



Access 2.3s get under way in 2006 Australian Access Dinghy Championships Melbourne



Newsletter

News from the Sailability Australia Committee of Yachting Australia, from state and territory Sailability Associations and Sailability World.
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Full speed ahead for Sailability in 2006

Message from the Chair

Welcome to Sailability Australia Newsletter, aimed at fostering national unity and purpose across our wonderful Sailability movement. Our goals are: to share news and views between the eight state and territory Sailability Associations and Member Yachting Associations; provide feed-back to members from National Sailability Committee and pass on news from Sailability World. Sailability Australia Newsletter will be in a four page electronic format, issues in summer and winter, distributed broadcast-email to 50+ Sailability branches for on-distribution to members, branches, supporters, "friends" and sponsors. Happy reading.

Bruce Dickson
 Chair, Sailability Australia



Sailability Australia Committee at the 2006 Yachting Australia Face-to-face Meeting at Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron. Rear, L to R: Carly Hargraves (YA), John Johnston (SA), Bruce Dickson (Chair), Wyn Treasure (Qld), David Staley (Vic), Gary Martin (NT), Quenton Higgs (Tas), Maryanne Ireland (NSW), Jackie Kay (ex-officio). Absent: Graham White (WA) and Terry Peek (ACT)

It's been a long time coming ... but Sailability Australia's national operational plan will soon be finalized. Sailability Australia was reformed in 2003 as a committee of Yachting Australia under former Yachting Australia President **Bruce Dickson**.

Sailability Australia started the process of developing a National Operational Plan. More work was done during 2005. At the annual face-to-face meeting, further progress was made and the plan is expected to be finalized this year.

Once endorsed by Yachting Australia, the national body should be able to bring a renewed unity of purpose to the Sailability movement. More in the next issue of the Sailability Newsletter.

**Paul Borg and Don Scott
 Winners of Sailor of the Year
 with a Disability. P 4**



Tell us your news

The second issue of Sailability Australia Newsletter will be out in November. If you have news or ideas or want to write a letter, email the editor, Graeme Adam, max 100 words, any images attached, by 1st September to graemeadam@sailability.org



Sailability is the Australian arm of the international Sailability movement with eight state or territory associations. Australian sailors with disabilities are represented nationally by delegates on a Yachting Australia Sailability Committee and internationally through Yachting Australia's membership of Sailability World, the International Association for Disabled Sailing (IFDS) and the Australian Paralympic Committee.

NWIS Paralympics Open Day at Rushcutters Bay



In June the NSW Institute of Sport staged a very successful Paralympics Participation Program in conjunction with Sailability NSW.

According to **Erik Stibbe**, Head Coach Sailing at NSWIS, the aim was to provide an opportunity for Sailability NSW members and the community to experience sailing in the three Paralympic class yachts.

An encouraging crowd of 50 turned up and many tried their hand on the Sonar, the new SKUD18 (both pictured) and 2.4mR. **David Staley** and **Chris Mitchell** came up from Melbourne to assist with the SKUD. Many thanks to SRB President **Stephen Churm** for his hard work on helping prepare for the event. A follow-up event was held in July.

Well done David



David Staley has left his position as Manager for Events and Competition Development at Yachting Victoria to join Access Dinghy Systems as Projects Manager. **Bruce Dickson** says: "We are fortunate that David will maintain a high level of involvement with Sailability as secretary for Sailability Victoria and Victorian delegate to the national body." David will also act as EO (Hon) for the new Australian Access Class Association. **Phil Jones**, CEO Yachting Australia: "David made a huge contribution to sailing in Victoria and continues to do so nationally."



Duo blitz international



Paul Borg (Sailability Gippsland Lakes, Vic) and **Kylie Forth** (Sailability@RPYC in Perth) have won the 2006 International Match Racing Championships for Blind People in Italy.

This is the second year for Borg, having won last year sailing with countryman **Don Scott** from Sailability Dobroyd, in Sydney. He was also runner up in 2003. 20 year old Forth, lives 2,500 kilometres from Borg. They had not trained together before Italy. The combination preserved a perfect record throughout the round robin.

New Sailability leaflets

A beautiful new double-sided DL leaflet has been produced for state Sailability associations and branches by Yachting Australia's Sailability Coordinator Carly Hargraves. A useful tool for promoting membership, volunteers and support.

Focus on ...

Sailability Tasmania



Sailability Tasmania Inc. is a lively band of enthusiasts based in Hobart and Launceston. Founded in 1994, both branches have weekday and weekend sail days.

In addition, there are special days for Camp Quality and Giant Steps. What makes Sailability Tasmania special is the creation of a fleet of four Payne 24s (known at Sailability Rushcutters Bay and elsewhere as Salvo 24s) along with Access dinghies.

The Paynes were built as part an award-winning project within the Work for the Dole Scheme. David Payne of Sydney designed the yacht for sailors with a disability – hence the name. One is shown here on the Derwent River Hobart.

Emphasizing the value of volunteering, President **Bob Silberberg** said "Sailability is an important part of yachting. Nobody knows if or when they may suffer a disability. So it is important that we help."

Skateboarder to cross Australia to help Sailability

6000 kms from Perth to Brisbane to create new world record



Learn more about BoardFree at
www.boardfree.co.uk

Warming up for the big one...Dave Cornthwaite en route during his top to bottom run in UK

Three months after completing his record-breaking UK journey, crazy 26 year old Dave Cornthwaite is due to start his 6000km epic skate from Perth (around 25th August) to Brisbane via Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. If successful, the journey will break the current world distance skating record by 1600km. Dave expects to arrive in Brisbane around Christmas (2006!)

This Australian journey is the second leg of a charitable initiative called BoardFree, which Dave Cornthwaite himself founded in June 2005. Dave took up skateboarding in March 2005. Fourteen months later, in June this year, he became the first

person to skate the 1448 kms length of Britain. For the Aussie leg, BoardFree aims to raise funds and awareness for three charities; Sailability Australia, Link Community Development and the Lowe Syndrome Trust.

Dave hopes that Sailability branches near his route will stage fund-raising events. BoardFree is supported by celebrities such as global sailor Ellen MacArthur, and singer Xavier Rudd. Details on www.boardfree.co.uk or email Kate Goodanew (Dave's cousin and Sailability Rushcutters Bay dedicated committee member) at kate.goodanew@performis.com.au

Queen's Birthday Honour to Jackie Kay

Jackie Kay has been appointed a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia, "for services to people with disabilities through the Access Dinghy Foundation and Sailability Australia". For more than ten years, Jackie Kay has devoted her life to developing opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in recreational and competitive dinghy sailing.

Despite acquiring Multiple Sclerosis in the mid eighties, Jackie has poured enormous energy into breaking down barriers. She is delegate to Sailability Australia, a board member of Sailability World Inc. a member of the International Foundation for Disabled Sailing (IFDS) Development Committee.



Compass Points

Sailability News from North, South, East and West

Sailability ACT invite sailors with an intellectual disability to the Special Olympics National Regatta 17-19 Nov, the inaugural event to select an Australian national team at an elite level for more disadvantaged of our sailing community.
terrypeek@bigpond.com

Sailability@RPYC's Mike Rowney Round Australia Challenge detoured to East Timor in May to promote his wheel-chair campaign.

Yachting Australia is now a member of Sailability World Inc. **Jackie Kay** and **David Staley** are members of the Board. Sailability World was formed mid 2005.

Sailability Gold Coast Racing Team is looking for Sailability events and welcomes sailors to join their events at Runaway Bay.

Sabaudia's Cup & IFDS Single Person Dinghy World Championship will be held in Italy Sept 30- Oct 4 featuring Access Dinghies. Contact David Staley. david@accessclass.org

Sailability NSW members have honoured the passing of **Jan Jones**, wife of **Allan Jones** and constant partner in providing sailing experiences for folk with disabilities. Vale Jan.

Sailability South Australia's John Johnston reports Port Augusta is a potential new SA branch. Introductory session has also been conducted at Murray Bridge.

Sailability Qld's Wyn Treasure hopes to establish Rockhampton and Hervey Bay branches as part of Sailability Qld expansion.

Sailability Victoria was a recipient of \$31,500 from the Volvo Ocean Race Prize-giving Dinner Charity Auction.

Yachting Australia's **Carly Hargraves** takes over as Coordinator for Sailability Australia National Committee from **David Staley** (see item on David).

2008 Youth Championships to include sailors with disabilities



In 2008, Yachting Australia's Australian Youth Championship, the pinnacle regatta of youth sailing in Australia, will include racing for Youth Sailors with Disabilities as a joint initiative of the National Youth and the National Sailability Committees. Commenting, **Phil Jones**, CEO, Yachting Australia, said: "Our Paralympic Head Coach **Greg Omay** identified the need for Yachting Australia Paralympic squad to develop a feeder group of talented sailors to the senior program. The first step is to profile youth sailing with disabilities within the Australian Youth Championship event using Access dinghies."

From IFDS Worlds to WA Championships

Thoroughly chuffed after playing a key role in the IFDS World Championships, Sailability WA continues to excel. Sailability@RPYC hosted the WA Access Dinghy Championships in May, with the support of some 20 volunteers including Paralympians **Dunross** and **Harrison**. **Genevieve Wickham** was the winner of the 303 race and **Mike Cull** the winner of the 2.3 event.



Top award to Paul Borg, Don Scott



Paul Borg (l) with Don Scott & HRH the Princess Royal and the trophy

Sailability members featured strongly in the Australian Yachting Awards winners which were announced on the 12th July at a black tie gala dinner in Sydney. The dinner also celebrated the return visit to Australia of the late Sir Francis Chichester's yacht *Gypsy Moth*. The Annual Awards recognise those who have achieved outstanding success in the sport during 2005-2006 and those who have contributed to sport over many years. To win the Sailor of the Year with a Disability Award, **Paul Borg**, steered his way to a win at the 2005 International Match Racing Championships for blind people in Italy, with **Don Scott** crewing.



Don and Paul after their 2005 win in Italy

Sailing single-handed, Paul followed up with a win in the 2006 Access 303 (ISAF recognised class) open division in the Australian Access Class Championship in a fleet of sighted sailors.

Over the past three years, Don Scott has crewed his way to many wins including the Homerus Blind Sailing Event in May 2005 and the NSW Access 2.3 Championship.

Sailor of the Year with a Disability finalists were **Paul Borg (Vic)** and **Don Scott (NSW)**, **Lindsay Dalmon (NSW)**, **Colin Johanson (Vic)**, **Kellyanne Oriel (NSW)** and WA's **Jamie Dunross**, **Colin Harrison**,

Sailability SA to host 2007 Australian Access Class Championships



Easter 2007, the second **Australian and International Access Class Championship** will be staged on the breezy blue waters of Spencer Gulf. Details of the AIACC available on www.access.org. A good trial run for the big one was held over the weekend in April with the running of South Australian Sailability Championships. **Chris Riordan**, Access Liberty champion at the first Australian Championship in Melbourne was again in good form coming first in the Liberty Class.

Media Award to Graeme Adam



YA President Andrew Plympton, HRH Princess Royal and Graeme Adam

What the judges said about the Media Award for Services to Yachting for Graeme Adam: "In his NSW and national volunteer public relations role with Sailability, Graeme Adam has made a large contribution to sailing for persons with disabilities. His efforts have been of significant benefit to Sailability and the Australian Access Dinghy Class Association. Graeme has promoted competitive and recreational Access Dinghy sailing for people with disabilities and 'sailing for everyone'. He has reported and photographed significant events, informing sailing and disability organisations, websites, magazines, newsletters and industry leaders."