



# 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.

May 2011

Manly Queensland



## Great Partnership Delivers New Sails

*Andrew Turner, Ultimate Sails Proprietor, is pictured receiving the Sailability Bayside cheque from Treasurer Rick Carroll as he hands over the new sails to President Bob Jackson*

A combination of a generous donation, and an equally generous gesture by sail manufacturer Ultimate Sails, has resulted in the addition of two new sets of 303 Dinghies sails into the sail locker of Sailability Bayside.

It all started with a further donation of \$200 from the Bayside Vehicle Restorers Club, making a total of \$1,200 that this club has donated to our organisation this year. Part of these proceeds were used to purchase the sails for the 303 dinghies which have now been received from Ultimate Sails.

President Bob Jackson expressed the delight of the club when accepting the sails on a recent sailing day from the Proprietor of Ultimate Sails, Andrew Turner. He said, "A wonderful donation from the Bayside Vehicle Restorers Club has been made all the more valuable by a significant contribution by Ultimate Sails."

Bayside Vehicle Restorers Club (Inc.) was founded in 1978 and has enjoyed continuous activity and growth ever since. Dedicated to encouraging the use, restoration and preservation of all types of motor vehicles, the club is open to owners and enthusiasts of all makes of Veteran, Vintage, Historic & Classic vehicles over 30 years old.

*The Bayside Vehicle Restorers Club meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at 7.30 pm at the Donald Simpson Centre, 172 Bloomfield Street, Cleveland. If you are interested in learning more about the club, visit their website [www.baysideclub.org.au/](http://www.baysideclub.org.au/)*

*The presentation of the two new sets of sails by Andrew Turner of Ultimate Sails, brings to three the number of sets the company has made for our dinghies. Incidentally, Andrew's involvement with Sailability goes back several years, to when his wife Sally was one of our volunteer skippers. For information about Ultimate Sails, go to their website [www.ultimatesails.com](http://www.ultimatesails.com)*

## JOLLY JEANNIE RATES SAILABILITY No1



*Jeannie Fox sets sail with Skipper Rodney Key*  
Bubbly 16 year old Jeannie Fox is a much loved client at Sailability Bayside. Right from the time Jeannie and her mother, Pauline, arrive through the gates on a Thursday and check in at the registration desk, the whole site seems to take on a new glow.

Then, as Jeannie moves on to the life jacket area to be kitted up, the banter with the volunteers begins, right down to the time she is enthusiastically greeted by the pontoon crew and winched into a dinghy. Even as she sets sail with her designated volunteer skipper for the day Jeannie still has a wide grin on her face and continues cheeky exchanges with volunteers on the pontoon waving her off.

Jeannie, who is the youngest of four, has now been enjoying her sessions at Sailability Bayside for over three years. When she isn't sailing, she is a student at Darling Point Special School and she also enjoys swimming at the Colmslie Swimming Centre twice a week.



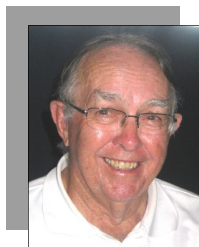
Like to be a volunteer at Sailability Bayside? You will be made very welcome!

## THE SAILABILITY QUEENSLAND State Conference Bundaberg 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 2011.

Like to attend?  
Contact the Coordinator – Robin Scott  
07 5547 0955  
or [robin-scott@bigpond.com](mailto:robin-scott@bigpond.com)

**INSIDE** – Repair and Restore – Well Yes, Size Does Matter – Rotary 4,500 Miles!

## The President's Report



President Bob Jackson  
Sailability Bayside

Sailability Bayside is in the process of forming an alliance with Darling Point Sailing Squadron, Sails at Bayside and Brisbane Boys College.

The reason for this is that the DPSS has a "permit to occupy" the present site and no further development is allowed until the Department of Main Roads, who own the site, have completed a development review of Norfolk Point.

This may take a couple of years and the alliance is being formed to present a united front with a wish list for the principal users of the site. We have been promised any further development will benefit Sailability and our tenure is secure.

We are still in the process of refining the way we use the pontoon. Transfer of boats from ramp to pontoon has moved from the safety boat to an endless line, and while the occasional dinghy has escaped, it has encouraged some refinement of the attachment system, and is working well.

The general working on the pontoon has improved, in that we have two manual cranes now working at similar heights.

The hydraulic davit will be brought into permanent operation this term and the working platform has been tidied up resulting in a safer work place.

Discussion has started about a trolley system for moving equipment from the storage area on the pontoon under the ramp. One volunteer has been overheard referring to this area by saying "he feels like a Welsh coal miner" when crawling in there to remove the crane and other equipment.

A new head rest is in the process of being developed and a visit to the Mooloolaba Sailability group who have head rests which work is being investigated.

Several new volunteers have been attracted to us and they are a very welcome addition to the organisation. Generally speaking, we have coped with large numbers of clients during term one and a decision has been made to limit the daily numbers to 55.

The administration staff plays a very important part in a successful daily operation. Registration of clients, collection of fees, coordinating the sailors and generally keeping everyone happy is essential to the efficiencies we see every day.

Then there is the crew who keep everyone fed and in good spirits. The behind the scene activities helping clients with personal difficulties should be recognised as part of the spirit of our club.

Once again I congratulate the volunteers of Sailability on their goodwill and dedication to the very successful operation of Sailability Bayside and thank them for their efforts.

Bob Jackson  
President

## Bev Service Accepts New Role As Welfare Officer



Bev Service, Welfare Officer,  
Sailability Bayside

The addition of a Welfare Office to the formal roles at Sailability Bayside is a further acknowledgement of the key role volunteers play in making the whole organisation work.

Speaking about the appointment President Bob Jackson said, "We can never say enough about the wonderful role our volunteers play in enriching the lives of our clients. We feel a Welfare Officer will play an important part in knitting together our team and ensuring our volunteers know they are recognised for their selfless and incredible contribution."

The duties of volunteer Bev Service have been expanded to take on this newly-established role. She will keep in touch with members on our volunteer list, as well as offering them support. Bev, who joined Sailability three years ago, will be recognised as one of the familiar, welcoming faces on the Registration desk.

Bev and her husband, Vice President Bob, who has been one of our volunteer skippers for four years, are also keen members of a motor-home touring club, though for the time being, because of their commitment to Sailability, trips are restricted to mainly short trips. Should you require Bev's services please contact her on 3348 3007.

## ATTENTION

### Volunteers - Carers - Clients SAFETY FIRST - ALWAYS!

Following several incidents regarding the safe use of wheelchairs on the pontoon ramps, the following procedures have been put in place and must be observed by all volunteers, clients and carers to avoid risk to their own safety and the safety of others using the pontoon.

**LIFE JACKETS** All clients must be fitted with a life jacket before accessing the first ramp.

**WHEELCHAIR CLIENTS** All wheelchair clients must be fitted with a life jacket and sling before accessing the first ramp.

**WHEELCHAIR RESTRAINTS** All wheelchair restraints must be released either at the first ramp or before accessing the pontoon deck at the restraint release point.  
(THIS IS THE CARER'S DECISION AND RESPONSIBILITY)

**PONTOON DECK** All carers must accompany their clients to the pontoon deck.  
Wheelchairs must be removed from the pontoon when clients are sailing.

**DO NOT RUN** Walking pace only with wheelchairs at all times.

Bob Jackson  
President Sailability Bayside

## Today's News Today!

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

Sailability  
Bayside Online  
[www.sailabilitybayside.org](http://www.sailabilitybayside.org)



## REPAIR & RESTORE!

The Sailability fleet has the busiest sailboats in the Manly boat harbour, with 12 dinghies running continuously for six or seven hours and our yacht "Faith" doing at least three one hour cruises every Monday and Thursday. All this work takes a toll on the boats and crews, so holiday breaks allow us time for a bit of R&R, which for the boats and our ancillary equipment stands for "Repair and Restore".

This Easter we held a maintenance day to prepare for this current term's program. "Faith" was scrubbed out thoroughly below decks and repairs and adjustments were made to the running rigging to ensure that the sails could be hoisted and lowered smoothly. A professional diver scrubbed the hull below the waterline to remove marine growth and give us a smooth passage through the water. We also experimented to find the best way to restore the teak woodwork.

The sailing program puts a lot of strain on the hulls of our dinghies and opens cracks in the fibreglass structures such as the keels and centreboard casings. These were repaired to prevent leaks. We also began a program of cutting and polishing the fibreglass hulls, restoring the boats on which the work was done to a pristine condition, taking out all the stains and scratches. Next time you are at Sailability take a look at "Harro", the oldest boat in the fleet.

In addition to an ongoing replacement program for ropes and sails etc, some attention from professional shipwrights will continue, as funds permit, to ensure that our boats are kept in excellent condition.

We are still experimenting with our on-shore systems to ensure our operations are safe and efficient. The storage racks that hold our dinghies have been refurbished and reorganisation of our storage rooms will enable us to get better, faster access to equipment.

In summary this was a very productive maintenance day which will enable us to continue to provide our clients with a safe, happy experience sailing with us on beautiful Moreton Bay.



Top:  
A professional diver gives Faith's hull its annual check and scrub to remove marine growth.

Clockwise below:  
1. Dinghy centreboard casings get fibreglass repairs.  
2. Hulls being pressure washed prior to cutting and polishing.  
3. Silicone resealing of rubbers on dinghy hulls.

## Well Yes, Size Does Matter!

On a recent trip to Mooloolaba Sailability, President Bob Jackson, accompanied by Ian Reid and Geoff Pease took the opportunity to check out their operation and equipment, and discovered a davit bigger than ours. President Bob tells us, "Size does matter!"

Bob reports, "This crane is used to retrieve dinghies. The centreboard is left in and to see a dinghy suspended in mid air with everything revealed (see picture) illustrates the amount of water these boats require. Sailors take note. The crane has a 3,000 kg capacity; ours has a 150 kg limit. Eat your heart out Bob Green!"

As a new head rest is in the process of being developed at Sailability Bayside, the main purpose of the visit to the Mooloolaba Sailability group, which has head rests which are operational, was to observe them in use. Finally, Bob commented, "This will be a careful and slow project for Bayside."



Suspended dinghy showing centreboard in place. Below: Well yes, Mooloolaba's davit with its 3,000kg capacity is "slightly" bigger than ours. Underneath: Our davit from our last issue. Perhaps not so Big and Strong after all



## Rotary 4,500 Miles..... 2,500 Clients.....

In the adjacent article you can see our dinghy Rotary undergoing repairs.

Sailability Bayside President Bob Jackson was the guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Wynnum Manly Rotary Club, and took the opportunity to update members on our organisation's progress.

In his address, Bob mentioned that a dinghy donated to Sailability by the club in 2004, which was christened "Rotary", has possibly travelled over 4,500 nautical miles and carried 2500 clients so far.

Go to the Rotary Club's website  
<http://wynnum-manly.rotaryclub.asn.au/>  
and click on the Bulletin for 20th April for a full report on Bob's address.

# 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 |
|------|--------|--------|
| 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

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Sailability Bayside Website  
[www.sailabilitybayside.org](http://www.sailabilitybayside.org)

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

## COMMUNICATE BETTER WITH PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

Treat people with a disability with the same respect and consideration you have for everyone else.

Don't assume what a person can or can't do.

Speak to people with a disability directly, not through their carer, assistant or interpreter.

Ask before you help – don't just jump in.

Can't understand what's being said? Don't pretend – ask again.

Take some time – people with some kinds of disability may take a little longer to understand and respond.

Some disabilities are invisible. Get to know people.

Guide dogs are working dogs. Never play or speak to a guide dog while it is wearing a harness.

(Source unknown)

## MANUAL DEVELOPMENT

Sailability Queensland hopes to produce a "Sailability Manual" to help with the startup and organisation of new clubs in Queensland.

At present only Sailability Bayside, Gold Coast and Tin Can Bay are involved but if anyone has any ideas they should contact our Secretary.

## POKIE'S NOT COMING HOME YET

The Committee decided to allow our access dinghy "Pokie" to stay at Shorncliffe on an extended loan basis as we feel that we have enough boats on line at the present time to handle our current client base.

## HEATHER BALANCES TOP FLIGHT CYCLING WITH SAILABILITY



Since joining the Sailability volunteering team over 3 years ago Heather Jeffcoat has always been happy to undertake any tasks we give her, and most Mondays she can now be seen carrying out the service of client co-ordinator.

When she is not at Sailability, Heather, a self-confessed landlubber, likes to keep fit by cycling. She tells us that back in 2005 she even undertook the gruelling 9 day Goondiwindi to Gold Coast bike ride. She is also editor of the Brisbane Bicycle Touring Association newsletter.

## Have You A Story To Tell?

We would welcome any Sailability-related stories 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](mailto:were@bigpond.net.au)

## News News News News

- The spacer to lift the height of the "low crane" has been produced by Alan Duncan and is working well, allowing us to lift clients from high wheel chairs. Many thank to Alan for his efforts in producing this terrific piece of engineering.
- Two of our boat trolleys (shore shuttles) have been upgraded with new tyres and also new fenders to help protect the gelcoat under the bow of the boats.
- The ongoing problem with the dinghy gunwales getting caught under the pontoon protection strip is under investigation by The Jetty Specialists who built the pontoon and we expect a solution to the problem in the near future.
- A large number of PFD's (Personal Flotation Devices) failed the 24 hour inflation test earlier this year and the committee has bought a further 15 Burke auto vests and 5 manual vests to replace those that failed the test.
- Sailors are reminded that they should not approach the pontoon after their sailing sessions until called in by the Officer of the Day or rope handler on the pontoon. This should prevent boats arriving to dock at the pontoon with no-one ready to receive them..
- Once again Faith's pontoon berth has been provided free of charge by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (who now look after the State's harbours). Many thanks for the continued support from this Government department.
- Sailability Queensland held a group meeting at our site on Wed 9<sup>th</sup> March with representatives from the Gold Coast, Shorncliffe, Tin Can Bay and Bayside attending.
- Bon Voyage to long-term volunteer Alan Duncan and his wife Sue, who are off on a luxurious 12 day cruise in June, departing from Venice, before they travel on to Chiswick in the UK to spend two months with their daughter Anne and 6 year old grandson Alexander.