



# MYC Sailability Update

30th January 2013

The last 3 months have been very much a rebuilding phase for our Sailability Program, following the passing of Colin Smith earlier last year, and the retirement of Brigitte Swallow (who ran the Sunday Program up to the end of last season). To the credit of all of the volunteers, and the support we have got from Disability Centres, and the wider community, we are happy to report that all of our program days (Wednesday, Friday and Sunday) are back and running strongly. See some stats in support of this further on below.

Our batch of new volunteers that joined us back in October are already adding much value to the program, and will do so even more into the future as they gain more skills and experience. The involvement of staff from the NAB Business Centre in Mornington (under their employee volunteering scheme) has worked well, and we look forward to an ongoing relationship with the NAB.

This past term, the Brotherhood of St. Laurence (Carrum Downs), also known as Nexus Community and Respite Disability Services, joined our Friday program. We now have the pleasure of giving 6 gentlemen from that centre the opportunity of enjoying a day out on the water at Mornington.

The program has continued to receive strong financial support over the past few months from both the Sunshine Foundation, a private philanthropic organisation, and the Rotary Club of Mornington. Also many people mourning the loss of Colin Smith and a long standing member of MYC, Paul David, have been kind enough to donate to Sailability, making a fitting tribute to their lost colleague.

Some interesting stats on the season thus far:

Across the mid week program, we are averaging ~25 participants each day.

The Sunday program has now built up to 10+ participants each day.

Over the 3 months (Oct – Dec), we provided 341 boating experiences, to a registered base of 73 participants.

Our youngest participant is 7 years of age, and our oldest is 87.

Our volunteers base now numbers 36 regular volunteers, and continues to grow.

Our client base for the mid week program includes 5 Disability Service providers (Connecting Skills Australia, Focus, Konnections, Scope and Brotherhood of St. Laurence).

# Profiling a Participant from the MYC Sailability Program....

## Ian Winkley – His Life by the Sea

Ian is the oldest participant in our MYC Sailability Program, proving that age is no barrier to the enjoyment of sailing. Here is his story of a life of sailing by the sea.

Ian's love of sailing began as a teenager on Brighton Beach. He built and sold a few canoes before purchasing his first small yacht, which he sailed until enlisting in the R.A.A.F.

After WW2, Ian returned to Brighton, where he continued to sail whenever possible, until moving to Mt. Eliza in the 1950's. Once he completed his new home, Ian built an Arafura catamaran, which he sailed in championships on the Mornington Peninsula.

In 1965, Ian became a permanent crew member for Colin McKee on his keel boat Siesta. Later in 1981, Colin purchased a larger keel boat, Rhumblin, which he and the expanded crew sailed down from Sydney. During the journey, they experienced wild weather and were forced to shelter at Gabo Island, before continuing onto Mornington harbour. Although he was the oldest member of the crew, Ian was the one selected to climb the mast! His long association with Colin and the crew members ended in 1991, when Colin ceased competitive sailing, and sold Rhumblin. Those 26 years as part of Colin's team provided Ian with many good memories of mateship and the exhilaration of racing on Port Phillip Bay.

During the 1970's, Ian built a couple of Sabot's for his son and a friend, in which they began their training with the Mornington Yacht Club on Sunday mornings. Ian later purchased a TS 16 for family sailing. Ian (and family) enjoyed a couple of seasons on Port Phillip Bay, and competed in the Marley Point race before his children moved onto other interests, and the TS 16 was sold. Another Arafura provided some solo sailing until Ian's health began to deteriorate, and he was forced to forego sailing under his own steam.

Now at age 87 and with limited mobility, Ian is grateful to the Mornington Yacht Club and the organisers and volunteers of the Sailability Program, for enabling him to continue his enjoyment of sailing on Mornington harbour.

