

December 2025

Edition 224

Edited by John Weaver

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## Notes from the Editor

Our Christmas Regatta marked the conclusion of sailing activities for 2025 and allowed participants to come together and celebrate the season on the water.

As 2025 draws to an end we would like to extend our heartfelt wishes to each of you and your families for a very merry Christmas season, and a happy, prosperous and fulfilling 2026. We look forward to continuing to work together in the year ahead, ensuring that our participants have lots of fun on the water. Your support and involvement is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to achieving even more together in the coming year.

## December Photo Board



You can find full reports about each of our past sailing dates on our website, along with a selection of photographs, under LATEST NEWS.



## Christmas Regatta

The morning began under cloudy skies with occasional drizzle, and notably, there was no wind. Competitors prepared their boats, embracing the festive spirit by adorning themselves and their vessels with decorations. *Vin* featured flashing lights on the boom, and a Santa Claus figure, decorated sails and carols playing from *Black Swan* added to the cheerful atmosphere.

Warwick provided a brief overview of the day's proceedings and, before the races began, all participants paused for a moment of silence, honouring the victims of the recent tragedy in Bondi. Bruce and Pam, once again serving as race officers, ensured the event ran smoothly, with Bruce giving an extensive briefing before the boats entered the water.

The start of the race was delayed due to the lack of wind. Once underway, competitors experienced a slow drift around the course. The usual 20-minute time limit per race was set aside, and only one race was completed, lasting one hour and nine minutes before the first boat finished. *Woody*, crewed by Denis and Nola, was the first to reach the top mark, followed by David and his daughter Juliette in *Alex Martin*, then *Eli D* with Jonathan and Skye. *Eli D*'s achievement was particularly notable, as she crossed the start line last and on port tack – an interesting racing tactic!

Warwick and Ken in *Helen Hendry* initially rounded the top mark in third place but touched it, requiring her to re-round. This mishap dropped them from third to last place.



(continued on p3)

## Christmas Regatta

(continued from p2)

After a lengthy drift around the course, *Woody* finished first, followed by Rob and Clare in *Dolly Wallace*, *Eli D*, *Alex Martin*, John and Jess Pens in *Black Swan*, Michael and Ros in *Ralph Newman*, and then *Helen Hendry*. The tinsel wind indicators on *Vin's* boom proved more of a hindrance than a help so Jackie and Jenny withdrew from the race and did not finish – but did manage to execute their 360-degree penalty turn first.

Despite the lack of wind, a great day was enjoyed by all who participated and a key part of the success of the day was the professional management of the race by Bruce, and Pam Davis. Support was provided by John W, Vince, Joe and Guy on *Charlies Chariot* with Cecelia taking some great photos.

Following the race, everyone gathered on the dock to enjoy a barbecue and sandwiches provided by Nola. Many thanks to Guy for cleaning the BBQ and Cecelia for cooking the sausages. Presentations were made to the winners of the sailing, and the extensive commitment in decorating *Black Swan* was rewarded with the inaugural festively dressed award. John P's aim was always to be on the winner's dais in some manner, and he succeeded. Despite the challenging sailing conditions, all competitors appeared to enjoy the day and contributed to a successful regatta.





## A Farewell to Sophie and Petra

### Sophie Lintvelt: A Lasting Contribution to Sailability Manly

Sophie Lintvelt has been an integral part of the Sailability Manly team for over four years. Her involvement began in Year 9, when she first joined Sailability Manly as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award program. Through her dedication and ongoing commitment to helping others, Sophie not only completed the Bronze level, but ultimately achieved her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.



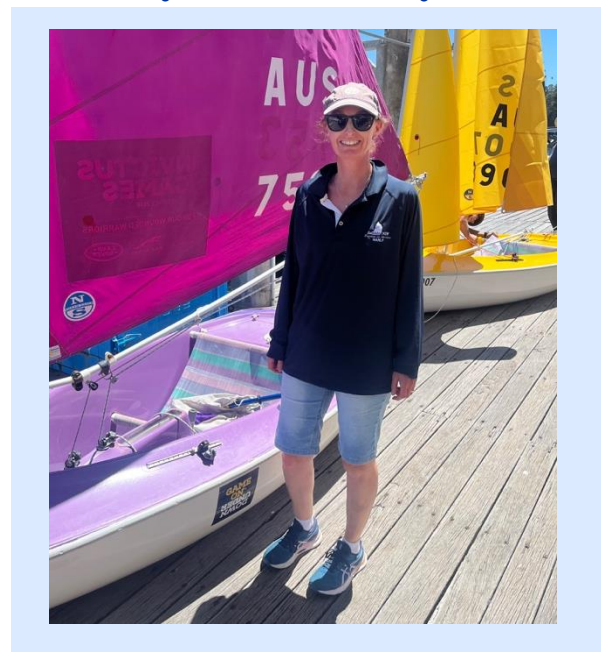
In addition to her volunteering, Sophie has distinguished herself as a remarkable sailor, enjoying considerable success including multiple regatta victories, including the prestigious Australia Day Regatta. Sophie's dedication and positive influence was recognised when she was named Sailability Manly's Young Volunteer of the Year in 2023 and 2025 and Sailor of the Year in 2024.

Having recently completed her Higher School Certificate, Sophie is moving to Queensland to study Chemical Engineering and Commerce at the University of Queensland, with an ambition to pursue a career in environmental engineering. Sophie intends to remain involved with Sailability through Sailability Manly, in Queensland, and the Lintvelt family's connection to Sailability Manly endures as Sophie's mother, Julie, has become a volunteer with us.

### Petra Bedacht: Leaving a Mark on the Sailability Community

For just over two years, Petra Bedacht has contributed as a valued volunteer at Manly Sailability, following her move to Australia with her husband and two sons. While her husband worked in Sydney, Petra became an active member of the Sailability community, however with her husband's work in Sydney now complete, the family will soon return to Munich, Germany.

During her time with Sailability Manly, Petra developed her own sailing skills and was named Improved Sailor of the Year in 2025. Her sons have also become skilled sailors, a passion they will continue to enjoy on the lakes around Munich.



### Warm Wishes for the Future

We extend our warmest wishes to Sophie and Petra and her family as they embark on their next chapter and remain deeply grateful for all they have contributed to our sailing community.

For **groups of up to 8**, you can book quickly and easily via our website!

Go to [www.manlysailability.com.au](http://www.manlysailability.com.au) and click on BOOKINGS.

Choose your sailing date from the list and complete the form with your details.

For **larger group bookings** (more than 8) please reach out to Eli. ([demenyeli@gmail.com](mailto:demenyeli@gmail.com))

**Check our website on the day of your booking** to confirm if sailing will be going ahead under current weather conditions

Our **Saturday sailing dates** are often the least busy, so can be a great option for a relaxed morning of sailing.



## Upcoming Sailing Dates

All of our sailing sessions start at 9am and have a 'last sail' time of 11.30am.

Saturday	3 January	<i>Fully booked</i>
Wednesday	7 January	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	17 January	<i>Bookings available</i>
Monday	26 January	<i>Australia Day Regatta</i>
Saturday	7 February	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	11 February	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	21 February	<i>Bookings available</i>
Monday	23 February	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	7 March	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	11 March	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	21 March	<i>Helly Hansen Women's Challenge</i>
Wednesday	25 March	<i>Bookings available</i>

## Upcoming Special Events

### Australia Day Regatta

Monday 26 January 2026

The prestigious Australia Day Regatta will be held on Monday 26 January 2026.

The goal is to have all eight boats competing, so we encourage anyone who is available and interested in joining the event to get involved.

If you would like to be part of the Australia Day Regatta, please get in touch with John by emailing him at [jweaver172@gmail.com](mailto:jweaver172@gmail.com) or calling 0413 507 596.

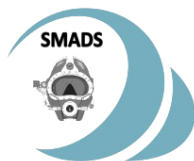
## Our Generous Sponsors



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