



## **Annual Commodore's Report 2025**

It is my great pleasure to present this Annual Commodore's Report on behalf of the Executive Committee. I would also like to thank the members of the Executive Committee and all the volunteers for their commitment and dedication to running every aspect of the Club and keeping the Club focused on providing great sailing, great events and social occasions to all the members. I am also pleased to say that we remain a Club run by volunteers.

### **Focus on governance**

During the last 12 months, the Executive Committee has worked hard on building the financial assets, decision making cadence and governance of the Club.

New member applications, financial and programme decisions are now made in days rather than waiting for monthly meetings. An example of this is the planning for SP26 started 2 weeks after SP25 rather than in November as in previous years. Decisions regarding opportunities happen much faster allowing for better planning and execution.

Major decisions are now supported with business case proposals that must show the benefit to the Club. The benefit whether financial, reputational or both can now be evaluated.

### **Financials**

The 2024/5 season was successful for the Club in several ways. Important to the longevity of the Club are both the financial and membership base. I am pleased to say that financially, the Club recorded an operating surplus for the year of \$69,546, which was down from the prior year's surplus of \$84,576 but with reasons. This is due in part from a reduction in membership fees (\$98,152 this year over \$111,484 last year) due to member mix and increases in legal expenses, subsequent to the purchase of Berth B30, the pending sale of the Hidden Harbour berth, and repair and maintenance charges of the rescue boats. The Club has increased its nett assets to \$936,362 from \$867,415 from prior year.

For more details, please see the Annual Treasurer's Report.

### **Membership**

SBSC, has a total membership of 496, which is a net increase of 4 from last year. This increase has occurred despite the financial burdens many in the community are enduring. Considering the above, the Club has done a great job in maintaining and even slightly increasing total membership numbers.

In the 24/25 financial year, the club did not increase any of the membership fees. This was a decision made by the EC given the economic times. For the new season and in the face of ever rising costs, the Club will be increasing fees for the 25/26 financial year by the annual CPI increase, being 2.4%.

**Correspondence to the Secretary, Safety Beach Sailing Club Inc.,  
185 Marine Drive, Safety Beach, Victoria, 3936.  
[secretary@sbsc.net.au](mailto:secretary@sbsc.net.au)  
ABN 25795205347  
ACN A0009780H**



The average age of our membership is 51 years old.

Our gender split is 36% females; 63% males and 1% members are not identified.

165 of the members are full voting members and we have 13 life members.

Of interest to some of our sponsors is the geographical location of our membership:

Safety Beach	Mount Martha	Dromana	Mornington
Mt. Eliza	Frankston South	McCrae	Montmorency
Rosebud	Brighton	Moorooduc	Frankston
Tuerong	Langwarrin	Eltham	

### **Investment to increase Financial Assets**

The Club has some aging assets that are nearing their end of life. Most of these are in the commercial kitchen and when they fail, they need to be repaired or replaced urgently. As the EC considered this issue, we committed to having the funds readily available for such a situation.

One of our major concerns was that if the Club required additional funds for asset replacement the only real asset we had, that could be used for collateral was Berth 5001 in Hidden Harbour. We also felt that the value of this asset may not be sufficient as we would not want to finance the entire value.

An opportunity presented itself where we could purchase a larger berth with greater potential capital gain giving the Club a larger asset to finance against if ever needed, and to sell the less appreciating berth. This EC's decision was made to make investments in the Club that met the objects of the Club, after all we are first and foremost a sailing club, that would also allow us to have the ability to borrow against assets when and if needed in the future.

The strategy, was and remains to build tangible, sustainable, appreciating assets that future EC's will be able to borrow against should the need arise.

### **Sponsorship and Grants**

During the year, the Club received a 3-year commitment from Community Bank Dromana, to support sailing. Along with ongoing commitments from the Lions Club of Dromana for youth sailing, we are now building a training fleet to bolster an easy pathway into the Club for new members.

The EC would also like to acknowledge all the Club's sponsors for their commitment and belief in SBSC and we sincerely hope that they have derived more business and support by our members for their businesses.

**Correspondence to the Secretary, Safety Beach Sailing Club Inc.,  
185 Marine Drive, Safety Beach, Victoria, 3936.  
[secretary@sbsc.net.au](mailto:secretary@sbsc.net.au)  
ABN 25795205347  
ACN A0009780H**



## **Club Improvements**

In the last 12 months, the Club has:

### **New rounding marks**

Purchased SB1 and SB2 rounding marks as a result of not being able to use the channel markers as rounding marks.

### **New 15-meter berth**

The Club purchased a 15-meter berth that can be used for club boats and rented out in the winter B30. This is owned outright by the Club

### **Exclusive access to the tower**

Under a licence agreement with Coast Guard, the tower will be used exclusively by the Club.

### **Sound Insulation**

Started the process of Sound insulation panels that will be installed before the start of the sailing season to improve conversations in the dining room. This has taken much longer than expected due to compliance requirement with MPSC.

### **Faster Internet**

Being the only building on this side of Marine Parade meant that NBN and other providers were reluctant to go to the expense to run a line under the road to support faster internet for the Club. Our sincere thanks to James Anderson who persevered for months to make this happen.

### **Training**

The Club commenced purchasing training boats to support greater training initiatives for the new season. Fiona Low leads the training and team and has been responsible for repurposing the Junior's room for training purposes.

## **2025/6 Initiatives**

While all the existing initiatives will carry over to the next season, the EC has set its sights on new key initiatives over the next 12 months. These include:

### **Sale of the Hidden Harbour berth**

The Club purchased the B30, 15m berth as a replacement for the Hidden Harbour berth. The Hidden Harbour berth is under contract but not yet sold as the Club never received a title. This process has meant applying to ASIC for a ruling and the process is almost finished.

### **Security System**

Correspondence to the Secretary, Safety Beach Sailing Club Inc.,  
185 Marine Drive, Safety Beach, Victoria, 3936.  
[secretary@sbsc.net.au](mailto:secretary@sbsc.net.au)  
ABN 25795205347  
ACN A0009780H



With the internet now more powerful and stable, the EC is focusing on a better security and entrance system, that will, resolve keys issues, who has what keys, and give us greater oversight as to who is coming into the building and when and where they are going.

### **Digitised records**

One of our challenges during the year has been the availability of past records. We are getting ready to digitise past records and enter these into SharePoint so no future EC will need to look through old files trying to find relevant documents.

Increase in training.

### **Better on water facilities**

The Club has long recognised the inadequacies of the current start boat. With the upcoming sale of the Hidden Harbour berth, a sub-committee is being established to look at what type of boat is needed with a view of making a purchase during the sailing season. This may carry over if a suitable vessel cannot be found.

### **Strengthening relationships with other Clubs at various levels**

Members of the EC and sailing committees are regularly meeting with their counterparts in other clubs to see what we do well, see where we can improve and to promote joint sailing events. As an example, recently, we were contacted by Sandringham Yacht Club, Royal Victoria, and Royal Melbourne so they could lock in our dates for Sail Peninsula 2026. All three clubs are interested in our sailors taking part of some of their events as well.

### **Special Thanks**

For everyone that volunteers at the Club, thank you. SBSC is your Club and it relies on everyone that gives of their time to ensure that the Club not only runs efficiently but also has enough people doing the things that matter to make the Club work. As SBSC continues to grow we need more members getting involved at any level.

The EC would especially like to thank the members of the following committees that give their time and knowledge to make the Club function properly.

Sailing Committee	Junior Committee
Keel Boat Committee	Social Committee
Off the Beach Committee	Sponsorship and Grants
E-News	Risk Management
Sail Peninsula Organising Committee	Strategic Planning
KB Club Captain	OTB Club Captain
Junior Club Captain	Tower Team
IT Committee	Yard Master

**Correspondence to the Secretary, Safety Beach Sailing Club Inc.,  
185 Marine Drive, Safety Beach, Victoria, 3936.**

[secretary@sbsc.net.au](mailto:secretary@sbsc.net.au)

ABN 25795205347

ACN A0009780H



Specifically, every race at the Club involves a Race Officer, Geoff and the tower team Amanda and Elaine. Without Rob Campbell and the Start and Rescue Boat drivers and crew we would not be able to set marks and run races.

I would also like to thank two members that help keep people safe and that is Rick Potter in his role of Member Protection Officer and James Anderson who looks after Juniors as their Protection Officer.

Tony Christmas  
Commodore.  
On behalf of the Executive Committee.

**Correspondence to the Secretary, Safety Beach Sailing Club Inc.,  
185 Marine Drive, Safety Beach, Victoria, 3936.  
[secretary@sbsc.net.au](mailto:secretary@sbsc.net.au)  
ABN 25795205347  
ACN A0009780H**