

The Bluebird & Top Hat Newsletter



The official newsletter of the Bluebird Yacht Association of Victoria Inc. The articles and opinions expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily represent the official views of the BYAV.

From the President

Another winter has come and gone, along with our winter racing series. For those eager to brave the elements, race days are surely a winter highlight. Although a little down on entries, this series was as keenly contested as ever. The race report is detailed later in this newsletter.

Next year's racing program is now finalised after some to-ing and fro-ing with Hobson's Bay Yacht Club (HBYC) Sailing Committee. The Club racing calendar will give you the dates. The cost to our Association will remain the same at \$25 per entry for the five boat starts. Unlike this year, we will not be racing two heats on the one day. The third heat will once again be an 18 mile two-handed course.

The winter series will revert back to a best of five races out of nine scheduled races as was the case in 2005. Hopefully all will go as planned when the time comes.

Presentation night was again a great success judging by the feedback from many of the 51 who attended: good food, good company and an entertaining guest speaker. I hope everyone will be able to

make it to our next social (and business) event, our AGM on Friday 6 October for another enjoyable evening.

While I am very keen to see the Bluebird Association proudly identified, I am also aware that we are (with few exceptions) members of HBYC and I feel that we should support our Club where possible. After all our Club continues to do its best to support our Association. If all of our races calendared for next year are sailed without cancellation, that will mean 14 afternoons out on the Bay. Is that enough? Well if it's not, the answer is to enter some of the Club races. I intend to enter

**7.30PM FRIDAY 6
OCTOBER, 2006 ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING
& "SEA OF DREAMS"
MOVIE
DETAILS INSIDE**

Paramour in some of the Wednesday night and Sunday races this summer. The two-handed 18 mile races are my favourite, and the pursuit races are also fun. If you like mixing it with the mass starts, try some Wednesday evening races. Sure handicap racing quite different from

Class racing and not to be taken too seriously in my opinion, nevertheless, we Bluebirds are often surprised when we beat some much bigger boats in the right conditions. Let's see if we can make our presence felt at HBYC in the coming season.

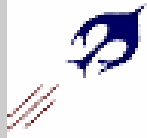
Ivan Knight

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Doug Otter and Glenn Hall are looking very pleased to have won the 2006 Bluebird State Championships (with Peter Roberts absent from photo) on *Tandeka*.



2006 Annual General Meeting of the Bluebird Yacht Association of Victoria (and Movie)

Date: 6 October 2006
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Hobson's Bay Yacht Club, The Strand Williamstown

Following the AGM, members are invited to stay and enjoy finger food and watch the recently released DVD: "Sea of Dreams" - the Nick Moloney Story. This gripping (60 mins) DVD tells the story of Australian sailor and three times circumnavigator, Nick Moloney. On a cold November day, he stood on a dockside in France about to set off on the biggest challenge of his life, to face the third and final goal he had set himself as a young man. He had nearly lost his life to the sea once before but few could imagine what this journey would bring - a physical and emotional roller coaster ride.

The AGM will be conducted in accordance with the rules of the Association and will include election

Congratulations Alice

Association members may have noticed Alice Varady featuring in the latest edition of *GOSailing* Magazine as an award recipient for services to Yachting Victoria. If you missed it, here she is again.



Services to Yachting Award recipients (from left to right) Rob Ware, John Middleton, Alice Varady, Roger McAuliffe and Bruce James

of officers of the Association and ordinary members of the Committee.

Nominations are now being accepted for all positions – President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Ordinary members (4).. Nominations must be made on the form included with this newsletter and must reach Ian Lewis, Secretary, by Friday 29 September, 2006.

End of year celebration



Put the evening of **Friday 1 December** in your diary now, so you don't miss out on the Bluebirds traditional Christmas/End of year celebration.

More details available closer to the date.

Cruise Day

If you're interested in joining other Bluebirds on a day cruise on the Bay, please let the President, Ivan Knight, know you're interested

Ph. 9398 2177.

26 November 2006 (weather permitting) has been earmarked as the cruise date. A ring around of those who have expressed interest will be done the week prior to confirm.

New Boating Guides Now Available

Parks Victoria has recently released two new recreational boating guides – one for boating on Port Phillip Bay and one for Westernport Bay. While they don't take the place of proper navigation charts, they contain a lot of information including depths, marks and details of harbour and river entrances. For your free copies contact Parks Victoria on Ph. 131963.

Couples More than Just Fair Weather Friends

In order to justify yacht ownership we have to use them. How often do we decide to just go for a sail without any other purpose? We always imagine how nice it would be to have that amount of leisure time to just potter about, but let's face it, it's a rare thing for most of us. Occasionally to entertain a visiting friend or relative, but then the weather has to be just right.

The importance of racing should not be underestimated. In the case of our Bluebird fleet, low key as our events may be, just to get out there, rain, hail or shine, to hone our skills, tune our boats and keep everything working and seaworthy, is a great release

from the stress of the work-a-day world.

One of the advantages of a small easily handled yacht, such as the Bluebird, is that they are ideal for a couple to sail. *Revel* and *Gaylene* are the two yachts in our fleet that exemplify this. The old saying of "couples that play together, stay together" is probably true and I'm sure there are countless sailors who are envious of such partnerships. I would like to say to Warwick and Geraldine (*Revel*) and Tim and Lee (*Gaylene*), "keep it up, you are setting a wonderful example".

Ivan Knight



Bluebird Cup 2006 Final Results

Yacht	Sail no.	Owner	Race 1	Race 4	Race 5	Race 7	Final Points*
Tandeka	H158	Peter Roberts Glenn Hall	1	1	2	1	5
Paramour	H66	Ivan Knight	4	2	1	2	9
Warranilla	H271	Ian McGrath John Vermeulen	2	3	3	3	11
Gaylene	H1138	Tim Blunt	3	5	5	4	17
Shadow	H241	Ian Lewis	8	4	4	8	24
Bounty	H56	Bruce Hocking Peter Hocking	6	6	8	8	28
Revel	H292	Warwick Norman	5	8	8	5	26

THERE WERE NO RESULTS IN SCHEDULED RACES 2, 3 & 6

Bluebird Cup 2006

Presentation night 2006

The annual Bluebird Association Presentation Night was held in mid-June and was very successful with over 50 people attending.

Trophies were presented to the winner and place getters of the 2006 State Championships. Details of the Championship were reported in the last newsletter, but as a reminder, first place went to Peter Roberts, Glenn Hall and Doug Otter on *Tandeka*, second place went to Ian McGrath and John and Ryan Vermeulen on *Warranilla* and third place went to Ivan Knight and various crew including Mandy Falkingham, Andrew Lucas and Dawson Kalman on *Paramour*.

Guest speaker James Andrews gave an inspiring presentation on the years he and his wife, Simone spent living aboard their yacht as they explored the world.

Association members and friends enjoyed a delicious three course meal prepared by stalwart caterer Shirley Mead.

Seven Bluebirds entered this series and for most races there were six at the starting line. A bit down on previous years, but still some good competition for all those brave enough to take on the winter elements.

Race One was sailed in about a 10 knot southerly breeze. It soon became evident that *Tandeka* and *Warranilla*

were battling it out for line honours while the rest of us didn't have the boat speed to challenge. Still, it was a nice day for a sail and I'm sure everyone enjoyed being out there. Line honours went to *Tandeka*, closely followed by *Warranilla* with *Gaylene* coming in for a well-sailed third.

The second heat was sailed in a tricky southerly breeze, and optimistically, a long course was chosen. At the start of the last triangle *Paramour* picked up a breeze that the rest of the fleet didn't seem to get, which put her a full leg of the course ahead. However, it was soon evident that her moment of glory would be short lived as the wind died again, leaving the fleet totally windless when the three hour time limit had expired.

The third heat was a non-event as only the crew of *Warranilla* and *Paramour* lined up for the start, and without three starters there is no race. Itching for a sail in the fresh northerly breeze, the above mentioned yachts put in a late entry for the Brass Monkey Race and 'cleaned up' with a first and third in the event.

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Guest speaker at the 2006 Presentation Night, James Andrews and wife, Simone .

To see photos of the State Championship winners and others who enjoyed themselves at Presentation Night turn to page 4.



Presentation night 2006



Recently retired HBYC Office Manager, Alice Varady with her husband



Andrew and Pat Rozwadowski



Andrew, Ryan and Karen Blackstock



Geraldine and Warwick Norman



Life member Max White surrounded by 2006 Bluebird State Championship winners and placegetters with their trophies.
L to R: back row – Doug Otter, John Vermeulen, Glenn Hall, Max White, Ivan Knight, Mandy Falkingham, Andrew Lucas, front row – Ian McGrath, Ryan Vermeulen



Jean and Norm Price



John Owens and his wife



Max White and Louise Avery



Warranilla Crew: Ian McGrath and father and son combo Ryan and John Vermeulen



Commodore of HBYC Brendon Davies with partner Wendy.



For Sale

Bluebird Kotare (H85)

Plus:

- ➔ Dinghy
- ➔ 4HP Mariner outboard

\$5,000 negotiable

Please contact **John Welsh** on
Ph. 9741 8512

Continued from page 3

The results were afterwards discounted due to a dispute about our given handicap. We didn't really mind as it was Bluebird weather and we had a great sail anyway.

Heat four, sailed in a moderate south-easterly breeze saw *Tandeka* lead the way with *Warranilla* and *Paramour* in hot pursuit. *Paramour* in danger of losing control of the spinnaker, in wind conditions a bit strong for a big kite as the breeze freshened. The finish saw *Tandeka* leading *Paramour*, followed by *Warranilla* as the top three.

Heat five with a bit more breeze than previous races, something like a 20 knot northerly provided a bit more excitement. Unfortunately *Bounty* was forced to retire before the start with a boom vang failure, however the other five completed the exhilarating sail, especially considering the closeness of the race. Although times were not recorded due to our finish clashing with the last of the Brass Monkey Series starts, the first three yachts all finished within something like 20 seconds of each other with the others well in sight



For Sale

Drambuie

Fibreglass, very good condition, extensive sail wardrobe, 5 HP Mercury outboard. For more details please ring **Ivan Knight** on **9398 2177** or **0429 982177**

\$6,500 negotiable

2006-07 Membership fees

If you haven't paid your membership fees for the current year you will have received a reminder enclosed with this newsletter. Please pay your fees promptly if you wish to continue to be involved in Association activities.

Bluebird sightings



Ian Mcgrath (*Warranilla*) spotted this Bluebird nestled serenely just outside of Eden, NSW..

behind. *Paramour* recorded her only win for the series, hard pushed by *Tandeka*, then *Warranilla*. Heat six was another race where, due to light winds, no yachts were able to finish before the time expired. At the end of the three hour limit, *Tandeka* led, ahead of *Paramour*, then *Warranilla*. Sadly, there was only about another 20 minutes sailing needed to finish the course.

The final heat started in a very light sea

breeze which gradually picked up during the early afternoon. *Paramour* clinched the best start and continued to lead for about three quarters of the race. However, as the breeze picked up to around ten knots, she was being pegged back by *Tandeka's* faster hull speed. *Tandeka* then gained an unbeatable lead by crossing the shipping channel and tacking back to mark 17 on the Williamstown side of the channel, whereas *Paramour* elected to stay outside the channel which didn't pay off. *Warranilla* followed in third place.

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the series. Well done and thank you to everyone who took part.