



# SEAHORSE elwood sailing club newsletter



**February, 2007**  
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1	Commodore's Report
3	Editorial
3	Tales from the Bar
3	Storage Report
4	Boats for sale

## Upcoming Events

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> March:  
Schools' Regatta

10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March:  
A – Class State Titles

Volunteers Welcome!!

## Commodore's Report

Over half the season is gone and it feels like only yesterday that it was Opening Day, but with reflection it is clear that we have done quite a lot in the this time.

At the beginning of the season I set some goals for myself and General Committee. These were mainly based on the comments I read in the members survey and my intention to see a future for Elwood Sailing Club.

The aims were:

- Friendly Club
- Race management
- Rescue Boats
- Tower
- Start on time
- Junior racing
- Master Plan for future development

Not exactly rocket science, but in my mind, a set of achievable goals. From this I structured General Committee accordingly so that all on GC had a job, and had the infrastructure to get on with the job, and General Committee members have indeed got on with the job.

I am very grateful to GC for the way in which they have approached their work load. You as members may not realise that behind the scenes a great deal is done to maintain a functional club. It is all done on a volunteer basis with a view to benefit all members.

In the members' survey several comments were made regarding the unfriendly atmosphere at Elwood SC. It can be as simple as members just staring at people as they arrive up the stairs and making the newcomer feel uncomfortable, it can also be the various cliques that form in circles in the vicinity of the bar and basically block new comers from entering the circle. Older club members need to take the leadership role and if you see a new member or someone who is being left out, smile and invite them into the group.

You may have noticed the various furniture layouts that we have tried. All have been experiments in social interaction trying to find a set up that encourages mixing and broader social intercourse. This is why we have purchased the new deck tables and umbrellas, big, heavy rectangles that lots of people can sit at.

We have also found the lounge chairs and couches are a waste of space near the windows. We replaced these with two trestles and 20 chairs. In this formation, the area gets far more use and is far more socially acceptable.

We will standardise the club hall furniture set up with a diagram on the notice boards and will expect club members and club hirers to leave the hall set up as per the diagram. The basic set up will be the 2 trestle tables by the windows (plus 20 Chairs), lounge chairs and couches around the



perimeter of the carpeted area, with 2 round tables (4 chairs each) located on the carpet. Please note that the Seahorse and the desks from Kids Corner are NOT TO BE MOVED by ANYONE.

As part of the "Friendly Club" mantra, we have also unlocked the kitchen for members and guests to use. We even bought new BBQ tools and left them in the kitchen, but these have now been stolen, along with other items from the kitchen. No it is not the hall hirers, the culprits are members! We will replace the stolen articles so that members can enjoy the facilities, but please clean the equipment and put it away so that others can use it.

You probably have noticed that prices and menu have changed at the Canteen & Bar, and we offer free Tea & Coffee. The aim of all of this is to try to encourage members and guests to use the club and its facilities. Yes, we want to make a profit, but there is a balance between profit and members services that needs to be met also.

Race management was another major issue highlighted by the members' survey. I believe that the greatest weakness in the previous system was that race management changed every week with volunteers. I set about to obtain a 'permanent' tower crew as well as 'permanent' boat drivers so that the majority of variables could be eliminated. A huge bonus was John Dodd offering his services to be the starter each week. We now have a tower crew (but are looking for more to join the team) and we also have a few boat drivers who attend regularly, this in turn allows us to man the boats with duty people.

Jos Ales coordinates the tower and boat crews, and keeps the

teams on schedule. If you would like to volunteer for tower or boat driving duties please see Jos, usually in the tower on race days.

I believe that races are starting punctually (sometimes to the detriment of tardy members and Commodores) and in general our race management has improved significantly.

It is important for members to realise that we work to the Blue Book. Please note that because you put your card in does not mean that you automatically qualify for a DNS if you do not leave the beach. A DNS can only be achieved if your boat reports to the starting area, so not only do you have to put your card in, you must also sail to the starting area. If you don't you will receive a DNC.

For those on duty – do not put your card in. Simply sign the duty register – see Jos – and come prepared to go out on the rescue boats.

Another change is you are now required to SIGN OFF after completing racing. This is a safety issue as well as a club due diligence issue.

In November I had the pleasure of attending the Elwood Sailing Club Old Boys (& Girls) reunion. Some faces I knew well, others I knew and some I met on the night. (If you ever get the chance to go to this function, do it. They have a great night and it is surprising what you learn. In my address to the "Old Boys" I made the comment that "a club without juniors is a club without a future". By the time the "Old Boys" meet again we will have regular junior racing and all spawning from our Sailing School. We have two juniors now with their own Sabots, as well as a keen group of juniors just about ready to start

racing. If you get to the club a little earlier you may see our juniors racing for a club championship which we will present at Presentation Night. It is a small but significant step for the future of our club.

On the subject of our "Sailing School" one can only say that it continues to grow. We are now operating a Sunday morning program for the Council. In short we have a "tiger by the tail" and are hanging on as hard as we can. This area of the club is subject to future expansion and reorganisation to meet the increasing demand.

If you missed the HYGM, you missed a brilliant presentation of our Master Plan by Will Jones. Will raised important issues and also gave some suggestions for the way forward. You will see an artist sketch of what could be on the notice board.

The situation with the bicycle track is still pending. We have lodged our objection and continue to lobby against the proposal. Thanks to all who have helped.

One thing that ALL members could do to help is to stop driving cars and boats onto the pathway in front of the club and also onto the (previously) grassed rigging area. Our argument against the track is based on a few points but a significant point to note is public safety. I feel that we are shooting our selves in the foot if members drive in areas that we say cyclists should not be allowed. We have the trailer park, please use it and wheel your boats onto the rigging area by hand.

Please note that we have a very healthy junior training squad running around the front of the club on Saturday mornings as well as the council program on Sunday mornings, so we should



keep cars away from these areas. If we don't, it will be used against us with respect to the bicycle track.

For the Top of the Bay Regatta we had 131 entries. Congratulations to all involved as I felt that Elwood SC hosted a brilliant event. In March we again host the Schools Regatta and are hoping for a big entry list. On the Long weekend we host the A - Class State Championships. We are seeking volunteers for both of these events.

Mark Foster  
Commodore

### Editorial

Thanks to Mark for the most comprehensive Commodore's Report that I can remember! Some good points made and some things to think about.

Just as well Mark had a lot to say because the class representatives have been deathly silent!

I KNOW that National Championships were sailed over the summer – Elwood was well represented at the National E Championships with our Commodore and his crew bagging third (very nearly 2<sup>nd</sup>). I think some of our members did well in the 125 Titles too. Rick and James had a good time at the International 14 Titles in Geelong. What else happened??

### Tales From The Bar

Well what a YEAR it has been. It seems like a year since the last news letter. They are getting longer between editions. Is someone trying to silence the gossip.!!!

New duck has had a few teething problems but gets sorted by a reliable Ken.

As for the old faithfuls, Dodsy has come out of retirement and is getting things started on time with the help of others when available. Scott now has an occasional job on Saturdays and helps out when possible, but we still need a constant regular crew. The committee is in for big changes around the club for the better. New carpets, etc. This is good but now we are low on money; and need events to build things up. Thanks to Brian Provan for building the cupboard under the stairs. A very professional job and a safe place to keep life jackets. Club spirit. HE deserves a beer. Grants, we seem to have a few and thanks to those who get them. Yachting Vic have a few to give so let's follow them up.!!! Bar queen might join the committee as the BAR is now open even though school championship is a full time job.

The Schools are coming up and hopefully it will be better and bigger than last year. One of the students who competed last year has designed a poster for it.

Great stuff.

We have had a few blowy weeks and the A's decided to withdraw to the bar except one B.O.F. he received the encouragement award for the day.

Jack Ellis was allowed out for the T.O.B. and turned out to be an excellent photographer with the video. Maybe he has lots of practice taking shots of his new daughter.

Will called for a forward hand from the training squad. Not one to be seen. They must have pressing commitments to miss out on a ride with Will.

Still a good sight watching the 15's fight it out. Justin and Jim had a great battle at T.O.B. swapping leads . I think Justin won out. More of it. Dave has not sailed for some time and went out

and cleaned up the Sabres in one swipe. Just think what he could do if he went out more often. Happy And Safe Sailing

The Bar Queen

### Storage Report

Please note there will be a general clean up of the storage area by 5/03/07

Trailers & miscellaneous equipment are not to be stored at the club.

Any unauthorized equipment will be moved outside of the club boundary as on 5/03/07. Please assist in keeping the club storage areas well organised with boats in there correct racks as per the storage allocation on the notice board.



## FOR SALE

### National E 557 "Mister E"



All the good gear. Quantum Sails.  
Proven race record  
Well maintained. Beach Trolley.  
\$12,000 the lot, or will separate.  
Contact - Mark Foster – Phone  
0408 820 020

### National E Sailing Dinghy ES-UP registration 349

Complete with full set of sails and  
beach trailer (see picture)

**Price: \$3,800.00 ONO**

Contact: 0417 598 512



### National E Sailing Dinghy MOO 553

Excellent condition  
All glass (balsa sandwich)  
construction. Ronstan and  
Harken fittings. Goldspar tapered  
light weight spinnaker pole.  
Also includes registered Boeing  
road trailer All stainless steel  
beach trolley. Comes with a  
Hooper boat cover.  
Asking \$7800

Call Ben Davies on 0438 001 755

### Formula Fifteen 01

Four seasons old, owned by  
Elwood SC. Centreboard and  
rudder blade will be refinished.  
Current mast (18 months old) with  
carbon upper spreaders.  
Mainsail, jib, fractional spinnaker  
and masthead spinnaker.  
Beach trolley with new padding  
All gear in good condition  
\$7,000 + GST





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