



What a difference a wiped bottom and a decent sunny day makes! No.... have not taken a high profile in grandparent duties but am referring to yesterday's pointscore race. Beautiful day, nice consistent wind and a very enjoyable few beers on the deck afterwards. Unfortunately we missed the explosive dousing of Rainbow's spinnaker however the anecdotes back at said deck made up for it.

Speaking of spinnakers, Jenny and I left the clubhouse for Fishermans Bay a couple of weeks ago with tinny in tow and spinnaker in it pending repair. When I went to remove it and give it to Jenny to sew a couple of days later...guess what? No spinnaker. No doubt it is now gracing someone's vehicle or mopping up paint, but, if anyone happens to see a rather tatty blue and white spinnaker with tyre tread marks on it. It is mine!!

I decided to surprise Jenny with an early birthday present after this sad event and have secured a new second-hand set of Etchells sails, including a spinnaker, which will be 27 years newer than the ones we use at present



The sails came with an ex officio crew member and pilot!

Anyway, back to the real world.

Not long now to the **Equipment Audits**. We will be holding them on Saturdays and Sundays at the Marina on the weekends of the 12th, 19th and 26th of September by appointment with an Equipment Auditor of your choice. These and their phone numbers are on our website and are also on the notice board at the Clubhouse. Remember, no audit, no entry, no handicap, no starters prize and no plaque!!!

Whilst on the subject, make sure that you obtain a copy of the **Equipment Audit Sheet** either from the Clubhouse or from our web page for your category. There are a lot of changes, one in particular is to the medical kit. Face masks are now required, just in case you have to use mouth to mouth after a tightly contested start, these can be obtained from the Anna Bay Pharmacy for about 10 cents each.

Whilst on the subject, you will need a new **Rule Book**, again, Steve Ryan at Nelson Bay Marine will obtain these for you.

There are a number of alterations and they are great fun to read, so, make sure you get one!!

**Fire extinguisher checks.** These will be arranged as in past years where you can deliver them to the Clubhouse and they will be checked in bulk. We will let you know dates and so forth as soon as we can.

**27 meg radios** are gradually being phased out and we would like to follow suit in the next couple of series, so if you are contemplating buying a new radio, go for a VHF, you can buy a handheld one for about \$185. Having all yachts and the caravan on the one frequency would be a very good safety initiative and would save a lot of confusion in the caravan (What, she said, there is NEVER any confusion in the caravan!!)

**Fees are now due!!!** It is that time of the year again and, as fees are the same as last year, lets have them as soon as possible.

A couple of weeks ago, our starters hoisted the "**Y**" flag prior to the start and after lot of discussion on the water, nearly everyone put their Personal Flotation Device (lifejacket) on. Rule 40 states that ...."PFD's shall be worn etc. etc." We are going to modify this rule (under Rule 86) so that they must be worn whilst the flag is flying. When it is lowered, yachts may be notified by radio as well as sound signal. Wearing one of those infernal devices for a couple of hours in a near calm is not fun!

We will also be obtaining a new "Y" flag! The present one, we believe, was hand embroidered by the aged aunt of one of our founding commodores.

**Don't forget the Annual General Meeting** which will be held at the Clubhouse on Friday the 4th of September at 6.00 pm. This will be followed by a few free beers and a Social Evening so bring along a few sausages and your partners and have a good night.

**Vice Commodore Jim Quinn** has spent the last couple of months working exclusively on the Sailing Instructions for the Summer Series and these will be available on the Web and in the Clubhouse shortly. Make sure you read them!!! They will be a great aid to you in ensuring that you sail the right course, enter in the right series, start on time, wear the right hat and so forth.

**Crew Wanted/available.** Our very skilled and resourceful Webmaster, Stewart Manley, has invented a "do it yourself" crew and boat finder on our webpage. Just under the photo on the main page is a spot for either letting skippers know that you are available to crew or for crews wanted. You can do it yourself very easily. Have a look

I hope you have all firstly, read, and secondly, enjoyed these communications. I have enjoyed writing them just as much as I have enjoyed serving as your Commodore for the last year. I am afraid that I am not as socially minded as some would like but when you are aged and living in the wilds of Fishermans Bay, a trip to Soldiers Point on a dark and windy night does not have a lot of appeal. However, summer is nearly upon us and I will shortly be able to keep my contribution to the Club Bar account up to speed.

See you at the above Bar. *John Way* 0412 493586