

Welcome to the summer season!

It wasn't the welcome we wanted on Wednesday 15th. A massive storm threw itself at the lake, seemingly centred on the Sailing Club. Preceded by a huge dust storm as the wind crossed the beaches and the Clay Pits, the wind brought torrential rain and hail, for the good part of an hour. Half the town was blacked out by a tree fall. It was a nightmare. On the beach at the clubhouse, the wind picked up Alistair's cat, threw it at Barney's and then cartwheeled over, breaking the mast and tearing at the hulls, with Barney's mast coming down as well. Alistair's boat was a wreck, Barney's badly damaged. A star picket had been snapped off at ground level as the boat took off. It was a truly scary sight. These boats were securely tied down, but the sheer force of the wind was tremendous. A sad start to the Summer Season. We wish Al and Barney well, and hope they can get back on the water soon.

The Stern Chaser Event is planned for Australia Day, and the NOR has been sent to your email address, and is on the website. For the Event to take place, it needs a minimum of ten boats, and entries close Wednesday 22 January. Starters will be given their start times on Saturday 25 January, if we get the numbers.

The Duty Roster still has gaps! Your Committee is concerned that, for all sorts of reasons, the club does not have the active sailing capacity to fill a complete roster. While we have a small and valuable group of non-sailing volunteers we can't do without, it has become a struggle to have a complete roster. If we can't have a minimum of three volunteering per race (1RO, 2 RIB), then racing becomes problematic, at best.

The Committee has proposed that all sailing members fill a minimum of 1 spot each season, making it 3 spots for the whole season. If this isn't completed, race points will not be counted for that season. The Committee encourages everyone to do 2 spots per season if they can, and take on the RO role when they feel OK about it, and have been on the Start boat for the Start and Finish sequences prior to that.

There's a growing core of sailors feeling good about taking on the RO role, and are happy to help everyone trained up. If we can hold a special hour to go through the role before the race, then we'll advertise this through the club.

The Committee has been looking at our Membership payment list and see there are some outstanding - winter storage, membership and some race fees as well. Would you please check your payment status (there may be an old Invoice in your inbox) and make your payment. Our Treasurer will be sending out some Invoices outstanding at the end of January.

The Flying 11, given to the club by Tony Crowcher, has been put together and is now ready for junior sailors to team up and take her for a spin.

She Sails crew are looking forward to the special She Sails day at Canberra Yacht Club, and we hope to see them active again at our club, on and off the water.

We're always looking for people who would like to help us run the racing! They might be ex-sailors looking to get back on the water, or just those who want to have some time actively working with the racing programme. If you know someone like this, give 'em a nudge! All training will be given, and lots of support and help along the way.

See you on the water!