



# Signals from Sailability Manly

December 2020

Edition 177

Edited by Heather Mackay

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Sailability Trivia Question  
of the Month

Test your Knowledge!

## End of the Year Wrap-Up by Heather Mackay

As we go to print, the sad news has just been announced that the infamous Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race 2020 is officially cancelled amid Covid-19 concerns. We extend our sympathies to members of the sailing community who were looking forward to the event, or perhaps even preparing to participate. We are shocked by the decision and under the opinion that an alternative solution should have been proposed. This has been a year like no other, however, and it's important that as we hunker down through another Covid-19 wave in the Northern Beaches, we support each other, adhere to all precautions and keep safe.

Just a quick reminder that New Year's Eve Fireworks gathering from the deck of Manly Yacht Club **has been cancelled** due to Covid-19 restrictions. Nevertheless, we will let you know by email if any last minute changes arise.

On the brighter side, Holiday Season is upon us which is a time for giving, receiving and showing gratitude. On behalf of the Sailability Manly team, we thank you for your participation and continued patience over the year with our ever changing and restricted schedule. Thank you again to our Sponsors, the families, carers, volunteers and members, both new and old.

We truly hope everyone has a warm and wonderful summer break! All the best to you and yours for a Blessed Aussie Christmas, a Merry Hanukkah, a Happy New Year and an environmentally conscious, socially responsible holiday. We look forward to rolling in a new sailing year in 2021 and hope to see many new faces, as well as our hold-steady members.



## Sailability Manly December Committee Meeting

We are thrilled to welcome two new members onto our Committee. Heather Mackay is our new **Signals** Editor, who we introduced in the November 2020 Newsletter. Caroline Holdstock (whom many of you will remember from our Committee in the years before 2018) had taken up various roles including Race

Officer, helping with our Volunteer Recognition Evenings, achieving her Safety officer on Charlie's Chariot, and participating in regular sailing days for many years before she went overseas to help her brother who has since passed away.

Welcome aboard, Heather and Caroline!



Caroline Holdstock



Heather Mackay

## Contact Us

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## Dates for your Diary - First Half of 2021

**Australia Day, Tuesday, 26 January 2021:** An exciting Public Holiday and the prestigious **Australia Day Regatta 2021**. Everyone is welcome to join this historic sailing race! The longest running Annual Regatta in the world; it has never been cancelled or postponed. This year will be the 185<sup>th</sup> year it has been conducted in Sydney Harbour on Australia Day. The race runs throughout every little nook and cranny of Sydney Harbour and has spread to other venues over the years since 1837. Please contact Ken Boyes as soon as possible to enter at [krboyes@optusnet.com.au](mailto:krboyes@optusnet.com.au).

**Women's Challenge Regatta, Saturday, 27 March 2021:** Just a few months ago we held our last Women's Challenge, where the winners were Catherine and Savannah in Black Swan. Now calling all female sailors - here is your chance to challenge the last prize winning crew!

**May Regatta, Saturday, 22 May 2021:** Please keep this date free for our exciting May Regatta. More news in upcoming editions of **Signals**.

**Volunteer Recognition Evening, TBD May 2021:** We are planning to hold our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteer Recognition Evening in May, dependent upon Covid-19 restrictions. A wonderful night, always most enjoyable with food, entertainment, prizes, music, companionship and loads of fun! When a date is announced for this event, please keep it open in your diary.

## Sailing Dates - January through May 2021

Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup> January	Booked Groups, General sailing
Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup> January	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup> January	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Tuesday	26 <sup>th</sup> January	Australia Day Regatta
Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup> January	Booked Groups, General Sailing (Thanks for reminding us, Maz from MYC!)
Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Saturday	13 <sup>th</sup> February	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup> February	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Saturday	27 <sup>th</sup> February	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Saturday	13 <sup>th</sup> March	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup> March	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Saturday	27 <sup>th</sup> March	Women's Challenge Regatta
Monday	29 <sup>th</sup> March	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Wednesday	31 <sup>st</sup> March	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Saturday	10 <sup>th</sup> April	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Wednesday	14 <sup>th</sup> April	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Saturday	24 <sup>th</sup> April	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Monday	26 <sup>th</sup> April	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Wednesday	28 <sup>th</sup> April	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup> May	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup> May	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Saturday	22 <sup>nd</sup> May	May Regatta
Wednesday	26 <sup>th</sup> May	Booked Groups, General Sailing
Monday	31 <sup>st</sup> May	Booked Groups, General Sailing

**Please note:** We still have vacancies in the Booked Groups Dates. Group Leaders, please take note and contact Jennie Fogarty at [jenniefogarty@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jenniefogarty@optusnet.com.au) for a booking.



## Contact Us

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### **SYSTEMS CO-ORDINATOR:**

Ken Boyes

### **SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE:**

David Webb, David  
Goldner and Denis Linney

### **RACE ORGANISERS:**

Denis Linney and  
Ken  
Boyes

### **MYC REPRESENTATIVE:**

David Webb  
Tel: 0419 555 444



## Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors!

• David Webb: \$1000 for radio and extra bits and pieces
• Betty and Peter Baines: \$500 for membership subsidies and Volunteer Recognition Evening
• Patron: Michael Regan, Mayor of Northern Beaches Council
• Hansa Sailing Systems: \$5000 for seven new sail suits for Invictus Games and then donated to Manly Sailability
• Premier Automotive, Jeff Smit: Boat trailer inspection for registration
• Manly Yacht Club
• Lion's Club of Manly: \$2,000 towards maintenance of Charlie's Chariot
• Warringah Mall Community Club: \$500
• Balgowlah Masonic Lodge: Donation \$3,000
• Bendigo Bank: New Marquee \$1533.40
• Cromer Golf Club: Hansa 303 Black Swan
• Cerno Insurance: Hansa 303 Vin
• Alice Cleary's Running Team, Membership for BIRDS and Royal Far West
• Lynette Gould Ruffled Painting bought Stabulo Equipment
• Federal Government Grant paid for First Aid Courses
• Northern Beaches Council supplied Parking Permits for our volunteers
• Northern Beaches Council Grant for radios and radio training, \$1650.00
• David Goldner and David Webb: improvements to storage, trolleys, cupboards

## The Committee of Sailability Manly 2020 / 2021

Volunteer Co-ordinator: Eli Demeny, Warwick Mackenzie	Maintenance: David Webb, David Goldner and Denis Linney
Volunteer Roster: Warwick McKenzie	Systems Co-ordinator: Ken Boyes
Race Organiser: Denis Linney and Ken Boyes	Social Committee: Jackie Morgan, Ragnild Purcell
Systems Co-ordinator (including Covid-19 Officer): Ken Boyes	SNSW Rep: Eli Demeny
Sailing Groups Co-ordinator: Jennie Fogarty	Signals Editor: Heather Mackay
Committee Members: Warwick Mackenzie, Jackie Morgan, David Webb, Ragnild Purcell, Denis Linney, Eli Demeny, Ken Boyes, Alan Bimson, Jennie Fogarty, Heather Mackay, Caroline Holdstock	

**November Sailability Trivia Question:** *Where did Sailability first appear in NSW Australia?* **Answer:** Gosford, NSW in April 1995.

**December Sailability Trivia Question:** *In what year did Sailability Manly start up?*



# Sailing Reports



## Wednesday, 9 December 2020 - A Truly Fabulous Wednesday

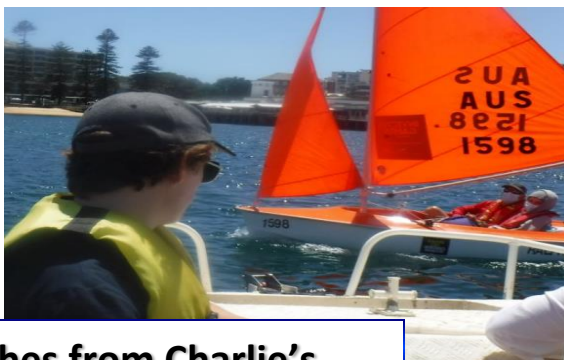
Something was in the air again! Almost blown away by the last few days of strong winds, Sailability Manly surfaced again on a perfect sailing day, along with our wonderful Wednesday team of volunteers.

Denis, Helen, Ken, Rob, Ragnhild and Luke arrived bright and early to put seven boats out because we were expecting five to six people with a disability, as well as 22 volunteers, some who needed a bit more training before certified as competent. One by one, the others walked in, until our full complement was there. John W, Eli, Caroline, Wilma, Warwick, Heather, Jennie, Michael, Corey, Jim, Ivan, John B, Peter, and Helene took their places either in the Hansas, on Charlie's Chariot or on the pontoon. Charlie's Chariot, which had been not quite securely enough tied to the deck, took off on a journey of his own before being spotted by the eagle eyes of Ken and Warwick. Ken and Rob hopped into a rigged Hansa and caught him before he rammed any of the moored boats, to be quickly motored back to the pontoon.

Slowly, our participant sailors arrived for their sail. Jack took off with Rob in Vin and had a very leisurely sail around Manly Cove. Monique arrived next with Natalia, then the Sargood crew, and Ken, under the watchful eye of Jake, who took off with Jim looking like a masked ranger in Black Swan. Later, Ben also had a sail with Jim.

Rob brought Jack back for a ride in Charlie's Chariot and swapped sailors to Limor. Limor's son, Shalev also had a sail close to Mum, but with great speed and lots of leaning over the side. Kel arrived with Harrison and Harrison's twin brother, James. James is learning to sail so that he will be able to take Harrison for a sail sometime in the future, and Harrison's priorities are to sit comfortably in the boats and enjoy the ride. Anthea, (otherwise known as MUM) and her oldest son, Rex, took off in Charlie's Chariot so that they could watch this spectacle. The whole family took advantage of this beautiful day and sailing experience.

Today certainly got the vote of the best days sailing this year, even beating those warm November days! Everything was packed away in cooperation of everyone and some had fun wetting each other under the hose, while spraying down the boats. Special thanks to Helen and Wilma, who coped with collecting all of those signatures and contact details, passing out masks and then sanitising our used equipment. And of course a big hats off to Corey, who expertly managed the radio and recorded the times of boats that were out and about in Manly Cove.



**Brother watches from Charlie's Chariot as Harrison and John sail in Ralph Newman**



**Jim and Ben in Black Swan**



**Sharing Manly Cove with us**



**Monique and John in Ralph Newman**

# Meet the Committee

## Alan Bimson - Sailability Manly Webmaster



### **Sailability Manly Volunteer of the Year Award Recipient**

Please meet Alan Bimson, a valued Volunteer, Committee Member and our Webmaster for Sailability Manly. Alan has just celebrated a milestone birthday, turning 70 on December 15. We are very fortunate at Sailability Manly to benefit from Alan's vast computer expertise! As a special treat, Alan agreed to be interviewed for the December 2020 **Signals** Newsletter. Please read on to learn more about his fascinating life.

Delivered in 1950 at Royal North Shore Hospital in St. Leonard's NSW, Alan became disabled only a few minutes after birth with Cerebral Palsy. When asked about challenges he has faced, he humbly replied, "Name me one human on this planet who has never had challenges? They all accumulate to make us who we are. I fear a life without them!" Alan has enjoyed living in the beautiful Northern Beaches, residing in both Narrabeen and Frenchs Forest over the years. He went to school from 1954 to 1966 at the

Spastic Centre Queen St. in Mosman. His impressive array of subjects studied include Tech ED., Radio Trades/Electronics, Data Processing, Supervision Management, Programming in "C", COBOL, UNIX, Machine Code and HTML. He also earned an IT Certificate and an Associate Diploma in IT and Business Management.

Alan grew up involved with the Spastic Centre, which is now the Cerebral Palsy Alliance (CPA). He also has experience serving on many community living/housing boards. In his spare time, he was involved with a community disability radio program at Macquarie University called, "Wheeling Free." Over the span of six years, he worked there in various capacities such as reporter, panel operator, producer and director.

Alan heard about Sailability from his Hydro Physiotherapist (repeatedly) until he finally decided to book a try-out in August 2008. On that first go when sailing out past the Skiff Club, Alan turned to his Skipper and said, "Okay, how do I sign up?" He was hooked! Only just two years later, Alan had competently learned to sail solo. When asked what he has gained from sailing he answered, "The ability to relax and Zen out; I'm a solo person and being out there on my own, with the lapping water and breeze – it's GREAT!" He became a member of Sailability Manly on his first day and was recruited to join the Committee only six months later. Alan took on the Webmaster role at that time and also serves as a Sailability NSW representative and Consulting NSW Webmaster.

Throughout his years of membership and service to Sailability Manly, Alan has been recognised with two awards. He received the Volunteer of the Year Award (pictured above) for development of Training Videos he edited and produced with Judy Cole, and he earned the Most Improved Sailor of the Year Award. Alan also once came in first place, winning the 2.3 class at the Dobroyd Sailability Regatta. When asked how volunteering has impacted him, he answered, "Since I've been retired, volunteering keeps my brain active." Alan's other hobbies include electronics, music (mainly instrumentals) from 45 to 90's, researching the Internet and collecting models of cars he has previously owned.

Alan is truly an inspiration to us all! His closing message to Sailability members: "Be true to yourselves."

