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Edited by John Weaver

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## Notes from the Editor

Despite some soggy days this month, there has been plenty going on at Manly Sailability. May marks the month where we pause to recognise the invaluable contributions of all our volunteers – and award those who have gone above and beyond – through our Volunteer Recognition Evening. Traditionally we also mark the end of our racing season with one final regatta, which will decide the winners of the Wayne Black Trophy for the most successful skipper and crew over the three-regatta series. Although the coming months will see fewer sailing days, we'll continue to bring freedom on the water to as many folks as possible through the winter. Happy sailing to all!

## May 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.



## Volunteers Recognition Dinner

A wonderful evening was enjoyed by those attending our Volunteer Recognition Evening held recently at Club Totem.

President Warwick McKenzie, as MC welcomed all guests, including Northern Beaches Mayor Sue Heins and David Walton, representing James Griffin.

Following a delicious dinner provided by Club Totem David Webb spoke about the origins and history of Sailability and the formation and development of Manly Sailability specifically, primarily through the hard work and drive of Eli Demeny.

Sue Heins and David Walton then gave short speeches acknowledging the efforts and dedication of all volunteers, including those of Manly Sailability, to the betterment of the community.

The main purpose of the Volunteer Recognition Evening was to recognise the invaluable contributions made by our volunteers – and to award those who have gone above and beyond, and after the speeches Warwick presented the following trophies to our very worthy recipients:

**Volunteer of the Year** : Brian Stitt

**Junior volunteer of the Year**: Sophie Lintvelt

**Sailor of the Year**: Michael Burnett

**Improved Sailor of the Year**: Petra Bedacht

The night concluded with a few words from Warwick, with special thanks to Eli for organising such a successful and enjoyable event.



## A Story about *Alan Wood*, by Alan Wood the Hansa 2.3.

Just a short story about myself, as I am ageing rapidly, and need to get this on paper before it goes out of my memory!

Towards the end of 1995, momentous decisions were being made by a group whose idea it was that everybody should be able to sail, no matter their physical or mental health. They wanted sailing to be possible as a sport for anyone, whatever their physical or intellectual status. So that clever sailor/inventor Chris Mitchell put on his thinking cap and created me, a Hansa 2.3 which everyone can sail, no matter their physical or intellectual condition.

At my simplest, I am just a simple solo sailed craft with a joy-stick for direction; the wind for energy, and a rudder for finding direction. I can also be fitted with a double motor, that can pilot me in any direction or point the sail at any point so that sailing is possible.

I was named *Alan Wood* after one of the principals of the Sailability Branch that had sprung up on Sydney Harbour. Kirribilli was my original home, but this proved too difficult to accommodate the sailors who wanted to sail me, so I was moved initially to Pittwater, then later to Manly, up to Toronto for a couple of years, then back to Manly again.

My first sailor that I knew about was a Hungarian Gentleman called Zoltan, who had been learning to parachute in Canada when he had an unfortunate accident that left him a paraplegic. This meant that he had paralysis from the neck down, with no control from neck to feet. Chris fitted 2 small battery charged motors, one to change the direction of the rudder, the other to manage the sail. Each time I sailed, my batteries were recharged to ensure that I could come back to the starting point. The switch was worked by moving it with a chin switch.

After being stored at Manly, I quickly found a different sailor, as Zoltan had returned to Hungary and was sailing a 2.3 on Lake Balaton. Judith took me over at Manly with a great deal of help from Allan Jones and David Webb, who kept the batteries and motor in prime condition. *(continued on page 4)*



*Chris Mitchell, designer and builder of the Hansa sailboats*



*(continued from page 3)*

Judith sailed me at Manly for many years, also using the original chin switch, until her other interests took over after a few years,.

Then Philip, a young man coping with Muscular Dystrophy took over and quickly became an expert sailor with his use of the 2 motors, kept in good condition by David.

David also changed the chin switch to a hand switch with a sensitive direction finder. This worked well for several years, until Phil's family moved to the Central Coast, so I was moved up to Toronto so that Phill could sail closer to home.

Philip decided to migrate to Denmark, as he spoke Danish, and conditions for people like him are more comfortable there than in Australia.

Once this change was made, Judith took over again, with her original chin switch. All this time, for over 20 years, I was kept in remarkably excellent condition by David, so this has been an excellent partnership. As Judith grows older, however, the sailing has now eased off, and I am missing my sessions sailing on Manly Cove.

Eli Demeny, May, 2025

## Overseas visitor

Recently we were pleased to be visited by Corene, a member of Sailability London. She was in Australia for a brief visit to her parents and came down to Manly Sailability to say hello.

London Sailability operates out of Surrey Quays, at the sheltered Greenland Dock, adjacent to the Thames, and if you are ever in London, please contact Corene at London Sailability, she'd be happy to take you for a sail.



*Judith and Phillip enjoying Alan Wood on Manly Cove*



## Upcoming Sailing Dates

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

Monday	26th May	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup> June	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	18 <sup>th</sup> June	<i>Bookings available</i>
Monday	30 <sup>th</sup> June	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	5 <sup>th</sup> July	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	16th July	<i>Bookings available</i>
Monday	28 <sup>th</sup> July	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	2nd August	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup> August	<i>Bookings available</i>
Monday	25th August	<i>Bookings available</i>
Saturday	6th September	<i>Bookings available</i>
Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup> September	<i>Bookings available</i>

## Upcoming Special Events

### Manly Yacht Club 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Ball

Saturday 6 September 2025

Manly Golf Club

Members and supporters of Manly Sailability are invited to join Manly Yacht Club in celebrating the clubs 75 years of sailing, community and tradition at an evening of dining, music and memories. Formal attire.

So please keep the date free and join our Manly Yacht Club colleagues for a wonderful night of celebration.

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 Jeremy. ([jeremy@tebbutts.net](mailto:jeremy@tebbutts.net))

**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.

## Our Generous Sponsors



## Committee Members & Key Contacts

<b>President Volunteer Coordinator Roster Manager</b>	Warwick McKenzie <a href="mailto:president@manlysailability.com.au">president@manlysailability.com.au</a> <a href="mailto:warwickmckenzie@yahoo.com">warwickmckenzie@yahoo.com</a>
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Sue Marshall
<b>Systems Coordinator</b>	Ken Boyes
<b>Safety/Maintenance</b>	David Webb, Brian Stitt, Denis Linney
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