

SBBC website: springbayboatclub.com.au

January, 2025

Bay Spray

NEWSLETTER OF
THE SPRING BAY BOAT CLUB



In this year's Pacer Challenge off Raspins Beach, on January 5th, we were pleased to include a three-generational team: Imogen Forbes, Edward Forbes and Roy Forbes, sailing together and coming a creditable fourth over all.

Last year, the Palmers had three generations in the same boat but only two of them could be seen with the naked eye!

How fantastic that our members are bringing up successive generations to keep up the boating traditions.

Committee Notes

So much of what the SBBC Committee does goes unnoticed and under-appreciated (in this writer's humble opinion). It is an indisputable fact that none of the services and facilities which our members enjoy would exist or be maintained if it were not for the original work and continued efforts of the handful of volunteers who make the wheels go round.

Have you ever considered.....

Who maintains the marina berths, launching ramp and jetty? Who replaces the light bulbs? Who buys the new wheelbarrows and then fixes the tyres when they go flat? Who reads the power meters and works out how long people have been in spaces in order to bill them? Who keeps the yard tidy? Who cleans and re-provisions the toilets/showers? Who cleans and re-provisions the Clubrooms and barbecue area? Who mows the lawns and weeds the gardens? Who organises and pays for the skip to be provided and replaced? Who pays the rates, the water bill, the insurance bills, the gas bill? Who attends to the website and keeps the information current? Who looks after the Facebook page? Who answers all the enquiries that come in about membership, boat storage, marina berths, access? Who opens and closes the gate for all those members who have yet to master the system and all those non-members who need to access the site for making deliveries, working on boats, undertaking surveys etc.? Who receives and processes all the membership applications, payments, boat insurance certificates? Who organises the yacht races and runs the handicapping system? Who puts out the race buoys and brings them in, cleans them, services and replaces them? Who organises and caters for the social events? Who sends out all the notices to members, the information packs, the Newsletters? Who turns up for working bees? Who reads all the endless information about safety and compliance that organisations such as ours are sent and then makes sure we tick all the boxes? Who organises our annual financial audit and writes our Annual Report? Who ordered all the new components for the launching/retrieving pontoon and will build it? Who does the maintenance on the Pacer dinghies and rescue boat? And so on

The Club is a busier place than it might seem to the casual observer. The Committee is always on the look-out for new members who might be interested in taking on some of these roles. If you're interested, please be in touch.

Notices

- ♦ 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, inform us at sbbcontact@gmail.com

At home, on board “*Deseado*”.

If you come to the Australian Wooden Boat Festival on the February long weekend, be sure to find *Deseado* (it’s pronounced *des-ee-ay-doh* and is Spanish for “desired”) on King’s Pier to say hi to your Commodore and Rear Commodore who will be spending much of their time aboard.

Spring Bay Boat Club members are encouraged to drop in on Sunday the 9th in particular, when we will be “at home” to anyone wearing a piece of SBBC clothing, providing them with a free drink in the cockpit. Don’t be shy! Make yourselves known!



“*Deseado*” is a 10 metre cutter, built in Hokitika of various New Zealand timbers and launched at Akaroa in 1987. She has been owned by us for the past 14 years and this will be her third Wooden Boat Festival. She usually lives in the Triabunna marina and occasionally takes part in Spring Bay Boat Club events, especially the ones that aren’t too competitive. Previous owners have sailed her extensively around NZ and the Pacific but she currently does most of her sailing between Freycinet Peninsula and Hobart, with a marked preference for Maria Island. See you at the festival!!

Malcolm and Leanne.

Trivia Night



Another fantastic night at the Club! Nine teams competed to win the coveted “Mystery Box” prize. They answered questions, constructed costumes, paraded, sang along with ABBA and generally engaged in the unbridled nonsense that can be expected at a SBBC Trivia Night. Congratulations to the **Gross Ferbets**, winners on the night.

Above: The Simple Minds team in construction mode.

Right: the nautically inspired costumes.

Below: pirate on parade.



Commodore's Report:



Happy New Year to all. They do come around so quickly, these days.

2025 promises to be an interesting year; let's hope it's an improvement for those caught up in various conflicts.

Last year wound up with a well-attended Christmas gathering at the Club where the Social Committee excelled by providing a very generous feast. The meal was provided by the Club as a way of thanking all those who have supported the Club through the year and as a little encouragement for others who might want to get involved.

Ray Coope, who knows a thing or two about food, judged it to be the "best so far". So, a big thanks to those who did the hard work: Alison Wheaton, Heather Wilson, Sue Morgan, Pam Keygan, Carol Washington and Leanne O'Brien.

These are not the only people who volunteer at the Club. Although we generate enough income to maintain and improve our facilities, we are not at the scale where employing staff is a viable option. So thanks very much to all our volunteers!

The sailing program is going gangbusters, as Tim's report details. We still have another Twilight series, the Long Distance series and the Cock of the Bay to come.

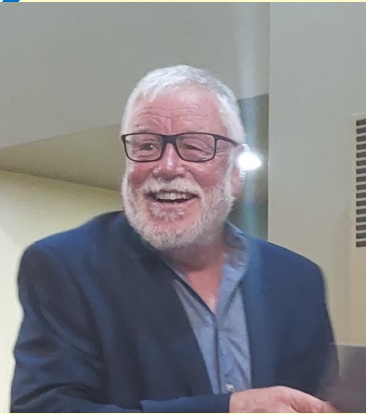
There may be one or two working bees over the winter to upgrade the boat ramp and better secure the hinged finger piers on the fixed wharf. Details to come.

All the other Club infrastructure appears to be in good working order and all running smoothly thanks to the previous efforts by dedicated volunteer members.

Events to come are:

- The Australian Wooden Boat Festival, Hobart, February 8, 9 & 10 (visit Deseado)
- Long Distance Races, February 2 & 16, March 2
- Second Twilight series begins, February 11th
- A possible Camping Weekend, February 22 & 23 (details to come)
- March 14th social event (details to come)
- Cock of the Bay, March 16
- Annual Dinner (April 12th, venue yet to be decided)
- Mystery Tour (always a favourite)

Malcolm Fergusson.



Vice Commodore (sail) Report:

The first half of the 2024/25 sailing season in brief.

The 24/ 25 Spring Bay Boat Club season opened with a cool blustery and lumpy day. Despite this, a good roll up of yachts and power-craft saluted Ron Bugg aboard Carolyn V. Further random salutations continued in the clubhouse afterwards.

Interesting conditions also prevailed for most of the first twilight series, with only four of the races being sailable. The series was won by Bob Wilson in "Vite" closely contested by Raymond Coope and Ashley Emmerton in "Biaime" and Phil Emmerton in "Thomas A".

The latter part of the pre Christmas Tuesday night season has been the turn of the "outside twilight pennant", replacing on a trial basis the poorly patronised "Sunday Pennant". Given the excellent turn up it feels likely to be a long term series. The weather has been fickle, and with one race to go it seems that "Baime" can't lose; "Vite" and Deb West in "Kooranya", likely to contest the minor placings in the last race. Bill Love in "Archie Boy" (formerly "Bodyguard") has joined the fleet, perhaps not the fastest yacht afloat, but very competently sailed.

The Pacer Challenge was the most hotly contested to date: six boats, 6 competing crews, three different heat winners, the final positions all down to the placings. Bruce and Frances Palmer (first overall) only just holding Nick and Will Corkhill out in the last race. By some miracle no Pacer marked the committee boat. My thanks to Jack Lockley for providing the committee boat and assisting all day with signalling and photographs, to the shore crew, Heather and Bob Wilson, Alison Wheaton and Leanne O'Brien and to Malcolm Fergusson and Ben Morice for operating the rescue boat.



**Bruce and
Frances
showing how
it's done!**

Here's to mucking around in boats!

Tim Geard

Rear Commodore's Report:



It's been rather a long time since our last Bay Spray and a lot has happened on the Club social scene. Perhaps that's one of the reasons it's taken me so long to get around to this issue of our newsletter (or perhaps I've just been too lazy!)

As you may remember, I'm actively seeking some-one to take over the Rear Commodore's role and responsibilities. That does not mean that the next person would have to actually create future Bay Sprays, just find some-one to do it. Alternatively, if you can see yourself putting together future newsletters but don't want to be Rear Commodore, please let me know. The roles can be separated.

Events were:

- **The Opening Day sail-past and barbecue:** a lovely afternoon on the bay in brisk conditions and a friendly get-together afterwards to get the boating season off to a good start. Thanks to Ron Bugg for being our official "salute-taker" on the day.
- **The Seafarers Memorial Luncheon:** once again hosted in our Clubrooms. Thanks to Sylvia Elphinstone and her team for their organisational efforts.
- **Trivia Night:** another wonderful and sometimes hilarious evening of questions, answers, activities and antics. About 60 people participated. Thanks to Jane Forbes (my partner in crime) for continuing to co-host this highlight of the Club social calendar
- **Christmas Dinner:** a new and outstandingly successful way to celebrate Christmas at the Club. In 2024, we provided a free dinner for any Club members and their guests who booked. Approximately 60 people took advantage of the offer and were treated to an amazing array of delicious Christmas fare. Thank you to Alison Wheaton and the rest of the social committee (Heather, Pam, Sue and Carol, Alison's mum) for what was a super-human catering extravaganza. The bar has been set very high indeed.
- **The Pacer Challenge:** this year's competition at Raspins Beach was possibly the best so far with all six Pacers out in ideal conditions and some first-time competitors taking part. Thank you to Heather Wilson for her provision of the lunch-time sausage sizzle, ably assisted by Alison. Congratulations to the Palmers for winning the series (once again) by the narrowest of margins—one point!!
- **Post-race barbecues and gatherings** during the first Twilight and Pennant series.

Our Clubrooms have also been put to good use by some of our members who continue to use them for meetings (eg Happy Hour Book-club) and private functions (eg High tea for an 85th birthday celebration). Don't forget that any member, by negotiation with the Rear Commodore and Committee, can use the Clubrooms for non-commercial purposes. All we require is your guarantee that you will leave things as you found them.

Leanne O'Brien

East Coast Classic



Madiba was provisioned and loaded up ready to go to Schouten Island for the annual East Coast Classic. The weather was looking favourable and so we set off after lunch on Thursday 16th planning to overnight in Okehampton Bay and have a shorter trip up the following day.

But what is the saying....best laid plans of mice and men.....

We were tucked up by the beach ready for the 'gentle' Westerly that was forecast, all very pleasant and fast asleep

when at 11.30pm the anchor chain started making a noise and we could hear wind coming...not from the W...but the SE. We decided we had better move and decide what to do....Darlington?...home?. It was a bright moonlit night and as we had 15-20K from the SE decided the sensible thing would be to get going north. It was quite lumpy at times but we were getting an average 6.5kn and so in the end a good option and sailed all of the way. It was a relief though to come round the corner into the passage and drop anchor in Morey's Bay at 3am.

Thankfully our stay was uneventful after that, we had lovely weather, no strong winds needing us to hunker down, our quota of flathead and one crayfish. Sadly, we didn't see anyone else from the Club, but someone may have arrived after we left to come home. In fact, it was very quiet considering the time of year and the most that were ever anchored were eleven boats one night.

For those who have been with us in previous years, they will remember that twice we have picked up a submerged long tree trunk on our anchor. Well we didn't do that thank goodness but on the last morning as Roy retrieved the pot, no cray, but an enormous Conger eel. It was awkward to release him at the boat and so the pot had to be taken ashore and sort him out there. Not an easy task with his good 2m length and sharp teeth.

Once again, a lovely visit to a special part of our Island!

Roy & Jane - Madiba

P.S. We have it on good authority that *Sagittarius* was heading to Schouten Passage over the Australia Day long weekend as well. Did anyone else go?

Right: not many members participated in the East Coast Classic this year. Here is **Deseado** on Sunday, part of a stunning backdrop for some after-dinner beach cricket on Chinaman's Bay beach (the alternative East Coast Classic!).

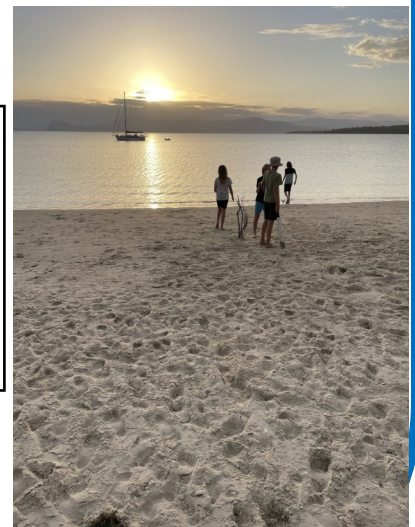


Photo Gallery



Above left: Leanne, Alison and Carol (Alison's mum visiting from the US) at the Pacer Challenge.



Above right: the six Pacer dinghies in close competition on the day.



Above: a beautiful evening at the SBBC marina at the end of a twilight race.

Right: Ron returning the salute aboard Carolyn V on SBBC Opening Day

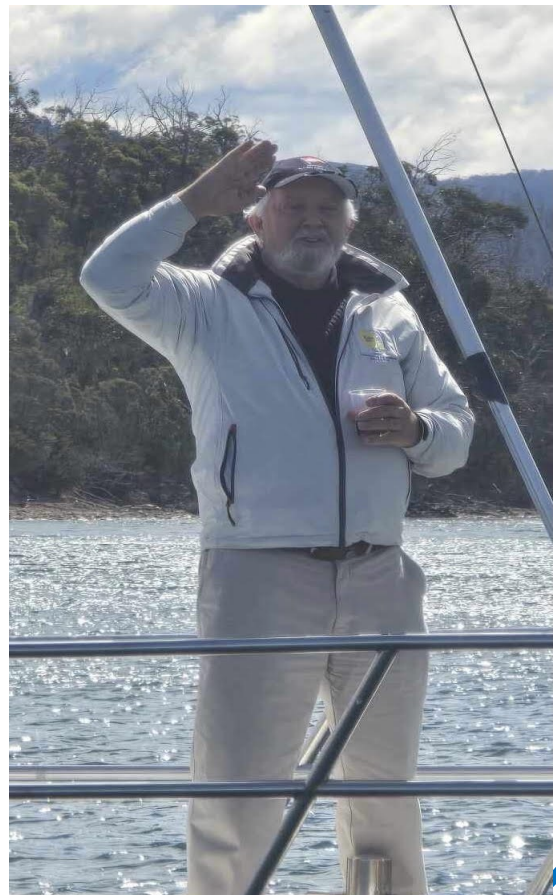


Photo Gallery



More Opening Day shots.

Left: Ray and crew (I think it's Mitch) on board Baiaame passing the official boat.

Right: Sagittarius, with John and multiple guests saluting most appropriately. Is there a load limit on yachts (zoom in)?



Left: I always manage to sneak in a photo of Deseado looking lovely. You can see from the reefed sails and the bunting that the breeze was brisk. Like many other boats on the day, we were pleased to be able to take out members of our family for what is usually a bit of fun, providing a spectacle on the bay.

Photo Gallery



Two more Trivia Night photos.

Left: Annita the mermaid stood out from the other nautically attired characters, mainly pirates and seafarers.

Below: team Kooranya tackling some design dilemmas.

Below left: David and Jon did well in the Pacers, coming third over all.

Below right: Ken and Pete did a great job too (considering neither of them had expected to sail and had only just met). They did have the distinction of being the only crew to tip themselves out. But they came up smiling!

