



**IN PORT**  
**The PMYC**  
**Newsletter**  
**APRIL 2006**

<http://www.pmyc.asn.au>

Email: [pmyc@bigpond.com](mailto:pmyc@bigpond.com)

**COMING EVENTS**

April		Races
Sat 1	Geoff Graco Series	2
Sat 8	Geoff Graco Series	1
Sat 15	Easter weekend no racing	
Thurs 20	Sail Education night	7.30
Sat 22	Geoff Graco Series	2
Sat 29	Season Closing Day	1
<b>MAY</b>		
Sat 13	PRESENTATION NIGHT	BOOK EARLY

**TRAINING NIGHT**

**Thursday April 20th**

**7:30pm**

**PROTEST OR PENALTY**

**What to do when you're in the wrong.**

How many penalty turns if you hit the mark? What do you do when someone calls protest and you know you're in the wrong? What if you think they're wrong? Get these questions clarified with our authoritative speaker

**Guest Speaker**

**Alan Carlisle**



**WHY NOT GO AND SEE OUR JUNIORS IN ACTION at Brighton Yacht Club**

The Sabot State Champs is the weekend. April 1st, 2nd, 8th and 9th. These events provide a great opportunity for lots of time on the water, and to meet the other Sabot kids from around the bay.

**Laser State Titles.**

On Sat 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April PMYC is hosting the Laser State Titles.

We need extra volunteers to help run this event.

Times are 11am till 6pm on Saturday and 8.30am till 4pm on Sunday. Can you help us?

**NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome to more new members

There will be many new faces around so introduce yourself to anyone you don't know.

- Cheung Ray. Senior
- Jackson Harding. Junior
- Rob Beavis. Senior

**PRESENTATION NIGHT**

**Sat 13th May**

**Mark your diary, calendar, palm pilot, phone, fridge or whatever prompts your memory.**

**Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Invitations out shortly.**

## Welcome to our New Volunteers



- Nick Savvas
- Matt Fahey
- Glenda Clipolato
- June Hall
- David Czapkowski
- Mary Ryba
- Lesley Devlin
- Terry Zafiriou

## TRAINING For Racing and Rescue Teams Planned

\$150 per person per session for non –volunteers

- Radio
- Boat Handling
- First Aid
- Basic Race Management
- Tower
- Refreshers
- Safety Boat Club
- Race Officer
- Instructors/Coaches Course
- State Race Officer

Contact [walter@wdesys.com](mailto:walter@wdesys.com)

**CREW Available**

With the completion of the latest Sailing school (many of whom have subsequently joined the club) there are many new members with varied amounts of Sailing experience all keen to get more. Not everyone wants to buy a boat, be the boss!! So think about how we can get these members on the water in a variety of boats.... after all they don't all want to sail Jollyboats

### HOBIE CREW AVAILABLE

Got your details off PMYC website.

I used to sail Hobie 16s every weekend. Would love the opportunity to crew every 2nd weekend if anybody needs a crew. Need not be Hobie 16. Weight: 75kgs.

Gerard Lyons. My number 0404452023.

## CLUB MEMBER PROFILE **GEOFF GRACO**



As a child Geoff Graco was a reluctant swimmer, who loved building model boats and dabbling in fishing. Somehow this developed into a 35 year devotion to the Port Melbourne Yacht Club.

Asked whether he likes to sail, the PMYC Rear Commodore replied “when I want to get from A to B I want to go straight.” Which is his way of saying he'd rather be in the powerboat, where he is most often seen.

A childhood in Essendon with regular fresh water fishing trips with his father led to a transfer to salt water fishing on the bay and a long developed desire to join the coast guard.

But thankfully in the early 1970s his brother-in-law, Claude Johnson a Jollyboat sailor suggested he come down to the club to man the rescue boats. So, in between stints as club Commodore in the late 1980s, and an average two and half days a week of odd jobs around the place this is what he has done ever since.

At various times it has been a family affair with his wife Joan, one daughter Heather and son Roger all getting involved in learning to sail. And in Roger's case, also working on the rescue boat.

For a variety of work and family reasons the younger generation have eased back away from the club but Geoff has remained firmly committed ever since.

A mechanic by training, Geoff is now semi-retired keeping his hand in by doing a few commercial cleaning jobs around the Tullamarine district.

Asked why he likes the club Geoff replied “it’s a good family club, friendly and everyone’s treated the same no matter how good you are and what class you sail in.”

Having run the rescue boats for three decades, Geoff has some words of advice for newcomers “keep away from station pier,” “dress well to avoid hypothermia, “stay with your boat” and “always go back to pick up your crew.”

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avoid hypothermia, “stay with your boat” and “always go back to pick up your crew.”

Reading between the lines then you can guess over the years Geoff has plucked more than a few boats from station pier, picked up one too many sailors with no weather protection on cold days and crew members who have been swept from their boat.

The worst was “one day in a 10 to 15 minute squall when the wind blew 80 to 90 knots and we were pulling boats out of the water until 7.30 at night.”

Geoff was in charge after the old club burned down and, while full of praise for the volunteers on board now, said “people get complacent and we’ve got to keep the maintenance up to make sure we get to keep the place. It all takes time and everyone’s time is precious but we all have to put in to keep the club together.”

Seeing Geoff helping boats in distress it’s hard to believe that as a kid he found it “very difficult and many years to learn to swim” and while he’s very relaxed around water now swimming is one of those things you do when the boat capsizes rather than setting off on a pier to pier swim .

He still fishes, chasing the elusive snapper and flathead but says “the ones I catch tend to be suicidal sort of fish.” Club sailors at Port Melbourne can however rest easily in the knowledge that he knows his way around the adjoining bay better than almost anyone in Melbourne.

John Durie

## Directions for PORT TACKERS

Over the past two years, a natural program had evolved for Port Tackers, with the needs of two age groups needing to be catered for. The first is the under 8 year olds, and the second is the 8-16 year olds.

We have found that sailing a boat without parental help is usually beyond a child under 8, and activities for the younger kids need to be tailored to focus more on beach based and water safety activities.

The program runs over the PMYC sailing season from October to May and for the 8-16 year olds, is based on two foundations.

These are:

- a/ **Learning to sail and race the Sabot sailing dinghy.**
- b/ **Participation in club membership.**

The Sabot was selected as our training boat because it is an ideal vehicle in which to teach the basic principles of sailing, while providing a vehicle for further competition and development for the enthusiast. The Sabot can be sailed 2 up for those who are under 12, and provide an ideal platform for further coaching and competition.

PMYC is a participating member of the Victorian Sabot Sailing Association, and our junior members participate in VSSA events. This provides an opportunity to mix with young sailors from other clubs, get outside coaching, and it provides a gateway to the Victorian Youth sailing team for those who want to excel. See [www.vicsabot.yachting.org.au](http://www.vicsabot.yachting.org.au)

### Some of the events we attend are:

- Victorian Sabot championships (March/April)
- Wintersail (July school holidays)
- Springsail (September school holidays)
- Australian Sabot Championships (Christmas holidays)
- Lidgett Cup (February in Mt Eliza)

Port Tackers is held on the beach outside the PMYC dinghy shed from 10:00 to 12:00 most Saturdays during the sailing season. The older kids also participate in the Saturday afternoon club racing.



Water safety is a focus, so we make sure each person performs a capsize drill before they learn to sail, ensure everyone wears a PFD and knows to “stay with the boat”, etc.

We have 2 Zodiacs for safety boats, and most instructors have level 2 first aid.

The focus from October to Christmas

is to teach basic skills, while in the latter half of the season as sailors’ skills increase the focus turns to racing. We hold a PMYC Sabot series in March.

PMYC has 8 club boats for the young sailors to use. However, after a season or two, families are encouraged to buy their own Sabot. Looking after and campaigning

your own Sabot develops life skills, which will stand them in good stead as they mature.

The other important plank in the Port Tackers program is club membership. In my opinion, the greatest gift we can bestow upon the kids is for them to become good participating club members. Club participation will stand them in good stead as they develop and mature as individuals, and is something, which will be of benefit throughout their lives. For this reason, we do not charge a fee for Port Tackers. Instead, we ask participants to join the club as Junior members, or preferably for the family to join as family members. Members enjoy full use of club facilities, including club boats and club premises. (Guidelines need to be followed).

If you think Port Tackers could be of benefit to your family, speak to me or one of the other co-ordinators. See you on the beach. **Dave English.**



## **CLUB MERCHANDISE**

### **NOW AVAILABLE**

Reversible VESTS	\$43
Polo Shirts	\$30
Rugby Shirts	\$35
Baseball Caps	\$15
Bucket hats	\$15

**Women's small sizes Polo now on order**  
**Med and small size Vest available.**



**World 470  
champions**

Malcolm Page & Nathan Wilmot were today announced the Australian Institute of Sport's Team of the Year at a ceremony in Canberra.

The pair won their second consecutive gold medal in the 470 Men's Class at last year's world championships held in San Francisco.

It was the first time a male crew had won back-to-back world championships in 22 years and the fourth world championship medal for Page and Wilmot since they began sailing together in 2001.

The head coach of the AIS and Australian Sailing, Victor Kovalenko praised Page and Wilmot for their outstanding achievement.

'To win one world championship is an incredible feat but to do it two years in a row speaks volumes for the talent of both Malcolm and Nathan,' Kovalenko said.

'They not only defeated 64 of the finest crews from throughout the world last year but did so with two races to spare.'

Page and Wilmot took out the AIS Team of the Year award from a world-class field that included the Australian Women's Eight crew and the Australian Men's Hockey team.

Malcolm Page and Nathan Wilmot are part of Yachting Australia's Olympic Program, which is funded and supported by the Australian Government, through the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Institute of Sport.