

July 2026

Edition 230

Edited by John Weaver

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Notes from the Editor

The Manly Sailability Annual General Meeting was held earlier this month and office bearers elected for the next 12 months. An updated list of Committee Members and key contacts is listed on page 6. At that meeting it was unanimously approved to make David Webb a life member of Manly Sailability.

Last month, representatives of Manly Sailability attended celebrations in Newcastle marking 30 years of Sailability NSW, at the Anniversary Dinner and Annual Conference.

Please note that Sailability will not be sailing from 2 August until 29 September, while the Many Yacht Club wharf is being rebuilt.

July 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.

Our new life member – David Webb

At the recent AGM Sailability Committee meeting it was proposed by President Warwick McKenzie, and fully endorsed by the entire committee, that David Webb be made a life member of Manly Sailability.

David first began volunteering with us, over 20 years ago, and over the years just about all the equipment we use at Manly Sailability has – at some point – been either built, fixed or improved by David, as our resident engineer and handyman. David knew he could contribute more than just his skill as a sailor and, over the years, has built trollies, overseen the ongoing repairs and maintenance of our sailing boats and *Charlie's Chariot* and, with carpenter David Goldner, built store-room cupboards, a registration table and mobile rack for the lifejackets.

David has had a lifelong love of boats and the ocean. He moved to Sydney at age 17 to study marine engineering, which is when he bought his first dinghy with a mate and learned to sail. He later worked for a naval architect, and his career took him to sea for many years, where he worked his way through all the maritime qualifications. When he retired, Sailability seemed like the perfect way to combine his love of sailing and his desire to help people and give back to the community – a community that often supported his own family while he was away at sea.

We're very lucky to have in David someone with a wealth of sailing expertise, the kind of brain that spots a problem and solves it, and the warmth and generosity to enjoy helping others. In September 2023 David was recognised in State Parliament for his contribution to the community, by The Honourable James Griffin MP who delivered a Community Recognition Statement, acknowledging the great work David does for the community through Sailability,

Congratulations David on your well-earned recognition as only the second life member of Manly Sailability.



David enjoying a joke with Jackie



Manly Sailability's two life members enjoying a sail together

Sailability NSW marks 30 years of Freedom on the Water

Celebrating Three Decades of Inclusive Sailing

Last month, Sailability NSW Inc, celebrated its 30th anniversary—highlighting three decades of giving everyone the chance to participate in the sailing community, regardless of ability. As with all 70+ Sailability branches nationwide, Sailability NSW is driven entirely by volunteers.

Anniversary Dinner and Conference Highlights

The 30th Anniversary dinner was hosted at Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club, where approximately 120 guests from 25 branches across NSW came together to mark this significant milestone.

Representatives from Manly Sailability included Warwick McKenzie, Michael Bennett, Ken Boys and John & Kerry Weaver. The following day, a conference was held with 70 branch representatives in attendance.

During the festivities, branch members who had devoted 10, 20, or 30 years to the organisation were honoured with commemorative recognition-of-service pins, including Manly Sailability's Eli Demeny (30 years), Corey Nicholls, Helene Francois, David Webb and Denis Linney (20 years) and Warwick McKenzie, Michael Burnett and John Weaver (10 years).

Special Guests and Recognition

Many special guests were recognised for their years of dedicated service, including Denis Critchley, president of the first Sailability branch in Gosford; Chris Mitchell of Hansa Systems, and accomplished sailors Wendy Evans, Lindsay & Maria Dalmon, and Maryanne Ireland.

Recent Paralympian sailor Ame Barnbrook, NSW MP and Paralympic medallist Liesel Tesch AM, and former Sailability publicity officer Graeme Adam (2004–2018) were also present.

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Guests at the 30th Anniversary Dinner



Manly Sailability representatives, Kerry, Warwick, Michael and Ken. Clare was the Chairperson and MC for the Conference



Specialist speakers presented on a range of important topics at the Conference

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Conference Speakers and Discussions

The agenda and line-up of speakers at the conference was of a high standard. Specialist speakers included Michael Arico on boat insurance, Tim Micninson from Sailability Victoria discussing sailing simulators, Niall Powers sharing updates from Australian Sailing, and Dr Steven Watson presenting on para-sailing.

Leading branches shared their innovative approaches that have improved the sailing experience for participants, including those with no prior skills.

Looking to the Future

Sailability NSW speakers featured our own Clare Archer who, as Chair of Sailability NSW and MC of the conference, discussed the organisation's new vision and values statement.

According to President John Price, Sailability NSW is stronger than ever and well-prepared to face new challenges. He announced the new vision statement: "Remove all barriers and provide opportunities for everybody to sail, regardless of ability, to participate in the NSW sailing community".

Price emphasised that while inclusion remains a challenge, the organisation is committed to working with all sailing bodies to eliminate the last vestiges of exclusion.



Wendy Evans, a Sailability sailor with over twenty years of experience and living with cerebral palsy, was among the distinguished guests at the 30th Anniversary celebrations. Wendy remarked, "When I'm on the water, I forget my disability. I'm in control and I'm free." This photograph of Wendy sailing a Hansa Liberty during the 2004 IFDS World Championships in Melbourne exemplifies the enduring spirit of Sailability throughout its thirty-year history.

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 Rob (robsoutham9@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 July	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	1 August	<i>Bookings available</i>
No	sailing during	this period
Monday	28 September	<i>Bookings available</i>
Monday	10 October	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	14 October	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	24 October	<i>Bookings available</i>
Monday	26 October	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	28 October	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	7 November	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	11 November	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	21 November	<i>Bookings available</i>

Upcoming Events

A reminder that Manly Sailability will not be sailing after Saturday 1 August until Monday 28 September as the wharf at Manly Yacht Club is being rebuilt, due to decay in the support piers.

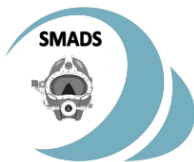
Some participants prefer a ride in *Charlie's Chariot* with their carer to sailing.



Our Generous Sponsors



Lions Club of Manly



BALGOWLAH

Committee Members & Key Contacts

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Maz & Graham Radford
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