



Rear Commodore's Annual Report 2021

At the time of writing this the wind is somewhere between 12-15 knots from the SW, blue sky's, on what should have been a KB Brass Monkey Pursuit Race, and OTB Winter Series racing. Unfortunately, Covid 19 has reared its ugly head again and put a stop what we enjoy most. Sailing.

2020-21 Season saw strong fleets across all areas of sailing. Particularly pleasing was the growth in off the beach sailing with the fleet reaching 30 plus on a few occasions. This was largely due to our younger sailors venturing out for the afternoon sessions.

Friday Twilight keel boat racing has remained strong even though the weather didn't always play its part in encouraging more members to join in. Very pleasing this season was a slight increase in participation on Sunday afternoons. Hopefully the momentum will continue into 2021-22.

Sunday morning's at SBSC wouldn't be the same without the juniors running amuck. I'm sure I hear Mum and Dad, have you started a tab? More often than I hear we better hurry up or we'll be late for the start. The club is blessed to have such a strong, enthusiastic group of kids, along with a very dedicated group of parents who help out whenever required.

It was an extremely close call as to whether Sail Peninsula was going to go ahead due to covid 19 restrictions in place only a few days before the event was due to kick off. Thankfully the ever-positive Sail Peninsula Committee (headed up by Clarky) and Snooks Catering kept working as if it were going ahead. This turned out to be a master stroke as we had 61 enter the event, with skippers and crews enjoying a fabulous week end of sailing, entertainment, and food.

Not long after Sail Peninsula, SBSC hosted the 2021 Victorian Hobie Cat State Championships with 36 boats entered. The Hobie Cat is a great class to host as there is a boat to suite all age groups and ability, making for lots of banter on and off the water.

Hosting these events is a lot of work usually done by the same few. It does bring in a few dollars, however, more importantly it's the best advertising a club can buy. One weekend we have 61 keel boats racing out the front, a few weeks later we have a colourful display of off the beach boats. Who wouldn't want to become a member? And join they did.

All of the above would not happen without our wonderful volunteers, and apologies in advance if I've missed someone. SBSC would not be what it is without the dynamic duo of Di and Deirdre helping out with Sail Peninsula, OTB start boat, Enews. Just to name a few.

Then there's Geoff Eldridge who loves the one thing I despise most, paperwork. Geoff's eye for detail and extensive knowledge of the rules of sailing is invaluable. Geoff was PRO for Sail Peninsula, and PRO for the Hobie State Titles, as well as RO for no less than 90% of OTB races.

An OTB race is not possible without rescue boat drivers and crew. A big thank you to Rob Campbell who not only drives a boat week in week out, he also makes sure the boats are well serviced and maintained, and fully crewed.



As Rear Commodore it is very difficult to be all over keel boat and OTB fleets. Thankfully, I have had great support from club captains Mal Winder (keel Boats) and Peter Chipperfield (OTB). Particularly with rosters and programs. Special mention to Peter for his weekly OTB Enews reports.

The Tower crew who looks over the Keel Boat fleet deserve our thanks. I have spent a few races in the tower myself and highly recommend offering your service if you have the time. It is a great way to meet fellow members and learn what is involved in running a race, all the while being well supported by experienced tower personal.

There are so many others I should thank but am going to finish off thanking these three wonderful young members. Grace, Ciaran, and Natasha. These three have spent the best part of seven years helping our youngest, and newest members not only learn how to sail, but what it means to be a good sport, and the importance of helping others. On behalf of Executive Committee and parents. Thank you.

What does 2021-2022 have install. Victorian A Class Catamaran Championships, Sail Peninsula. Introduction of Sailor App for OTB, and hopefully a bunch of new members.

Stay safe.

Ross Martin

Rear Commodore