

# NOTICE BOARD

Feb. 2005

Quarterly General meeting Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 11.45am.

Victorian Minnow Championships at Parkdale Yacht Club 12 - 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Long Beach Regatta at Frankston Yacht Club Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Wanted volunteer for rescue boat, see Rear Commodore.

(Almost), Free Cobra Catamaran for lease, contact Laurie Bradford.

Cobra state titles at Lake Boga Easter long weekend 25 - 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Committee meetings first Tuesday of the month.

Thanks to the Grimshaw Family, especially Sally & Paul, for the donation of 4 trestle tables. These tables are much easier and safer to handle than our older models.

# Commodore's Report

February 2005

Hi members,

I hope the recent storms haven't blown in any bad luck for you, either as damage to your dwellings or more importantly damage to your boats/ boards. (Some may disagree with the order of priorities). Parkdale seems to be weathering the storms ok, which we are all very grateful for. The insurance companies have just informed me that the recent storms are the worst for more than 100 years. Is this funny weather anything to do with the Tsunami disaster? Has the earth been really knocked off its axis? Who really knows?

Talking about disasters, well not quite a disaster but an act by strange beings, the Kingston Council are proposing to put a bike come walk, come pram or wheel chair track right through our car park. They've told us that we have a non-structured, insignificant car park, which only holds 7 cars. Well hello, who didn't do well at maths in grade 6? Last count I did, was 21 and that didn't include the cars on the gravel verge. We are of course submitting our proposal for an alternative route, which has to be in on the 11/2/05. At the next quarterly meeting, the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb. we will let you know all the details, so please attend the meeting if you are able.

The quarterly meeting will be important because we missed our last one and we have some items that need to be brought to the attention of all our members. Plus, we like to see everyone's smiling faces as much as possible.

In closing I would like to send our special best wishes to two of our long time members and their families Carol O'Loughin and Chris Wells. Everyone at Parkdale Yacht Club wishes you both well and look forward to your speedy recovery.

Best regards

Mal Winder

## CHARLIE STEVENS - A BOATING LIFE

Chas first sailed a Sandwich Sharpie at St Kilda in the late 50's with school friends. I believe bailing was a priority!

Early 60's joined Mordialloc Yacht Club and crewed on a lightweight Sharpie, Reducing the speed slightly. In 1965 Chas built a Heron in the garage of our new abode and we sailed together in 'Chandy' at Mordialloc Yacht Club for several years. Many protests later, resulting from a competitive streak (on the tiller end of the boat!) and "rules were made to be broken" attitude.

Having realized the enjoyment to be had from boat building he built a Mirror dinghy, which still gathers dust in our shed.

Chas sold the Heron in 1970 and purchased, from Jack Ware, (a Parkdale Yacht Club Life Member) a Javelin, 'Jenny'. At that time there was a large fleet of Javelins sailing each week, along with Cherubs, Flying Ants, Kitty Kats, Quickies, Sailfish. Watching the cloud of multi colored spinnakers, on a run, traveling towards the Club was a stunning sight.

Chas built a sailfish (in the lounge room) in 1971 and had much fun sailing after work during the summer.

He built two new Javelins and we had great fun traveling the state at comps, etc. Building new boats was a companionable affair with several sailors building at the same time and exchanging idea, fittings, etc. Many very late nights.

Various pieces of yacht construction monopolized the heater in our family room throughout the winter months. Sometimes an entire hull balanced 6 inches from the

glass! The important question of the day - "has the glue gone off???"

After the class moved to Chelsea, Chas sold his Javelin and bought "Warringa" a 28ft  $\frac{3}{4}$  rigged sloop, a lovely old wooden yacht, we keep at Metung.

Chas rejoined Parkdale Yacht Club when he built a 125 to sail with our daughter, Trina, late 80's and early '90's. There was a good fleet of 125's at that time. He has repaired and rebuilt many and varied small yachts over the years.

Chas has not sailed competitively for several years and is still seeking a crew for 125 as wife refuses to sail with Capt'n Bligh.



At the moment Chas is rebuilding a V.J. discarded by its owner after Parkdale Yacht Club 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1997. This little boat is an example of one of the first yachts sailed at the club. He hopes to sail it at least once. I'm afraid a very strict diet will be required before this happens!

By Andrea Stevens

## "Wild Child" Windsurfer Nationals @ R.G.Y.C

The venue for our Nationals this year was wrestled from the vice like grip of our northern states. It was voted on last year at Mooloolaba, and the "Geelong Skandia week" was chosen as the venue and the host would be Royal Geelong Yacht Club.

Nick Bez organised the sponsorship and pulled together a great sponsor in "Wild Child" who, not only put up a significant amount of cash, but also supplied the event with an endless amount of fruit juice on and off the race course. I must say that a lot of competitors drinking a lot of fruit juice over the five day event have discovered what a laxative it can be!

Fantastic juice and a fantastic sponsor.

The first day of competition began, for some of us, with an interesting meeting with the panel members of the International Jury, in their office, for a lesson on trivia and how important it may be. Then it was on to the race track in Stingaree Bay for three back to back races in very light conditions and all three were won by Jason Morris of PYC, he was looking the goods and would be hard to peg back from here.

The mornings at Geelong tend to be light wind conditions so the Freestyle and Slalom events were run then with the hope of a sea breeze later for course racing.

The overall Men's Freestyle event was won by Derek Couper, a crusty old PYC member from way back showing his board skills are still there.

In the very trying Slalom conditions some heats were decided on one radical wind shift as Nick Bez witnessed, moving from a comfortable lead to a disheartening last in the blink of an eye. Tonia in the women's put in a good show to stitch up a second place in the Slalom ahead of a Sydney girl and Julie Grimshaw.

The event, even though held at RGYC, was completely manned and run by PYC club members and I feel it ran like clock work over the five days. A big effort as always came from Bill Joselin from NSW, the only non PYC person, but we shouldn't hold that against him.

Paul Grimshaw as P.R.O. a huge effort. Nev., Mike Goodwin, Graham Tonkes, Pete Marsh on our rescue craft did another sterling job. Keith Whiteley on Top Yacht assisted by the lovely Yvonne scored nicely. Kezza, Speedie, Mesurier Forster, Gerald, Bobby Ford as event support crew, well done. Bill, Julie and Colena Grimshaw for supporting the support team.

Tonia social director and Mexican evening account policewoman.

Adam Keyes-Tilley for a great trophy presentation and beating the Geelong storm.

Nick Bez the sponsorship master.

Gerry Clarkson for supplying current form information to the bookies and sponsoring Mac.

Quentin G. University student advice and guidance officer.

Jason Morris for beating me!

A huge thank you must go to Steve Mutafis for not competing or being anywhere near Geelong over the regatta period which took a giant work load of all aspects of race management and rescue coordination.

I hope I haven't forgotten anyone.

Lloydie.



*COBRA*  
*PRESIDENTS REPORT*

Now that the Cobra Nationals are over, we can sit back and enjoy a near normal life of sailing again. Firstly, congratulations to all competitors at Lake Cootharaba. Yes, I know we didn't beat the Q'landers (results can be viewed on [cobracat.com](http://cobracat.com)) but everyone enjoyed the experience immensely.(except perhaps for Pete Marsh who had a terrible run of gear failure compounded by bad weather when his boat was useable and the destruction of his camp site by a tropical downpour).

As usual the racing took place in a huge range of wind conditions from 0 - 35 Kts. Unfortunately the sailing instructions precluded shortened courses, and the two light wind races were abandoned when Victorian boats were well in the lead. However, the winning boats did sail well in taking out the Championship, and they are to be congratulated on their success.

The combination of Cobras, Taipans and f18's created some tense moments in the windward / return courses, especially at the gates and I remember vividly two Capricorns with their kites flying doing the wild thing downwind at extraordinary speed whilst fighting for control of their boats, screaming "starboard, get out of the @#%\* way" at me. Suddenly my Cobra felt very slow. But I survived and even though most other Cobra sailors had similar experiences, once we understood the concept of speed differential, we all got on well together. The Taipan association was keen to continue the combined nationals format with us, but as they are in Port Stephens next year, we may not be able to comply.

So once again for everyone who was able to make the long trip north (including the support crews), thanks for keeping the dream alive

Next year our Nationals are to be held in Victoria and the VCCA committee is currently investigating a number of possible venues. It would be a tremendous boost for the Cobra Association to have a large fleet on display. The proposed dates will be between Sat, Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2005 and Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 2006, so Cobra sailors, put that into your diary and start preparing NOW!! To our newer sailors, you don't need to be a top sailor to compete - the competition is as much about developing as it is about winning, and like the state titles it takes place in a comfortable and friendly environment.

Cont. over

Our Lease Boats have had good use this season. Wildcat has been constantly in the water with Eric at the helm, and has now moved on to the Brad's TLC. Welcome aboard to Brad, Sue and family (so certain about their future, they have joined Parkdale as well)- I am sure you will enjoy the experience. Undercover has just come back at the end of it's lease and is currently available. For those who have leased boats in the past and want to continue Cobra sailing (and why wouldn't you?), there are some excellent boats for sale on our website at ridiculously low prices. Now is the time to buy, and if you want information about any of the boats, give me a call before you purchase.

Welcome to the new skippers and crews - Wes (400), Glenn (YO-YO), Dan (who made a brief visit with his newly refurbished boat), Brad (WILD CAT), Meaghan's friend Glenn who has been helping out on the crash boat etc and Kim and Nick who have been showing Colin how to sail. If every Cobra owner showed up at Parkdale on the same day, we would have a fleet of over 25 boats!! - wouldn't that be a memorable sight! Unfortunately it may be some time before Chris Wells joins us again as he is still recovering from his mystery illness. We all wish him a speedy recovery and some of us even miss his jokes? Anyway, feel free to keep in contact with Ali and Chris - they make great coffee!

Our state titles over Easter will again be at Lake Boga. Mike Lander is race secretary, details on the website and don't forget to pay VCCA membership to be eligible for competition (pay Rick). Also note the ongoing requirement for proof of insurance cover to race (ask Mike for details).

A note to our new sailors - come to the state titles and learn to sail well. The titles are a friendly affair (but still competitive) with a strong social emphasis. We camp on the shores of Lake Boga, only a few steps (quick ones if you stand on the 3 cornered jacks) from the yachts. No need to derig/rerig the boats every day, with lots of sailing/talking/diagnosing/tactics discussions/repairing and the occasional drinking taking place. Everyone is welcome!

Speaking of competition, the championship race is wide open, with a number of boats pushing for the lead. Good to see Mal, David and Colin giving the establishment a hard time, with a couple of dark horses set to strike. Only one point separates the leaders at this stage, and if my diet works, I might be able to join them!

So in summary, the Cobras are looking good for the future. My thanks to the hard working committee for making this so and to all of you sailors who show up on Sundays to enjoy our favourite sport. Keep up the good work!

Laurie