

Jubilee Yacht Association (Vic) Inc



President's Report 17th December 2009

The 2008 / 2009 season has seen reduced Jubilee activity.

Ballarat is still suffering the effects of drought and although the Ballarat Yacht Club is to be commended for its efforts in holding membership together, the sad reality is that there will be a mammoth task in rebuilding membership and fleets when there is finally water in Lake Wendouree. Of course, Jubilee will be leading the way!

Brighton has seen reduced fleet numbers and meetings at the end of the season have rekindled interest which has thrived on some very pleasant sailing conditions so far this season. Four- and five-boat fleets are common.

Sorrento successfully conducted the State Titles for 2009 and the Huntingfield Cup will hopefully keep interest alive in the club this summer.

The Huntingfield Cup was again hosted by Royal Prince Alfred and congratulations go to David Bray and his team from 'North of the Border'. Charles Weatherly and Brian Canny took second and third places. As usual, reports of great sailing and social events filtered back to this of us unable to attend/ Three Ballarat yachts, "Sirocco", "Jemima" and "Shiraz" took placing in the State possible as some compensation for not having an sailing at home.

The weather prevented the Rudder Shield being held and unfortunately the Mornington Australia Day weekend appears to have become a thing of the past. Having attended three of these events, I think this is a great shame; and while I recognise that times change and Sorrento have events to keep the boats there over the Australia Day weekend, Mornington was a wonderful and different event and is missed on the calendar.

Many of you present tonight have expressed views at either end of the spectrum on the Clear Sails issue and the referendum that is to be held.

The materials to be provided at the referendum are being circulated tonight and any comments in respect to the should be addressed to your new Committee. It is hoped to have them distributed by yachting Victoria before the end of the year and for the return date to be the end of January.

I personally have no particular view on the Clear Sails issue. I recognise the validity of each side's arguments. What does concern me is that the issue has the potential to polarise views and to fragment our already small class association.

Referendums are good for revenue-raising because they are only available to those who are currently financial! This temporary benefit is lost if the camaraderie which has characterised this Association, and clearly distinguishes it from certain other open keel boats, is in any way damaged. I would encourage every Jubilee owner to participate in the referendum and to do so with the view to moving our Association forward and encompassing everyone's views.

Anyone that has sailed a Jubilee for any length of time will realise that it is possible to achieve good boat speed by different combinations and different equipment. This is the beauty of our class. If you want to sail a Tupperware product which is heavily regulated, buy a laser. The psyche of a person that cherishes and loves his wooden boat will never coincide with that of the laser sailor and the same psyche will not allow a prescription that restricts his or her ability to be creative and to think literally.

We have a great but small Association. Please let us do nothing that would jeopardise it or make it less enjoyable for our fellow sailors.

Jubilee Yacht Association (Vic) Inc



President's Report 17th December 2009

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of the committee members, our honorary auditor, and the clubs that host our events and without whom a successful year would have not been possible.

I would like to finish on a personal note by thanking those members that have assisted me over the last few months when my health has made it very difficult to commit attending any meeting or achieving any deadline. That same reason sees me declining to nominate for any position on the committee in the coming year.

Michael Morrow