

# The Bluebird Newsletter

www.bluebirdsailing.org.au



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

Hi all

In my first communication in the BYAV newsletter as President of the BYAV, on behalf of the Association I would like to pay tribute to the outgoing committee members, Ivan Knight (outgoing President), Louise (outgoing Treasurer) and Ryan Blackstock (outgoing committee member).

Ivan has been President for 5 years and his enthusiasm and dedication to promoting the Bluebird Class has seen a significant rise in the number of active Bluebirds and an increasing appreciation among yachties around the bay of the wonderful attributes of the class of yacht we are lucky to be involved with. Ivan has agreed to stay on the Committee as the Association continues the push to grow the Class for the benefit of all. Naturally he will continue to be a keen and successful competitor in Paramour.

Louise has been Treasurer for 4 years and has worked diligently to keep the Association's finances in great shape, always ensuring that expenditure was matched by income and that the money in the Association's coffers has

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**Enter today at  
www.geelongweek.com.au**

**Skandia  
Geelong Regatta**

**Early bird entries close 8  
January 2009**



*David Wallace, winner of the 2008 Bluebird Cup with Craig Black on Drambuie considers the perpetual trophy.*



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continued to grow.

Louise and Ivan have made a great team working together to promote Bluebirds. They have edited the Bluebird newsletter for a number of years, keeping us informed and amused. They have agreed to continue to edit the newsletter with the proviso that we, as Association members, provide them with useful "tidbits" to put into the newsletter – any bits of news, however small concerning Blueys, members, or really anything at all that may be of interest, will be gratefully received and put to good use. Many thanks to Nick Findlay for contributing the article below.

Ryan Blackstock has resigned from the BYAV committee due to increasing commitments with Hobson's Bay Yacht Club. Ryan is a keen and astute sailor and while on the committee he has shown a great

ability to listen and to make constructive contributions when required. He will be missed from the committee - we hope to see his Bluebird "Jay" back on the water soon.

We welcome Narelle Grey ("Moody Blue") as Treasurer and Nick Findlay ("Panacea") back as Secretary of the Association, a position he has held previously. Peter Roberts ("Tandeka") is welcomed back to the committee after a few years off it, as is David Barnett ("Nunyarra") who is on the committee for the first time.

Also we welcome a number of new members to the Association, including Tom Isbell and Harry Jo who now own Pisces and Ann Goodwin and Julie Neyland who are crewing on Nunyarra. We wish them all many years of happy Bluebird sailing.

Finally, as President I hope that I can be at least half as effective as Ivan in

promoting the Bluebird Class to further the amount of fun we can all extract from our yachts. This involves not only racing, but cruising around the bay (and beyond - Ivan has demonstrated recently that Bluebirds can safely go well and truly beyond the heads).

This raises the question that was brought up at the AGM - just what are the goals of the Association and how do we achieve them? This is an issue we will pursue and we ask all BYAV members to become involved in these discussions.

I will be using emails as the main source of communication and will post copies of relevant emails and other stuff to the half a dozen or so members who are not on emails.

I wish all Bluebird Association members a safe and happy festive season and as always, enjoyable and safe sailing.

## Light Air Sailing

(Courtesy of Robert N Bavier Sailing to Win)

Light winds, especially when they are fluky too, tax the skill of skipper and crew to the utmost. It is then that the finest touch is needed to coax speed from the boat and the keenest concentration required to choose the proper course. Luck is a factor but less impor-

tant as may be supposed. Actually, light weather racing calls for the greatest skill of all. Under such conditions, it is easy to sail the course without mishap, but we are interested in getting around ahead of other boats and that's a job!

The problem divides into two parts, sailing the boat fast and sailing her in the right place.

### Getting the most out of the boat:

While the purist might argue that it is impossible to sail fast in light airs, he must admit that there are ways to improve a boats speed in such conditions. New sails are generally fuller than old ones.



*Ian Lewis*

BYAV President

With use, the draft of a sail reduces and eventually becomes suited to heavy winds. To keep the mainsail full and most effective in light airs, remove most if not all, of the masts for and aft curve. Draft can further be increased by keeping the foot and the luff of the main a bit slack. By such means, even a flat sail can be given a new lease of life.

By far the most important rule for increasing speed is sail with started sheets. Slack them out a few inches

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Who could forget Race 3 of the 2008 Bluebird Cup that tested all our light air sailing skills and saw Kotare come from the back of the fleet to take 2nd place.

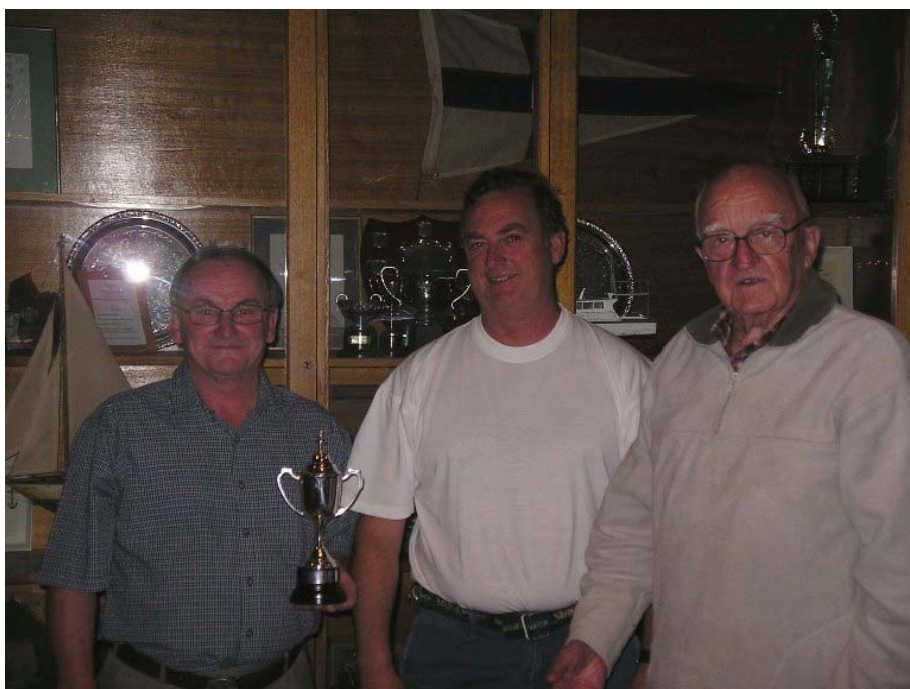


## Your 2008-09 Committee

President	Ian Lewis	Ph. 9527 8737 / 0418 503 515
Vice-President	John Owens	Ph. 9314 7763 / 0417 147 764
Secretary	Nick Findlay	Ph. 9397 2249 / 0413185 417
Treasurer	Narelle Grey	Ph. 9391 9052
Ordinary members	Tim Blunt	Ph.9397 7024 / 0419 594 895
	Jock Murphy	Ph. 9853 0143 / 0427 874 593
	David Barnett	Ph. 9325 1864 / 0419 163 541
	Glenn Hall	Ph. 9397 5319 / 0434 532 506
	Warwick Norman	Ph. 9397 6294 / 0419 582 855
	Ivan Knight	Ph. 9398 2177 / 0429 982 177
	Christian O'Halloran	Ph. 9380 6727 / 0408 302 071
	Peter Roberts	Ph. 9391 2603 / 0414 383 283
Honorary Life Vice-President	Max White	Ph. 9459 7736

## Bluebird Cup 2008

The 2008 Bluebird (Winter) Cup attracted 13 entries. Good, close racing made it a great series. Drambuie (David Wallace and Craig Black) won the series, Moody Blue (Mike and Narelle Grey and Mike Kavanagh) was second and Revel (Warwick Norman) was third. As usual, life member Max White presented the trophies for the Winter Cup at the AGM.



*David Wallace and Craig Black are presented with the First place-getter trophy by Max White.*



## Lipton Regatta

This year's Lipton Regatta (hosted by the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, as always) was held on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2008, with three races on the Saturday and one long course race on the Sunday. It was good sailing and six Bluebirds competed in Division D. Drambuie won D Division overall (another great result for David Wallace and Craig Black), with Moody Blue 4<sup>th</sup>, Revel 5<sup>th</sup>, Warranilla 6<sup>th</sup>, Shadow 7<sup>th</sup>, and Nunyarra 9<sup>th</sup>.

There is no doubt that big ticket regattas such as the Skandia Weekend are a wonderful chance to advance the cause of the mighty Bluebirds.

For the first time we have been given our own Class for the 2009 Skandia Geelong Regatta (Australia Day weekend -January 24 - 26, 2009) and our aim is to have 10 Bluebirds entered for this wonderful weekend of sailing.

Category 5 is required – the only significant expense item for cat 5 being a VHF radio for around \$300 and it's a good thing to have anyway.

Christian O'Halloran from BYAV is liaising with Royal Geelong Yacht Club

to secure a specific berthing area for those Bluebirds participating in the weekend. The more Bluebirds we have entered early, the better our chances of getting an allocated berthing area for Bluebirds. This is particularly helpful as Bluebirds expect to be late arrivals after the Passage Race on the first day when most other yachts have already found a berth.

On-line entries are now being accepted. Go to [www.geelongweek.com.au](http://www.geelongweek.com.au) and enter before 8th of January to take advantage of the early bird rate.

## BYAV Polly Woodside long course series

The BYAV Polly Woodside long course series (Category 5) began on 30<sup>th</sup> November with the HBYC two handed course (Chris Webb Trophy). Three Bluebirds competed with Paramour leading the Bluebird fleet home followed by Shadow and Manjimup. The other 3 races in the 4 race series (best 3 to count) are the Geelong Passage Race on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (one of the Skandia Weekend races), the HBYC two handed race on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2009 and the St Leonard's Race on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

Christian O'Halloran is the organizer for the BYAV Polly Woodside Long Course Series, including the Geelong Passage Race.

The Association AGM was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October and for the first time in a number of years there were changes in executive positions and some other committee member changes. The new BYAV Committee and contact phone numbers is detailed on page 3.

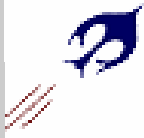
After the AGM and discussions, Peter Roberts gave a fascinating talk on his sailing and surfing adventures with Helen and the family in French Polynesia, in and around Tahiti in March of this year.

With the help of Warwick Norman as "projectionist", Peter captured the spirit of what was clearly a fascinating adventure sailing a 40 foot Catamaran and surfing the waves around the islands of Tahiti.

Thanks to Peter for giving us an insight into what memorable adventures you can have sailing with your family in exotic locations if you have a spirit of adventure, and I'm sure it got many of us thinking "what if I .....".

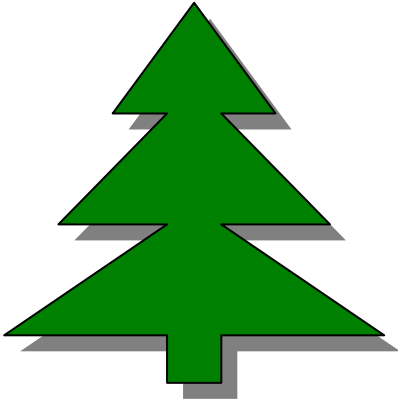
Thanks must also go to John Owens for organising the catering for the evening.

## 2008 Annual General Meeting



## Christmas BBQ

This year's Christmas BBQ was held on November 30<sup>th</sup>, after the 2 handed race with a BYO barbeque in the evening. About 20 Bluebirders had an enjoyable evening swapping sailing yarns.



*L to R: President Ian Lewis with members Ivan Knight, Louise Avery, Norm Price, Jean Price and Ann Goodwin.*



*Warwick Norman, master chef, at the Christmas BBQ.*

## Bluebird Summer Twilight Series

A Bluebird "Summer Twilight Series" is being held on Thursday nights as part of the Royals Twilight Thursday night series.

It is a non-spinnaker event and good fun.

The series is underway now and we will take the best 7 of around 20 races out of the RYCV Thursday Twilight Series for the Bluebird Summer Twilight Series. There's plenty of opportunity therefore to have some good twilight sailing and compete with other Bluebirds in a relaxed atmosphere.

For more information go to the Royals website [www.rycv.yachting.org.au](http://www.rycv.yachting.org.au) Fax in entry forms for each race before midday each Thursday and just drop the \$10 in before or after the race in an envelope with your yacht's name on it.



## Silent Knight

After five years as President of the BYAV I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who assisted me in this role, in particular the committee office-bearers who put in so many tireless voluntary hours.

Having enjoyed some 45 years on the water in yachts of all sorts, it was most satisfying to contribute something back to the sport by helping others with their Bluebirds. Since 1996 when I joined our Association we have seen a reasonable expansion in the size of our fleet and the growing enthusiasm of its sailors is evident by the participation rate and the smart appearance of the yachts both on hardstands and on moorings.

I believe that achieving class status for the 2009 Skandia Geelong Week is our ticket to the best exposure a class of yachts can have—at least on Port Phillip Bay. If you have not already entered for this event I urge all owners to give it a try and let's show the sailing community at large the strength of our fleet and the standard of our competition.

The growing enthusiasm of Bluebird sailors was particularly evident at our recent AGM when four members volunteered their commitment to the committee, with the loss of only two retiring. We now have the most enthusiastic and largest committee that any of us have previously seen under the very able leadership of Ian Lewis. It would seem that the future of our Bluebird Association is assured well into the future and we can all hold our heads high when we tell people "I sail a Bluebird".

I hope everyone has a great Christmas/New year and a safe and successful sailing season.

Regards

Ivan Knight.



*Shadow disappears under the Bolte Bridge after a night at Docklands.*

*(Continued from page 2)*

more than in an average wind and don't try to point too high. The added speed more than makes up for the extra distance that must be sailed. Remember, don't pinch!

Of even greater importance than sail fast in light and fluky winds is the ability to go to the right place. Admittedly luck is a factor, but some skippers are able to be lucky week after week, until it becomes apparent that their tactics are responsible for their continued success.

In light airs keep the boat going in the right direction by observing the shifts. The skipper should be on the lookout for puffs of wind and rippled water. A continued tack towards the direction of the expected breeze is the most sensible tactic.

While running in light airs it is more impotent than ever to work to leeward in the puffs. In very light going, speed is increased tremendously by sharpening up closer to the wind. This is

called freshening your wind. In order to be able to do this and still average the course it is imperative to bear off below it in the puffs however slight the increase in the wind. Plan to stay in wind channels as long as possible.

Other ways of improving performance in light airs is:

- Use lighter sheets,
- Reduce the number of parts so that sheets move more readily,
- Use a light crew,  
Move slowly around the yacht and keep movement to a minimum.



## Race Dates 2009

<b>Bluebird Long Course Series (Safety Cat. 5)</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Heat</b>
<b>30 November 2008*</b>	<b>1</b>
HBYC Two handed race Ht 3	
<b>24 January 2009</b>	<b>2</b>
Geelong Passage race	
<b>29 March 2009</b>	<b>3</b>
HBYC Two handed race Ht 5	
<b>18 April 2009</b>	<b>4</b>
Don Thompson trophy, St Leonards Race	

\*completed (Paramour 1st, Shadow 2nd, Manjimup 3rd)

<b>BYAV State Championships 2009</b>					
<b>Date</b>	<b>Heat</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Heat</b>	<b>Start</b>
<b>February</b>			<b>March</b>		
Sunday 1	1	1120 hrs	Sunday 1	4	1300 hrs
Sunday 15	2	1300 hrs	Sunday 15	5	1300 hrs
Sunday 22	3	1300 hrs			

<b>Bluebird Cup Winter Series 2009</b>					
<b>Date</b>	<b>Heat</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Heat</b>	<b>Start</b>
<b>May</b>			<b>August</b>		
Saturday 9	1	1300 hrs	Saturday 1	6	1300 hrs
Saturday 23	2	1300 hrs	Saturday 15	7	1300 hrs
<b>June</b>			Saturday 29	8	1300 hrs
Saturday 20	3	1300 hrs	<b>September</b>		
<b>July</b>			Saturday 12	9	1300 hrs
Saturday 4	4	1300 hrs			
Saturday 18	5	1300 hrs			