

The Bluebird Newsletter

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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

Following our record entries for the State Titles this year, our current Winter Series Bluebird Cup is also at record numbers with 13 entries and most heats attracting double figures of starters. *Drambuie* is once again setting the pace and proving very hard to beat. As our fleet is still growing, we can expect an even larger fleet next year.

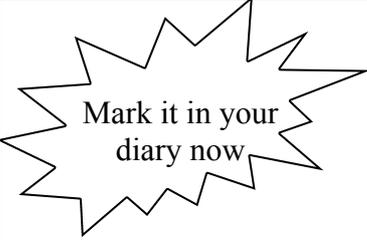
Nick Findlay has purchased *Panacea* and transported her up from the Gippsland Lakes. We will therefore have another contender next summer. Meanwhile *Tandeka*, *Jay* and *Motley Crew* are at various stages of refitting and their owners expect to be competing again next season.

Dates for our 2009 5-heat summer State Titles and 9-heat winter Bluebird Cup series have been set. It has also been decided to include 4 long course races (with one drop) for the Polly Woodside trophy. We have applied for class status for the Skandia Geelong Week which should raise our profile and give our fleet a boost.

Our presentation night was another great success enjoyed by 50 people. This year's guest speaker was very entertaining, sharing his experience of the disastrous 1979 Fastnet Race.

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Mark it in your
diary now

Annual General Meeting
Friday 24 October 2008
7.30pm @ HBYC

As I will not be in a position to stand for re-election for another term as President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee, Association members and HBYC for their support over the past 5 years.

Your Treasurer, Louise Avery and I will be away traveling for the next 3 months, so I would like to wish everyone safe and successful sailing for the rest of the series and look forward to seeing you at the AGM/ winter presentation and social on October 24.

Ivan Knight
President

Membership subscriptions for 2008-09 are now due and payable before the AGM. Please see enclosed subscription form for details.



Presentation Night was held this year in May with 50 people in attendance



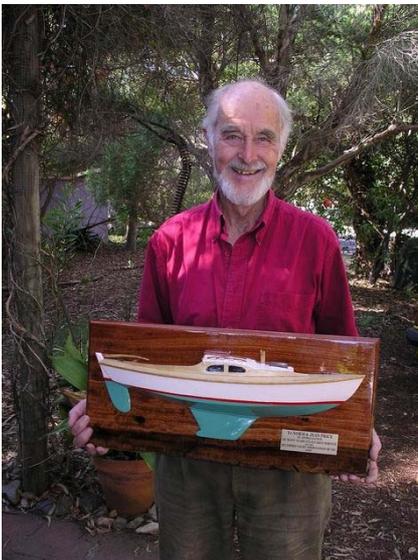
PANACEA JOINS THE BAY FLEET

Vale Kan Walker

9/2/26 - 8/5/08

Kan Walker was a wonderful friend to me, especially over the last six or seven years. Kan finally succumbed to cancer on 9 May, bringing a great loss to many.

I first met Kan in 1968 soon after buying my first vehicle. I had been helping various people plaster their ferro yachts and news of Kan's



Kan Walker displaying the model Bluebird he made.

advances seemed worth investigating. There I found a man passionate about his work, showing me a sample of thin ferro cement test plank and how strong and flexible it was. I made several trips to Geelong to see his works.

Kan became even more well known when he started production of his re-designed H28 in fibreglass, producing around 100 of these. This led to production of a 38-foot cruising yacht to his own design called Bird of the Islands. Unfortunately the economy at this time (1980) went against yacht sales and Kan ceased production after making only two of these yachts. Kan and his wife, Elizabeth, cruised the east coast of Australia in one of them.

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The alarm wakes me at 5.30 am. No.. it's not 'off to the airport', but a mission to add another yacht to the Bluebird fleet in Port Phillip. This will be my 4th Bluebird after a 3 year break whilst working for an airline in Singapore.



My good friend, Salty who is visiting from Hong Kong, and I hit the road to Nungurner to rendezvous with our trusty BYAV President, Ivan. Half an hour out of Melbourne the mobile rings and Ivan indicates he is 30 minutes ahead. A second call from Ivan shortly later brings us the news that his towbar has failed on his van and we arrange to transfer his trailer to the back of my wagon to continue the journey. We realise that our schedule is sliding already.

As we approach Bairnsdale I notice there is a fairly stiff breeze from the s'west. We arrive at Ivan's beautifully constructed residence at Nungurner around 10:30 am and immediately collect the required gear for our planned transit of Panacea from Nungurner to Paynesville boatyard.

At Paynesville we have to drop her mast and lift her on to the back of a trailer for transport. Unlike previous members, I was not so adventurous to transport her myself and arranged a

local specialist.

The three of us left Nungurner jetty shortly after 11 am and hoisted sails for what we expected to be about a 1 and ½ hour sail to Paynesville. No sooner had we rounded the corner of Shaving Point

(Metung) that we realised our voyage may take slightly longer. Fortunately we had jackets as we were hammering into a 20-30kt breeze for the next 3+ hours!

The strong wind threw my tightly planned schedule into chaos as the chaps who run the travel lift at Paynesville don't normally accept work after 3 pm. Likewise, the driver of the transport company had planned to drive to Melbourne that afternoon.

Ivan had also arranged Andrew MacGregor and Dawson Kalman (both past Bluey owners) to lie alongside Panacea at Paynesville to facilitate dropping her mast. Of course these plans went out the window when time became a little more critical.

At about the half way mark

(Continued on page 3)



Bluebird Cup 2008

See page 5 for results so far

(Continued from page 2)

(approaching Raymond Is.) I was thinking we'd be lucky to make Paynesville by nightfall. We started the 6HP outboard and although we copped a bit more spray we were able to make much better headway.

Arriving at Paynesville around 3pm very cold and wet, we quickly prepared the boat for the mast drop which was now to be done by the crane on the travel lift. It was fairly straight forward and no sooner had we finished we were watching Panacea being lifted up by the travel lift and placed on to the trailer for her journey to Melbourne.

We gratefully accepted the offer of a warm lounge room and dinner from the MacGregor's who have retired to a delightful residence on Raymond Is. After a delicious meal prepared by Andrew's wife, Terry, we were transported back to Nungurner by Andrew to end a very long and rewarding day.

Nick Findlay

Panacea



The two Mikes of Moody Blue



Drambuie, Warranilla and MoodyBlue, Race 1



John Owens helming Shadow to the finish line



Revel and Warranilla in mill-pond conditions, Race 2



Overnight Cruise to Docklands a Roaring Success

(Continued from page 2)

I came in more close contact with Kan and Elizabeth in 2001 when I was in the early stages of building our home on the Gippsland Lakes. Kan and Elizabeth were cruising the Lakes on their last and most innovative 37-foot aluminium yacht 'Eli-Khan'. I soon learned that Kan was passionate about building generally, having built 12 houses himself as well as 168 yachts totalling 1100 tons. Our friendship grew as he helped me with my house building project, and I him to a small degree with the last house he built; again his own design, in Paynesville and at age 76.

Kan sailed with me on my Bluebird 'Paramour' on several occasions, as did I on 'Eli-Khan'. The last trip we did together was sailing 'Eli-Khan' to Geelong from Paynesville in March 2007 when Kan was 81. We took it in turns to hand-steer two hours each watch until we had to shelter from south westerly winds behind Cape Woollami for two nights. Kan and I spent an enjoyable day hiking over to Newhaven and San Remo for lunch and back again. I remember the many times we stopped to make scratchings in the sand as Kan enthusiastically attempted to explain some of his many design innovations.

Most of you will remember meeting Kan and Elizabeth as they attended several of our Presentation Nights. It was of course Kan who produced the beautiful scaled model of a Bluebird for Norm and Jean Price.

Kan was so very free with his time and enjoyed sharing his knowledge and experience. He became almost like a father to me and has influenced my life in many ways.

Ivan Knight

Paramour

The overnight cruise after the race up the river to Docklands was great fun with 3 Bluebirds (Paramour, Nunyarra and Shadow) together with David and Kerry Judge in "Flying Machine". Pisces was set to join the festivities but unfortunately Nick is having trouble with his brand new 4 stroke outboard and couldn't make it. Dinner at The Mecca Bar followed by a bottle of Bailey's in the Marina



Relaxing in the Marina lounge with a bottle of Bailey's

lounge made it a great night out. The berths at Docklands Marina are safe and accessible with electric plugs and a water tap for each berth. The nearby Marina lounge (accessible 24 hours a day) has all mod-cons, including clean and spacious bathrooms/ showers, washers/dryers, kitchen, plasma TV, free internet, outside deck with BBQ etc. overlooking the water – all for \$35. Definitely worth

an overnight visit anytime you want a relaxing evening, especially mid-week as it can be a bit noisy Friday/Saturday nights. Then again, you can just adjust the dosage of Bailey's or whatever is your tipple and you won't hear a thing. Right now it's really easy to book (96588738) but I suspect it will not be that way forever.



Shadow by night at Docklands

Ian Lewis, *Shadow*



2008 Bluebird Cup Results So Far

Cumulative total (best 5 of 9 races)

Yacht	Helmsperson	Sail no.	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Best 5
Drambuie	Craig Black	S57	1	2	5	2	5	10
Moody Blue	Mike Grey	H1150	2	3	1	3	3	12
Paramour	Ivan Knight	H66	3	9	6	1	2	21
Revel	Warwick Norman	H292	6	2	3	5	8	24
Warranilla	Ian McGrath/ John Vermeulen	H271	4	4	4	14	4	30
Nunyara	David Barnett	H471	5	9	8	6	6	34
Shadow	Ian Lewis/John Owens	H241	8	14	14	4	5	45
Kotare	Logan Stuart	H85	14	14	2	7	14	51
Gaylene	Tim Blunt	H1138	11	9	9	14	10	53
Pisces	Nick White	H71	14	9	14	8	9	54
Bounty	Bruce/ Peter Hocking	H56	10	14	10	14	7	55
Secret	Jock Murphy	H90	7	14	12	14	14	61
Manjimup	Christian O'Halloran	H1684	14	14	7	14	14	63

Terry Gets Life

Congratulations to our own Life Member Terry Hill who was recently awarded life membership of Hobson's Bay Yacht Club



Race Dates 2008-09

Bluebird Cup Winter Series 2008— remaining dates		
Date	Heat	Start
July		
Saturday 19	6	1300 hrs
August		
Saturday 2	7	1300 hrs
Saturday 16	8	1300 hrs
Saturday 30	9	1300 hrs

Bluebird Long Course Series (Safety Cat. 5)	
Date	Heat
tbc	1
Port Arlington Course	
30 November 2008	2
HBYC Two handed race Ht 3	
24 January 2009	3
Geelong Passage race	
18 April 2009	4
Don Thompson trophy, St Leonards Race	

BYAV State Championships 2009					
Date	Heat	Start	Date	Heat	Start
February			March		
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			

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