

October 2025

Edition 222

Edited by John Weaver

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Notes from the Editor

Earlier this month a farewell for Helen Hendry was held at Manly Skiff Club, with her children and many members of Sailability Manly in attendance. It was a tender and fitting farewell and celebration of Helen's life and her achievements.

Due to Manly Yacht Club hosting the Manly Cup youth keelboat regatta in November, our Christmas Regatta will be held on Saturday 20 December. One skipper space is yet to be filled so if you would like the challenge please let John Weaver know.

October 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.

A Farewell for Helen — by Clare Archer

The wake for Helen Hendry took place on Thursday, October 2nd at the Manly Skiff Club, attended by more than 50 of her family, friends and members of Sailability. The event was a simple and heartfelt gathering, just as Helen had requested, with no fuss or formality.

Helen's eldest son Peter shared a touching eulogy that reflected on her life, describing her as a loving, kind, and selfless presence. He also recounted anecdotes from Helen's younger days when she spent time living and working Europe. While working with the Australian High Commission, she was sent to Scotland and, to her surprise, was introduced by the local mayor as "Miss Australia"—a playful ruse that everyone in the town happily went along with in those pre-internet days.

Following Peter's words, Eli from Sailability Manly spoke about Helen's decades of dedication to the organisation, after being introduced to it by her husband. Helen duly acquired her power boat license and spent many a morning behind the wheel of *Charlie's Chariot*, and later took over the role of membership secretary. In a fitting tribute, Warwick announced that Sailability Manly would be naming their new boat *Helen Hendry*, in her favourite colour - yellow - ensuring her legacy sails on in the community she loved.



A large group of family and friends gathered at the Manly Skiff Club to farewell Helen.

Helen's children Bronwyn, Peter and Adrian reminisce about their mother.

Eli outlined Helen's involvement with Sailability Manly and the wider community.

October Highlights

Skye FitzPatrick - our sun-chasing volunteer



It seems our very popular and long serving Irish volunteer Skye FitzPatrick is a sunseeker and spends the winters as a member of Sailability Whitsunday, one of 15 Sailability clubs operating in Queensland.

Sailability Whitsunday is based at the Whitsunday Sailing Club, situated on the Point in Airlie Beach, and enjoys unbridled views of Pioneer Bay and Iconic Whitsunday Island – what a perfect location for sailing!

Skye joined Sailability Whitsunday in July 2021 and sails every available Tuesday morning while she's up north. Boats are stored in a shed on the grounds of the sailing club, and a quad bike is used to tow the boats from the shed to the jetty.

So, when Skye goes missing from Manly during the colder winter months remember that this girl from bleak Ireland has gone chasing the sun and the warmth.

Above: Skye sailing on the beautiful Whitsunday waters with a client.

Left: Skye with a client of Sailability Whitsunday



Left: Driving a Hansa 303 back to the shed from the jetty launching area



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

Go to
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)

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.

Monday	27 October	<i>Fully booked</i>
Saturday	1 November	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	5 November	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	15 November	<i>Family and Supporters Day</i>
Wednesday	19 November	<i>Fully booked</i>
Monday	24 November	<i>Fully booked</i>
Wednesday	10 December	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	13 December	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	20 December	<i>Christmas Regatta</i>
Saturday	3 January	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	7 January	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	17 January	<i>Bookings available</i>

Upcoming Special Events

Family & Supporters Day

Saturday 15 November 2025

This is our opportunity to thank our generous sponsors for their continued support, as well as a chance for your family to experience and understand the contribution you make to Sailability Manly as a volunteer. So please invite family members to come along, to meet your fellow volunteers and enjoy a sail on Manly Cove.

On the day we will officially launch our new Hansa 303, *Helen Hendry* so please come along to honour Helen and her contribution to Sailability Manly.

Our Generous Sponsors



Community Bank
Freshwater



Lions Club of Manly



BALGOWLAH

Committee Members & Key Contacts

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