



DESPATCHES SAILABILITY BAYSIDE

Sailability Bayside is an all volunteer non-profit organisation dedicated to providing sailing for people with disabilities, regardless of age, gender or disability.

Sailability Bayside Inc.

February 2011

Manly Queensland



The Only Place To Be!

Edwin Hewitt, accompanied by Skipper Roger Wooller enjoying his morning at Sailability.

No questions needed as to why Edwin Hewitt is one of the happiest and a long term client of Sailability Bayside. We always look forward to seeing a happy, eager Edwin arrive with his carer through the gates early on sailing days, and once he's arrived back on shore, there is no doubt from the look on his face about the amount of pleasure a sail on the bay has given him. Edwin has also written an anthology of poems entitled *Still Seeking, Still Finding* based on his Christian beliefs.

THANKS TOMO!



Tomoyuki (Tomo) Nagasawa has become one of Sailability's enthusiastic young volunteers since arriving in Brisbane in April last year. Transferred to Australia by his Japanese employer, Yazaki, to improve his English, Tomo has become a valuable member of our volunteer team on both Mondays and Thursdays and can usually be seen on the pontoon assisting clients and helping to launch the dinghies.

One of twins, 23 year old Tomo is from Shizuoka and once he returns to Japan expects to be starting full-time engineering work with Yazaki.

Hosted by home-stay families while in Australia, Tomo is currently living with the Hamilton family in Wynnum.

It's been a pleasure having you on board Tomo and we wish you all the best in your new career when you return home in a few weeks' time.

Incidentally, Tomo is not the first Asian volunteer who has found their way to Sailability Bayside.

We've also had the pleasure of welcoming Hiro and Tako from Japan, together with Katrina Chu a young Chinese woman from Hong Kong.

We have been told that Katrina enjoyed her time with us so much that she volunteered with Sailability Manly in NSW when she moved on to Sydney.

Nothing Left To Chance By Officer Of The Day

Each sailing day all volunteers rostered on for the day assemble on the pontoon prior to sailing commencing to be briefed by the designated Officer of the Day.

On a recent Monday, Officer of the Day Darryl Schmidt exhibited his Defence Force training covering a myriad of issues in business like fashion in order to



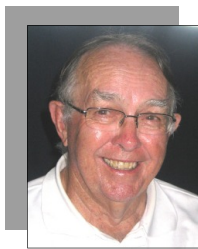
ensure every task had been assigned for the day and every safety issue had been addressed and attended to.

Subjects covered the number of clients expected, weather and bay conditions, and specific safety issues that were of a concern that day.



Officer of the Day, Darryl Schmidt, briefing volunteers prior to sailing commencing

The President's Report



President Bob Jackson
Sailability Bayside

Preparation for 2011 started with a maintenance day and a training day.

Motors on Faith and the safety boat were serviced on the maintenance day, dinghies were checked and some maintenance on Faith completed. Life jackets and slings were cleaned and checked.

This year 20 jackets failed the annual test and had to be replaced. They were 3 years old and had seen a lot of wear.

The training day started with a briefing on the use of the defibrillator. However the "on water" programs were postponed because of the weather and water condition.

Both days were valuable, in that volunteers exchanged ideas, learnt some new skills and socialised.

The new hydraulic davit is in use lifting centreboards, while lifting clients will commence when everyone is familiar with its operation. The pontoon is working well and now has its own water cooler donated by Peter Cran. Thanks Peter.

The coordination and organisation of clients has taken on another dimension since the pontoon was installed. Because the turnaround is now very fast, the onshore coordinators are required to have clients waiting on the pontoon instead of under the shade tents.

The new pontoon has lifted our efficiency considerably in some parts of our daily operations and it has completely alleviated the bottlenecks and hold-ups we experienced in the pre-pontoon days.

It is fantastic really, but we have had to adjust the work loads for most *land based* volunteers just to keep pace with the dramatic change in turn around times that we are now getting on the pontoon.

In the last 12 months Sailability Bayside has seen a dramatic rise in the use of its services.

The efficiencies now being delivered by the pontoon are completely in line with our planned growth but it has meant we have had to go back to school a bit to learn how to manage the immediate changes that we have been faced with.

We are now trialling a new dinghy transfer system between the ramp and pontoon and expect to have this sorted by the end of this first term. The use of the safety boat for transferring dinghies removed it from its primary duty of keeping in contact with sailors still on the water.

Sailability volunteers are a very special group of people who work together easily and willingly. However we need to recruit more volunteers both for water and onshore duties to lighten the increasing demands. This should be a priority and our first committee meeting for 2011 will have this on the agenda.

We are hosting the general meeting of Sailability Queensland during March under the leadership of John Hamaty, President of Sailability Queensland, together with representatives from the Queensland Sailability groups. This is an opportunity to exchange ideas and to showcase Sailability Bayside, an organisation of which I am immensely proud to be a member.

Bob Jackson
President

Where Are We Going Today? SAILABILITY!!!



A small portion of the fleet of vehicles that transport Sailability Bayside clients to their sailing activities every Monday and Thursday. Another small measurement of the importance of Sailability to so many people every week.

Not in the Lunch Room!
Not in the Kitchen!
Not in the Bathroom!
BUT ON THE PONTOON!



Volunteer Carol Hovey makes sure everyone on the pontoon gets a cool drink

With the warmer weather upon us, a new water cooler, recently donated by Peter Cran has been a much appreciated addition to our facilities since being installed on the pontoon.

We believe it is the only pontoon on Manly Boat Harbour with such an amenity, and it gives easy access by volunteers and our disabled clients to a cold drink. We are very conscious of keeping everyone hydrated and have in the past always supplied cold bottled water to volunteers and clients.

Have You A Story To Tell?

We would welcome any Sailability-related stories and pictures you would like to share with us for future editions of Despatches. These may include anything from amusing tales and events to more serious topics related to our daily operations. Our editor Rosemary Were can be contacted on 3893 0231 or emailed at were@bigpond.net.au

SAILABILITY BAYSIDE ONLINE

www.sailabilitybayside.org
Keep up to date with the latest news by following the great blog being maintained by Bob McNab.

News

- The Bayside Vehicle Restorers Club invited us to participate in their Australia Day Rally again this year, and at the end of the day generously donated \$1,000 to Sailability Bayside. Our representatives, Rick and Susie Carroll spent an enjoyable day with the club, being driven around all day in a Studebaker. The club has been one of our regular supporters and their donation is greatly appreciated.
- We were advised late last year that the Bureau of Meteorology expect severe weather conditions to prevail across South East Queensland this summer and of course that has now been experienced first hand in many areas of our State. An action plan for Sailability Bayside has been prepared and this will be put into operation should the bad weather eventuate.

Meet Poet and Volunteer Meg Mack



One of our regular on-shore volunteers, local identity Meg Mack, has recently had her third book of poetry published. Entitled *Meandering*, this latest volume includes, among other topics, poems drawn from experiences Meg had as a child visiting her grandmother in Wynnum.

Meg has generously decided to donate all proceeds from the first 100 copies of her new work to help flood victims in their recovery effort.

If you would like to purchase a copy of *Meandering* you will find Meg at Manly Markets on Sundays or you can telephone 3310 4990 or 0405 570 873.

*Meg Mack - generous poet
and active Sailability volunteer*

The Tertiary Place



Sailability Bayside President Bob Jackson being welcomed to The Tertiary Place by (from left) Ashley, Angela Leneham (Director- Education), Robby, Vincent and Andrew

A visit to The Tertiary Place quickly puts into context the important support that services like Sailability provides to the overall wellbeing, enjoyment and development of many people in the community.

At the end of last year, several of our Sailability Bayside volunteers were warmly welcomed at a morning tea and concert held in our honour at The Tertiary Place at Murarrie. Those who attended found it an uplifting experience to be able to visit one of the many organisations which bring their students/clients to Sailability at Manly. Last year up to 6-8 of their clients came to Sailability fortnightly, but they found it of so much benefit that this year they have begun bringing a group of up to 10 happy, bubbly clients each week.

The Tertiary Place was established in early 2010 by sisters Nona Westenrieder and Angela Leneham, who have spent their lives working in special schools. They realised that for the majority of special needs individuals there was little opportunity to continue formal learning once school had finished. Having siblings with disabilities, they had witnessed first hand that there were very few creative opportunities available to help them develop leisure skills, teamwork, confidence and self-expression. They therefore set about developing authentic opportunities for disabled people to take centre stage, thus the establishment of The Tertiary Place.

The Tertiary Place is holding an Open House on Wednesday 9th March from 5-7pm for anyone interested in seeing first hand the important, interesting work they are doing.

For further information, contact The Tertiary Place on 3890 0411 or visit their website

www.thetertiaryplace.com.au

A Sailability Day Really Is A Day On The Water For Poumau

Client Poumau Papali'i has three trips on the water when he comes to Sailability.

Before arriving at Manly, he has to cross the bay from his home on Lamb Island to the mainland - yep all the way from Lamb Island - and then he has another trip across the water to return home.

There are a number of planning and transport exercises undertaken along the way by Poumau's family and carers from Spiritus to make the day go smoothly.

Is it all worth it? You betcha!



As can be seen in our pictures, Poumau is one of our many clients who is benefiting from the new winch on the pontoon, which makes their placement into a dinghy easier and more comfortable.

Has This Man Just Won An All In Wrestling Match?



Ever wonder what our volunteers get up to when they are not helping out at Sailability? Well here's what Bob Service recently undertook to fulfil a life-long dream. Tagging along with a group of dedicated skydivers from the Toogoolawah Sky Diving Club during a motor home weekend, he bravely "fell out" of a plane with his tandem skydiving partner for an exhilarating parachute jump to the ground way off in the distance. Although he tells us it was one of the most exciting things he has ever done, it's probably not something he will be doing again in a hurry. He adds, "Been there, done that."



Like to be a volunteer at at Sailability Bayside?

YOU WILL BE VERY WELCOME!

Never a Dull Moment For Alan



The Old Alan Duncan - pushing buttons



The New Alan Duncan - pontoon assistant

Far from being made redundant since the new pontoon was installed, volunteer Alan Duncan has cheerfully taken up the more active role of pontoon assistant. Prior to the arrival of the pontoon, Alan had the more sedentary task of operating the button to mobilise the winch up and down the ramp. Alan is one of our long serving volunteers whose previous duties have included skippering our dinghies, and you can see by the look on his face he is happy doing whatever task he is assigned.

SAILABILITY BAYSIDE

Sailability Bayside is an all volunteer non-profit organisation dedicated to providing sailing for people with disabilities, regardless of age, gender or disability.

We operate from the Darling Point Sailing Squadron, 22 Trafalgar Street, Manly (beside the Brisbane Coast Guard) 9.00 am Mondays and Thursdays during school terms.

New volunteers, ESPECIALLY SAILORS, are always very welcome.

Client Bookings Changes Cancellations

Tel 0432 152 310

Bookings are not carried over. They need to be re-made each term.

To contact Sailability on Sail Days between 9.00am and 2.00pm

Tel 0432 152 310

(do not call any other number on sail days)

Will Sailing Be Operating?

Tel 0401 994 271

after 7.30am on the day of sailing

2011 Sailing Calendar

TERM	START	FINISH
1	24 Jan	14 Apr
2	28 Apr	23 Jun
3	11 Jul	15 Sep
4	3 Oct	8 Dec

Please Note:

Sailing WILL be held on student free days

Sailability Bayside Contacts

President: Bob Jackson 3396 0620

Secretary: Kev Maddox 3843 5509

Registrar: Dulcie Wilkie 0432 152 310

Bayside Despatches
Editor: Rosemary Were
were@bigpond.net.au

Sailability Bayside Website
www.sailabilitybayside.org

"Sail into Freedom"
Sailability Bayside Incorporated
Helping People With Disabilities



Remember the picture of our "Three Wise Bobs" in the last edition of Despatches? Well on a recent Monday, we actually had SIX Bobs turn up for volunteering duties on the pontoon, including one who came for the first time. Wish we'd been there with the camera that day. Any other Bobs who would like to volunteer to advance our record would be most welcome.

What Do Volunteers Do At Sailability? **EVERYTHING!**



We are on the constant lookout for more people to join our friendly team of volunteers. Men, women, people of all ages – we have jobs for everyone, both onshore and on the bay.

Onshore duties include client registrations, assisting clients to don life jackets, assembling clients on the pontoon at the time they are scheduled to sail, and ensuring their carers are there to meet them upon their return.



Pontoon duties during the sailing period include assisting clients into and out of dinghies and launching and retrieving dinghies upon their return.

Although the pontoon system is very efficient, it is labour intensive and imposes a heavy work load prior to and at the end of each day, which requires additional volunteer participation.

Volunteers are also needed to undertake kitchen duties which involve getting food ready for the barbecue.



We often handle up to 70 clients per sailing day and many willing hands are needed to ensure that things run smoothly, safely and efficiently.

The committee has also recently determined that we need more trained safety boat skippers and crew, as well as Faith skippers and crew.

These positions are not just "go once and you are OK" type positions. They require training and further qualifications such as radio licence, boat licence, and first aid certificate, etc.



Some financial assistance will be given by Sailability to help with the extra training needed.

If you are interested then please contact President Bob Jackson on 3396 0620 or Secretary Kev Maddox on 3843 5509.

**You will be
VERY WELCOME!**

It's BIG and it's STRONG

The new pontoon crane is electric/hydraulic and is certified to lift clients. We have been using it to lift our heavy centreboards and until we are conversant with its operation, will not be lifting clients. We expect to be lifting clients in the second term. It makes light work of the centreboards and will make the transfer of clients from wheelchair to boat, safer and easier.

