baku* needed 200 -250kilos of internal ballast for it to be sailed effectively, but more of that later.

Murray came originally from Mt Gambier, the eldest of three boys and spent the last years of his primary school in Blackwood PS. From there in 1962 he went to Blackwood High School where for Murray, Latin was a favourite subject, and at which he excelled! Demonstrating his widening interests he then entered Adelaide University to study Geophysics and Applied Mathematics. Life at Adelaide was especially rewarding because there he met Denise and the rest of this profile is in many ways their story.

After graduating and unable to obtain employment in the geophysics industry Murray taught for a year at Campbeltown High School. But he had always been fascinated by the Pacific Islands, especially he says, after reading Arthur F. Grimble's *A Pattern of Islands* (republished in 2011) with its stories of the myths and oral traditions of the Kiribati people's atoll culture - with its particular focus on the Gilbert and Ellis Islands.

MURRAY HAD ALWAYS BEEN FASCINATED BY THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Murray and Denise's 'Pacific Island solution' came when they applied for teaching positions on Nauru in 1973. "I still remember," he says, "landing in Nauru with the smell of frangipani, ... that most romantic of tropical flowers ... with their fragrance evoking images of balmy tropical nights; that delight has never left me." On Nauru for four years Murray and Denise's children Kym and Ben enjoyed their early childhood years experiencing much of the richness of Polynesian and Micronesian culture. "Kym still loves eating raw fish," says Murray. On Nauru Murray enjoyed fishing, and scuba diving.. He built a sixteen foot fibre glass boat out of scrap material from the local dump. It was driven by a 50 HP motor and was intended to be 18 ft long "but we couldn't manoeuvre it in the twisting channels that surround Nauru." I understand that boat is still used on Nauru. After four years on Nauru, Murray and Denise continued their Pacific tropical adventure. They took up teaching positions in Papua New Guinea, at Keraval some 30k from Rabaul. On Nauru with its balmy nights there had been 'memorable parties', which along with their full outdoor life of fishing, sailing and wind surfing continued in PNG. Each time in these Pacific countries they appreciated the culture and achieved a sensitive understanding and respect for the people of the host country. Murray remarks that; "PNG was delightful then, (35 plus years ago) it's still a fond memory but it's changed so much now with the influence of alcohol, competition and of course western illnesses."

Back in Adelaide after almost nine years in the Pacific, Murray became manager of a Texas Instruments geophysics seismic company exploring for oil and gas in the Cooper Basin. It was the time of



the construction of the first personal computers with their ability to process vast amounts of data necessary for successful oil and gas exploration. "We were able then to build 3D images of oil and gas fields so that this created virtual reality projections of the oilfield structure." But after fifteen years in Adelaide, with Kym and Ben at university, it was time for Murray and Denise to start travelling again. It was natural that the company (Baker Hughes) were reluctant to release their talented manager but depart he did, ending up in 1998 in Baku Azerbaijan on the shores of the Caspian Sea. Merging with the Azeri's, Denise studied Russian (although the languages spoken are both Russian and Azeri a Turkic language) and Murray wind surfed in and around the numerous Caspian Sea oil rigs. Before long they had made close friends with Fikret their landlord. Together with Fikret and his family they travelled to the borders of Chechnya and Dagestan in the Caucasus's on what were often "hair raising journeys!" When this posting ended, ("we'd still enjoy returning to Azerbaijan!") they looked elsewhere hoping against hope that their next posting would not be to war torn Angola. Guess what? They were offered a posting to Luanda in Angola. Never one to turn down the opportunity for adventure Murray accepted the posting as geophysical exploration manager. The bitter 20 year Angolan war had not yet finished, and so "this beautiful and potentially very rich country was still strife torn." Yet, Murray managed to windsurf and sail Hobi cats off the Angolan coast, although it was always a knife edge experience ... with civil war and often uncontrollable child soldiers roaming. By 2002 Murray and Denise had taken up a posting in Lagos, Nigeria. There the colonial British had established a sailing club on a river mouth backed by a large lake. Murray sailed 'Lightings', rather like a 20ft Sharpie. Naturally for Murray and Denise many friendships were made. "Although Muarray says that; "While Nigeria is a beautiful country you couldn't travel around; it was never really safe!" By 2004 Murray admits that he was 'burnt out' after the African experience. This heralded the end of his career as a geophysicist. Returning to Adelaide Murray and Denise searched for 'some acreage in the country' and found their scenic Inman Valley home. During a year off Murray joined Armfield Slipway and cued by Peter Shipside he bought the Captain Sturt Chandlery. **"Well, I'd always been interested in running a hardware store and this was even better, a hardware store for boats!"**

From childhood onwards Murray's interests have been in scuba diving, wind surfing, surfing and fishing. On a trip to Coffin Bay, Murray, clad in his wet suit and flippers left our group and 45 minutes later returned with abalone, whiting and scallops ... for our evening meal! All in a dive's work!

DON'T BE FOOLED BY MURRAY'S PRESENTATION AS A ROOKIE SAILOR'

Having settled at Captain Sturt Marina Murray thought that he should *Goolwarize* himself! At Randal's instigation he bought his Ross 780 previously called "Skin Flint" and then "Extreme" but immediately renamed *Baku*; which was the first trailer-sailer that he had owned. With the water going down he managed to sail in the 2005 and 2007 Milang-Goolwa races and also sailed in the Narrung and Meningie races. Naturally he has sailed in every GRYC twilight, summer and winter series and the Victor Harbort Rum Races since owning *Baku*. His penchant for flying his spinnaker in any weather is by now legendary. But don't be fooled by Murray's presentation as a rookie sailor. Before his marriage in 1972 he crewed on Port Adelaide to Port Lincoln races, delivered a 34ft Duncanson to Sydney for the Sydney Hobart and then sailed it back from Hobart to the Adelaide Yacht Squadron, experiencing the beauty of Tasmania's Wine Glass Bay and Victoria's Apollo Bay on the sail home. He's sailed many times to Kangaroo Island. In 1971 on a 22foot round hull yacht Murray had the experience of battling into gale force north westerly head winds for almost two days on a return sail from Cape Jervis back to Port Adelaide. "As twenty year olds we were bullet proof in those days, even though we arrived back wet, frozen and very hungry!"

Murray Symonds reverberates with enthusiasm for sailing. He accepted the fact that *Baku* was tender so that... **'no surprise can come to him who reaches sailing's core'**. However, researching the criteria for effective sailing on a Ross 780 ('six years after my purchase mind you!'), he discovered that an additional 250 kilos of internal lead ballast would enable him and Denise to sail *Baku* without additional crew. In fact they recently sailed back from Meningie and beyond Point Sturt experienced some thirty knots head wind, but with two reefs and no head sail a stable *Baku* can now be sailed effectively in almost any weather.

The self effacing Murray Symonds has a treasure trove of sailing stories from around the world and with this experience and commitment he fits well into the role of GRYC's Chairman of the Sailing Committee. In this time of '*handicap disputes*' it's reassuring to have the accomplished Murray calmly defending decisions, providing rational and considered explanations and rounding all this off with humorous banter. My final question to Murray was how do you and Denise fit all this into one lifetime? To this he laughs again as his imagination responds naturally and buoyantly as he thinks of his next venture, which inevitably will involve sailing.

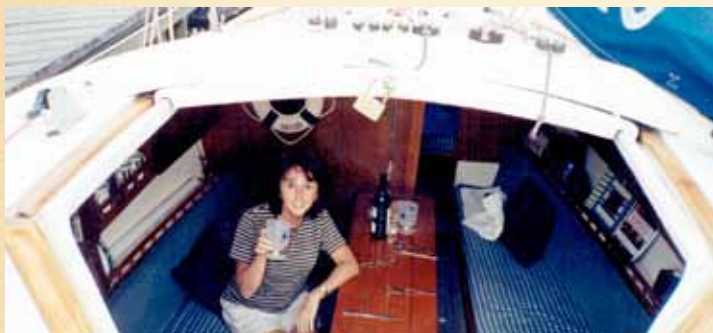
Editor



Club Profile - Lyn Mateer

“Home is Where Your Story Begins!”

Lyn Mateer has been an unheralded supporter of and committed worker for GRYC since she and Billy joined the club in the mid 1980s. She's originally from Comber in County Down, Northern Ireland. Lyn and Billy survived various Northern Ireland crises but bomb scares at work, in cinemas and shopping centres created tension from which it was difficult to escape. The troubles were pivotal in encouraging them to try life Down Under. Lyn has younger sisters with children and her 80 year old mother back in Belfast. She talks to them regularly but ... “it's not like having them in the next suburb or town.”



I've long wanted to write Lyn's profile because she is so liked and admired due to her capacity to give without thinking about any reward for herself. Lyn blends with ease into GRYC activities and gives unstintingly. There is little of anything that she finds irksome because; 'just the chance that you can get up in the morning and enjoy the day is sufficient reward and you know I always see good in most people.' All this is said with quiet conviction and a lilting charm such that Lyn, irrespective of what she is doing finds time to spare to listen to someone else. In the keenest sense of the words Lyn is a great and hallmark friend of GRYC and her social, culinary and inter-personal contribution is considerable and essential to its success – although of course Lyn would never make that claim. In many ways Lyn Mateer is one of those rocks that clubs depend on for them to flourish. As a person 'in the background' she is wise, very easy to talk to, kind and a rare encourager of others.

LYN MATEER ... AN UNHERALDED SUPPORTER AND COMMITTED WORKER FOR GRYC

Lyn is not on her own recognition a sailor although she and Billy long owned a Duncanson 26 *True Colours* (see photographs) which they sailed with aplomb in club races and cruises. In her early twenties young Billy introduced Lyn to sailing on a *Lysander* on Northern Ireland's Strangeford Lough and it was natural that if possible they would continue sailing in Adelaide and Goolwa. As a child Lyn spent time in Singapore and Germany because her father had postings there with the RAF. After successful and happy years in Adelaide Billy and Lyn tried 'an idyllic retired' life ("as an experiment we think") at Airlie Beach which somehow didn't work out and so they returned briefly to Northern Ireland. But Lyn missed Australia and Goolwa "with a passion!" It was not long before they returned, eventually to Goolwa in Kestrel Court and then "because there was



not enough room there for Billy's toys" to their new spacious "brick pizza oven" home in Goode Street. Billy built the splendid brick pizza oven! Here in Goolwa and on the south coast Lyn is more than fully occupied. She is a keen gardener, works regularly in the Kessel Road Community Garden, is a member of *Tidy Towns* which for Lyn is a regular Thursday commitment, and each Friday sees her participating in the *Australian Sewing Guild* in VH. Lyn's participation in these organizations contrasts with her up front talent for *Belly Dancing* and her swirling and lithesome figure has been photographed as a Cadell Street feature as well as at other locations. Lyn's *Belly Dancing* troupe can be hired for gigs and entertainment at special functions!!

Lyn Mateer presents a sense of tranquility when she says, "I think that I'm generally lucky!" This tranquility pervades her home (which for Lyn is where it all starts) and spreads beyond this to GRYC and the other organisations in which she is involved. Her level of acceptance and contentment runs deep and in her quiet and most effective way she makes what often seems impossible, achievable. Lyn Mateer is a quiet spirit whose contribution to our community and to GRYC is most significant. She is the embodiment of the practical team player who, unheralded, often unseen but never drifting on tides of fancy, holds everything together calmly, generously and with an optimism that is always rewarding. Even though Lyn doesn't know this people always speak warmly of their fondness for her! That is the experience of spending time in the company of GRYC's Lyn Mateer.

Editor



REGATTA

Goolwa Regatta 1857 *

(Tuesday October 27)

Regatta Judge: Captain Robson.

Starters: Messrs G.B. Smith and Smyth

On the day of the Regatta, Goolwa and the neighbourhood bore all the resemblance of a public holiday, business was suspended, and the general aspect of matters indicated mirth and hilarity. At an early hour the number of persons who congregated around the banks of the river was considerable; but gradually increased until midday, when the sight-seers must have amounted to at least 300. The proceedings were orderly and well conducted, with the exception of a slight episode of an amusing character, which occurred during an interval in the proceedings and which consisted in the sudden immersion of two commercial gentlemen from Adelaide, who, while proceeding out in a small dinghy, got capsized from a sudden addition to its crew of an unexpected and unwelcome intruder! The proceedings commenced about half-past ten o'clock and terminated about 5 in the afternoon. The weather was very favourable, with a strong breeze from the north. The assemblage comprised a considerable portion of the *elite* of the neighbourhood. The contribution had been liberal, and amounted to upwards of 'ten pounds'. The arrangements were well got up, and carried through as harmoniously as could have been expected from the excitement which such scenes naturally elicit. We observed some disappointment manifested by those particularly interested that the Goolwa was unrepresented in the sailing match, the competitors being from Wellington – a place of some nautical reputation, and where the chief prize has been carried away upon a former as well as upon the present occasion. It had been expected that the *Alert* should have contended in the race, but some necessity occurred to prevent her joining in time. The sailing boats took their places as follows:

Victory – Steered by the owner Mr Hughes

Wasp – Steered by Mr Cooke, dressed in the full uniform of the Yacht Club

Sylph – Steered by Mr H. Varcoe

At gunfire a fair start took place; the distance, as remarked by some present, being not less than twelve miles, having to sail round the course twice from the commencement of the match until conclusion. The *Victory*, true to her designation obtained the lead. Her remarkable success destroyed the enthusiasm of the spectators, having arrived at the goal nearly an hour before the *Wasp*, the next boat in succession. Some disappointment was felt at the result of the race between the *Wasp* and the *Sylph*, nor could the discrepancy in speed be satisfactorily accounted for, the *Sylph* at the outset having left her competitor during the earlier part of the race. The success of the *Wasp* was attributed to various circumstances; but it was difficult to reconcile the conflicting opinions which prevailed at the termination of the race. However we understand the Committee did not sustain the opinion which prevailed at the termination of the race. However, we understand the Committee did not sustain the appeal which was lodged on behalf of the *Sylph* and judged the *Wasp* to have fairly claimed the second prize.

* extract from the *South Australian Register* Adelaide SA 1850 -1900.

As Good As It Gets *

A generous lease of a sailboat,
Broad of beam and sound of note,
A cruiser for many to experience success,
Tack, gibe, compete, demonstrate prowess,
So that for her disabled crew
Sailing together is life anew.
Opportunities lie open by a visiting sea
Whether tilting or upright –she-she
Is as good as it gets, which can appear bland
But sailing this boat you'll understand,
With red sails aloft on the Murray river
This dependable yacht is such a giver,
So life can be grasped with either hand
As disabled sailors parade the land
And reckon each time by what they do
Sailing changes them and it could change you.

RJR, December 2011

* *As Good As It Gets* is a 5.8 metre Daysailer (see photo) one of only five in existence. *As Good As It Gets* was built by John Buck, later of Northshore Yachts fame, as a camping boat come sail trainer which can have as many as eight people on board! It has been leased most generously to GRYC by Gordon Phillips (now a club member) of Valmai Terrace Hindmarsh Island. Essentially it is for use by sailors with a disability, with past Commodore Simon Thiele at the helm.



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