

SBBC website: springbayboatclub.com.au

September, 2024

Bay Spray

NEWSLETTER OF
THE SPRING BAY BOAT CLUB



Drone shot from 2022.

What (if anything) has changed in the last 2 years?

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Committee Notes

Your new SBBC Executive Committee:

Commodore:	Malcolm Fergusson
Vice Commodore (Sail):	Tim Geard
Vice Commodore (Power):	Vacant
Rear Commodore:	Leanne O'Brien
Secretary:	David Catt
Treasurer:	Pam Keygan
Public Officer:	Ben West
Communications/Website:	Greg Maddox
Marina & Hardstand Manager:	Ben West
General Committee:	Alison Wheaton, Graeme Elphinstone, Ray Coope, Carl Bresnehan

As you can see, there is very little change on the Committee compared with last year. John Hall has finished his current tenure but we know that we will continue to have his support on sub-committees as well as seeing him and Vonda around the Club, especially on race days. We extend a very warm welcome to Alison Wheaton who has volunteered to join the Committee and “learn the ropes”. Alison will be a fresh set of eyes and ears which is always welcome to those of us who have been involved in the Club for decades, bringing some new ideas and improved ways of working. And it will be good to have a third female on the Committee, going some way to addressing the current gender imbalance.

Notices

- ♦ **Upcoming events** include:
- ♦ Opening Day Sail-past and BYO barbecue/picnic — Sunday, October 6th. Be ready on the bay to sail, motor or paddle past Ron Bugg on the official boat at 2:00 pm. Gathering afterwards at the Club; barbecue alight from 5:00 pm.
- ♦ Sailing races begin—Tuesday, October 8th; gathering afterwards at the Club.
- ♦ Seafarers Memorial Service & Luncheon—Sunday, October 20th
- ♦ Trivia Night— Saturday, November 16th. Don't miss it!! More information coming soon.
- ♦ Christmas Party— December 6th. Notice to come closer to the date.
- ♦ Photos and articles for future **Bay Sprays** always gratefully received.
- ♦ Please ensure your contact details are up to date on our Club data-base. If you have had any recent changes (address, phone number, preferred email), inform us at sbbcontact@gmail.com

The Seafaring Adventures of Walter and Caroline Wright

Chapter 1: Bass Strait Blues.

Once we made the decision that it was time to do another extended cruise along the East Coast of Australia, we prepared *Sea Change* (a Seawind 1000 catamaran), getting her sea-worthy for hopefully a hassle-free cruise.

Our last crossing in 2018 from Eden NSW to Schouten Passage Tas, took three days & so we thought that if we departed from further north, Binalong Bay, we could do the crossing from Tas to Eden in just over two days.

However it ended up taking an extremely tedious four days.

We departed on 1st May with a 10 to 15 knot north-westerly, but three hours later the wind dropped to less than 5 knots & didn't get above that all the way to Eden. On the first night, east of Flinders Island we had a current resulting in a 60° difference between the heading vector & COG vector.

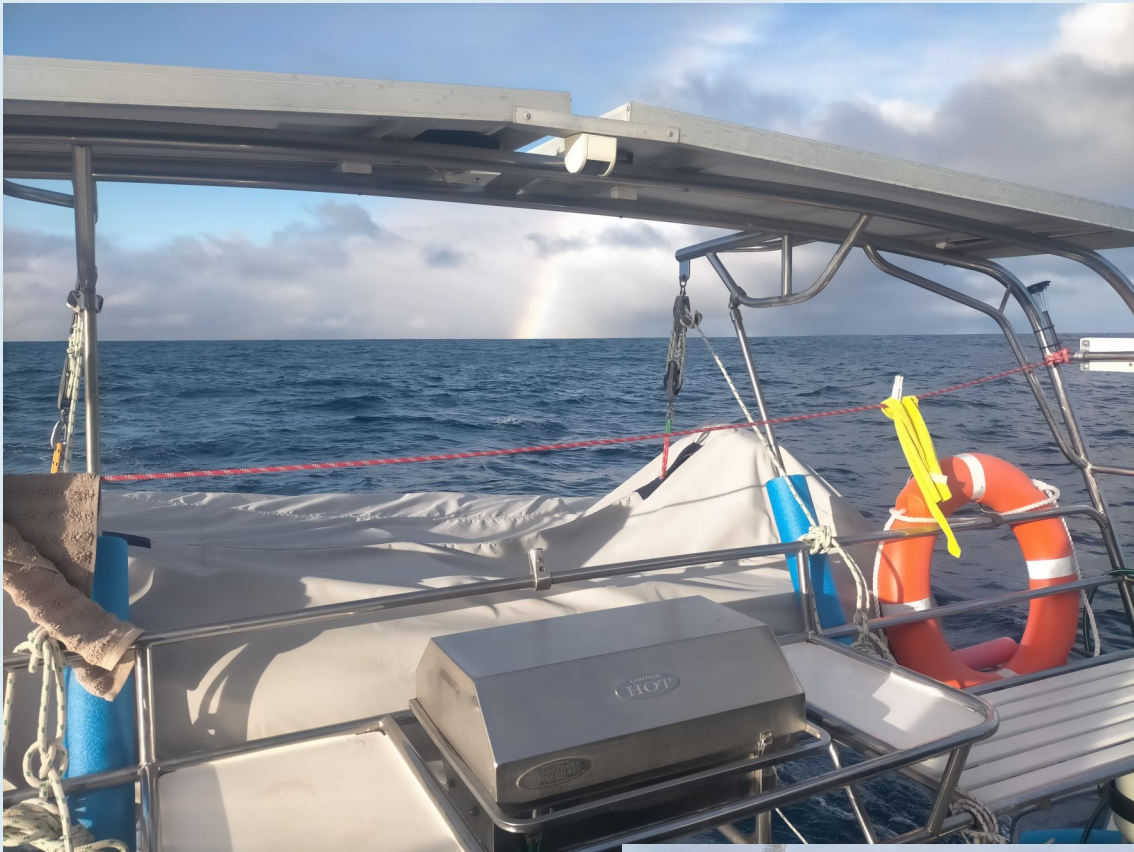
We never have a formal watch routine, as we find it hard to sleep while underway & so we tend to nap, half an hour here or an hour there.

We arrived at the shipping lane near Gabo Island right on dusk on the third night & this is when things got interesting.

We had to call up two ships on the VHF to make sure they could see us on AIS or radar & requesting one to alter course by 10° to port, so we could continue safely.

Sea Change dropped anchor in Nullica Bay, Eden at 12:30pm on Saturday 4th May. We made pizzas for lunch & then slept until early the next morning. (more pics on the next page)





Above: *Sea Change* experiencing the Bass Strait Blues.

Right: Arriving, ready for lunch and a sleep!

Below: The wave attenuation wall in Eden harbour. Four new public moorings as well.



SPRING BAY BOAT CLUB

2024 Mystery Tour

In May we held another successful tour, with 30 members and friends of our club.

An early start had us meeting at the Pontville Recreation Centre.

From there we proceeded to Bothwell where we had an enjoyable coffee, cake etc. at the very quaint Sealy's Cafe. Kym and her amazing team catered for our large group quickly and efficiently.

Holding an event at that time of the year can be problematic from a weather perspective, but we were blessed with clear blue skies and a warm day.

After the coffee break our group proceeded to the restored Waddamana Power Station.

This well restored example of early Hydro development is truly well worth a visit. Michael the Hydro guide gave us an overview of the construction and the production of electricity from this plant.

The ingenuity and what must have been appalling conditions to build such a plant in a very remote area is just incredible, keeping in mind that the construction was over 100 years ago, without the aid of modern machinery that we have today.

Following our inspection of the station we proceeded to the onsite BBQ area where we held a self catered BBQ lunch.

After lunch the members of the group made their way home in various directions, one couple making a real exploration of the day traveling back to Triabunna via Great Lake and Poatina.



Thank you, one and all, for participating in a great little adventure.

John Hall





Commodore's Report: (as published in our 2024 Annual Report)

My first year in the role of club commodore has been sailed in nice calm waters thanks to the support I have received from the other club committee members who all work very conscientiously on behalf of all club members.

The money the club collects from membership, hardstand and marina fees, after covering costs of running the facilities, continues to be reinvested in facilities. After dredging and pile driving last year, the next step is to provide a pontoon type jetty on the northern side of the boat ramp at an estimated total cost of \$50,000. The pontoon kit has been purchased and delivered to the club site. The next step is to prepare a landing abutment, insert a shore pile, and assemble the pontoons. The result will be a replica of the pontoon jetty at the public ramp next door. It will make the boat ramp a first-class facility, and something we can be very proud to offer to members.

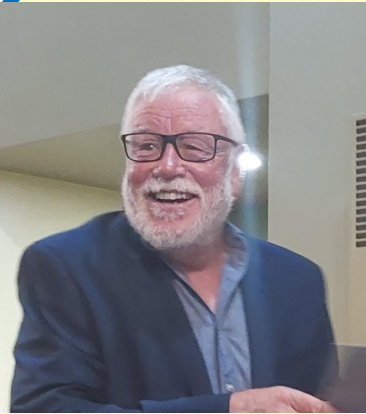
Membership seems to be stable at around 230 family memberships. Unfortunately, we have lost a few in recent times, mostly due to age, old age that is, and we are very sorry to lose the likes of Graeme Salmon who has been a long time and active member of the club; he, and wife Jill's cheerful persona will be missed at club events. But hopefully we will still see them from time to time.

It is not getting any easier to run any organization due to the ever-increasing complexity of society and the legal obligations an organization like ours needs to comply with. We seem to get a continual list of various government directives that mostly arrive via our umbrella organization, Australian Sailing. They have been helpful however, by providing links to government policy which we add to our website. So, if you are interested in Child Safe, Coll. Regs and Refuelling policies for example (to name three recent ones) please look at the club website. A special thanks to Tim Geard (and his safety committee), Greg Maddox and David Catt for the work they have done to keep us compliant.

Our Rear Commodore, Leanne O'Brien, hoped to retire at the recent AGM. Fortunately, she decided at the last minute (because there were no takers for the position) that she would give us one more year. The club has not always had a rear commodore; it has been a position first filled by David Read about 8 years ago when he saw the need for leadership of our social calendar. The position is beneficial for bringing the membership together from time to time for fun events and for keeping things ship-shape at the Club-rooms.

Looking forward to the summer boating season!

Malcolm Fergusson.



Vice Commodore (sail) Report: (as published in our 2024 Annual Report)

The 2023/2024 sailing season was characterised by spirited competition in conditions that varied from the sublime to downright difficult.

Yet again, our Twilight Races in and around Little Spring Bay and the long distance races ranging all over the Mercury Passage are very popular. Our final seasonal event, the Cock of the Bay, attracted stalwart yachts and crews for a series of wild rides round Prosser Bay. Regrettably the Sunday Pennant was poorly supported, and we have planned format and time changes for the coming season to try to address this.

The series winners were:

Twilight series 1	<i>“Vite”, Bob Wilson</i>
Twilight series 2	<i>“Thomas A”, Phil Emmerton</i>
Sunday Pennant series	<i>“Kooranya”, Deb West</i>
Long Distance series, overall winner	<i>“Deseado” Malcolm Fergusson</i>
Lachlan Island Race	<i>“Kooranya”, Deb West</i>
South Maria Race	<i>“Deseado”, Malcolm Fergusson</i>
Darlington Race	<i>“Madiba”, Roy Forbes</i>
Cock of the Bay	<i>“Baiaime”, Ashley Emmerton</i>
Pacer Challenge,	<i>Bruce and Frances Palmer</i>

Tim Geard





Rear Commodore's Report: (as published in our 2024 Annual Report)

Once again, Club members have enjoyed a full and friendly round of social events and taken part in the Club's regular annual racing and casual boating/fishing activities. Since the last AGM, we have also processed an additional 15 new memberships (welcoming a total of at least 22 new members) to our Club. During the spring and summer racing seasons, regular Club gatherings/barbecues were held, often on both Sunday and Tuesday, after sailing races. In addition to these, our scheduled, "official", monthly social gatherings took place.

The monthly social events this year comprised: Several barbecues, including one on Opening Day and another after the AGM; A luncheon for interested attendees of the Seafarers' Memorial service; A fantastic Trivia Night; A Christmas Party; A Pizza Night; Annual Dinner & Trophy Night; Three Winter gatherings; Our annual Pacer Challenge Sunday in January which was enhanced by a beach barbecue. And John and Vonda Hall once again conducted a Mystery Road Trip. This year the destination was the Waddamana Power Station. It was an extremely informative day and a very popular destination.

We organised our Annual Dinner and Trophy Night at Wattlebanks, Orford in mid-April this year. This was a highly successful evening with the staff of the venue providing a reasonably-priced and delicious buffet meal in a warm and friendly atmosphere. This meant there was minimal work for our Club volunteers to do so we could all enjoy ourselves on the night. Congratulations to all those who received trophies.

Three issues of **Bay Spray** have been shared in the past year. This seems like a good number as it allows information to be shared with members a) almost immediately after the AGM, b) just after the first racing series, with pictures of Opening Day etc & c) at the end of racing and just after the Annual Dinner.

During the winter, when events are usually minimized and many members escape to warmer latitudes, the stayers continued to meet monthly in conjunction with the local Book-club who use our rooms for their meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. This was the fourth year of co-hosting with Happy Hour Book Club. Socializing took the form of three friendly fireside chats, one with fish and chips, one with soup and rolls and the third with pizzas.

This was to have been my final report as Rear Commodore but, somehow, I've volunteered for another year. However, if someone is interested, I will happily transition them to take over any time during the year ahead. Meanwhile, thank you to the members of the Social sub-committee who have supported me and our social events: Jane Forbes (planner par excellence!), Pam Keygan, Vonda Hall, Heather Wilson.

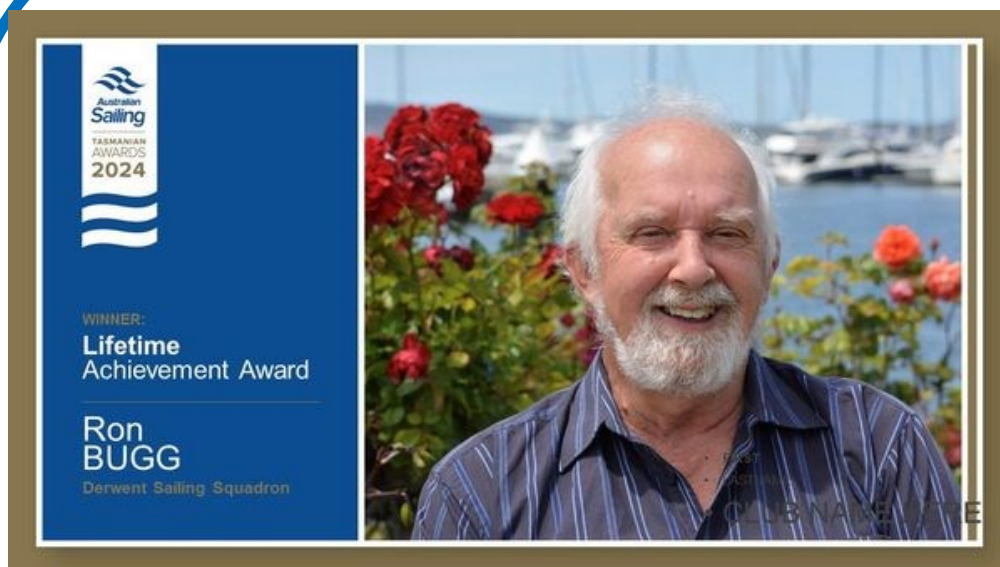
I also wish to thank Ray Coope for the work he does on a day-to-day basis to keep things ticking over at our Club facilities, Ben West for overseeing the Marina and Hardstand areas, Deb West for being our green thumb in the gardens and Malcolm Fergusson for attending to many of the tricky, and sometimes irksome jobs around the Club.

SBBC Website: www.springbayboatclub.com.au is where you will find our annual Activity Program. Social event notices are also sent to all members by email.

Happy boating!

Leanne O'Brien

Member Profile



Recently, Ron Bugg (one of SBBC's founding members from the 1970's and a valued member of our Club to this day) was honoured for his outstanding contributions to sailing at the **Australian Sailing - Tasmania Awards**.

And what a well-deserved recognition it was! He received the **Lifetime Achievement Award** and was inducted into the **Tasmanian Yachting Hall of Fame**.

Ron Bugg is a name synonymous with dedication, craftsmanship, and excellence in the Australian sailing community. With a steadfast commitment spanning over 56 years, Ron has significantly contributed to the sport and its community, leaving an indelible mark on Australian sailing history. (cont, P 10)



Ron has also had a long association with the Derwent Sailing Squadron (DSS). His journey with the DSS began in 1968. His remarkable dedication and contributions earned him Life Membership there for the past 12 years. Throughout his time with DSS, he was instrumental in shaping the club's direction and activities, serving in various leadership roles, including Vice Commodore and a notable four-year term as Commodore.

Ron's influence extends beyond DSS. He chaired the Tasmanian Yachting Association for four years and represented DSS as a delegate to the association. His exceptional service has been recognised by prominent organisations, including the Cruising Yacht Club Of Australia. A testament to his impact, DSS recently named their new committee boat the RL Bugg, affectionately known as "Buggy," in his honour, underlining his enduring legacy within the Squadron.

Beyond administrative roles, Ron Bugg is an experienced yacht designer and builder, a passion that has been a cornerstone of his life. His craftsmanship is renowned, with various yacht clubs and racing teams benefiting from his intricate half models and trophies. Using traditional and recycled boat-building timbers like Huon Pine, King Billy Pine, and Celery Top Pine, Ron creates models that are not only beautiful but also capture the essence of the boats and races they represent.

Ron's portfolio includes prestigious trophies such as the Iron Pot Trophy for the King of the Derwent winner and the Eddystone Point Trophy for the Launceston to Hobart Yacht Race. His craftsmanship extends to national events, with notable Rolex Sydney — Hobart Yacht Race creations (and now one for SBBC!!).

Despite his numerous achievements, Ron remains a humble figure, continuously volunteering his time with the Race Management Team, continuing to race and mentor younger sailors and serving actively on the DSS Sailing Committee. Over the past 40 years, he has crafted around 500 models, each taking two or more days to complete, reflecting his unwavering passion and dedication to sailing.

Ron Bugg's legacy is a tapestry of leadership, craftsmanship, and service that resonates not only within the Derwent Sailing Squadron community but also throughout the broader sailing world. His contributions have shaped the sport, inspired many, and set a standard of excellence that will be remembered for generations to come.

Ron and his partner, Carol, attended the SBBC Annual General Meeting on September 13th and were able to catch up with boating mates, young and old, from our Club. He was also kind enough to make a presentation to us of one of his hand-made and highly-valued sailing trophies (see photo on the next page) which will bolster our ability to award trophies for some of our long-distance races in the future. The presentation was a total surprise and a very welcome one. We were all completely chuffed! Thank you and congratulations, Ron.

(Thank you to DSS for a large portion of this article.)

Photo Gallery

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A closer look at some of our Club Trophies:

1. New trophy donated (and created) by Ron Bugg
2. Perpetual Trophy for Summer Pennant Series
3. Cock of the Bay
- 4 & 5. Two trophies for the two Twilight Series
6. Long Distance Series
(Pacer Trophy on p. 7)