

Freedom On Water Newsletter

April 2013

Hi All,

The executive committee is keen to bring back a newsletter for Sailability NSW on a regular basis. I have been assigned this task. It is intended that this venture should reflect the aspirations of the branches within Sailability NSW. I will therefore naturally need considerable input from the various branches so send me any comments, suggestions, stories (with photos preferably) and ideas. I will endeavour to make contact with each branch in the meantime. You can contact me via mobile 0409 550 265 or preferably via email rmclaren@lysoc.com

Russell McLaren, Executive Assistant Sailability NSW

History and Structure

Sailability commenced in April 1995 at Gosford and the foundation committee included: Denis Critchley, John Woodward, Ruth Miller and Phil Vardy.

In December 1995 Sailability NSW was formally incorporated with a committee that included: Neil Anderson, Paul Tayler, Jackie and Wayne Teagle.

Sailability NSW Inc is the peak body which governs Sailability NSW branches. To ensure the efficient operation of the branches of Sailability NSW procedures were put in place by the executive committee.

The procedures are available on the www.sailabilitynsw.org website under the Manuals menu "**Sailability NSW – Branch Manual**" – **2.1 BRANCH ADMINISTRATION- Administration Requirements**

Based on these procedures branches are not legally empowered to enter into any legal contract without the **prior** approval of the Sailability NSW Executive Committee e.g. Grants. Branches are also **not** able to issue receipts for tax deductions; this must be done through Sailability NSW accounts. Therefore any donations that require a tax deductible receipt must be sent to Sailability NSW. Similarly for a branch to obtain a GST refund the invoice must be sent to Sailability NSW who will arrange payment. The branch would then reimburse Sailability NSW. The GST refund from the quarterly submission would then be sent to the branch. All of the above is spelt out in the above procedures.

Sailability NSW is required to submit annual audited accounts that conform to Racing and Gaming requirements to retain its fundraising status, Income Exemption and GST benefits. Failure to comply with this procedure could result in Sailability NSW (and therefore its branches) losing its Charitable Status and place in jeopardy the insurance status of members.

Website

As a follow on from the conference held in 2010 we have developed a new website www.sailabilitynsw.org that was launched at the AGM in August 2012. The concept was to enable branches to access and edit details about their branch. In order to do this each branch requires a "Branch Administrator" who will be given a username and a password to access their branch. A procedure has been loaded on the website to assist these administrators.

Did you know that you can personalise your website by sending me five (5) photos that you would like to appear when your branch appears. E.g. The Cronulla website photos are different to the default set.

Branch Article:

The following is an article prepared by Port Macquarie members Rick Eller and Julie Constable and edited by Frank Bardsley on the successful establishment of Sailability Port Macquarie. It is a good example of what can be achieved by a committed and dedicated team of volunteers.

SAILABILITY PORT MACQUARIE NSW - HUGE SUCCESS WITH HAPPY SAILORS

Thanks to the work of a couple of Rotarians back in early 2012, Rick Eller and Julie Constable, who had heard about Sailability and could see a need in their local community, they sought the help of Sailability Port Stephens. After lengthy discussions with them and some members journeying to Port Macquarie to give a presentation to the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie West on Sailability and how it works, the project was launched and Sailability Port Macquarie became a reality.

Being non sailors, the above two Rotarians attended Sailability Port Stephens' three day "Introduction to Sailing" course. Later SPS members journeyed some 300 kms with two Access Dinghies up to Port Macquarie for an Open Day to show the community and other Rotarians what Sailability is all about and also demonstrate how to use the dinghies off the beach as they had no pontoon.

Sailability Port Macquarie in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie West now holds very successful sailing days for people with a disability. All the Service Users are thrilled with the freedom they enjoy, sailing on the beautiful Hastings River.

Sailability Port Macquarie is supported by Sailability NSW who have generously loaned us 4 Access dinghies being, two 303s and two 2.3s.



Sailability Port Macquarie spent over a year planning this activity and now finally is able to hold its own sailing days with the help of 35 local volunteers from the Port Macquarie area including Rotary

Club of Port Macquarie West and members of the Port Macquarie Yacht Club. Sailing events are held at McInherney Park most Wednesday mornings from 9am till approx 2pm weather permitting

Sailing days are organised using best practice and the Disability Providers who have attend the sailing days include, Special Olympics, New IDAFE, ACES, Guide Dogs NSW/ACT and House With No Steps as well as 6 High Schools with Disability Units from Camden Haven, Port Macquarie and Kempsey. We have up to 20 clients at our sailing days on a regular basis.

One very keen sailor, who is vision impaired, just loves the excitement of being able to experience the thrill of being on the water. Some of our sailors are confined to wheelchairs most of the day but also get a real thrill once they try this exciting sport. The range of disability is varied and all who experience a day of sailing cannot wait to do it again. This event has a following of the above providers as a regular event for their clients.



Volunteers provide the help that is needed:

1. Sailing (sailors)
2. Boat handling, loading passengers
3. Shore marshals (with 2 way radios)

4. Check in desk (administration in the shade)
5. Catering
6. Recovery boat driver and/ or catcher
7. Trailer and boat collector/ deliverer (need car with tow bar) as we do not have boat storage adjacent to the waterway, these requirements are now being covered each week.

We have held raffles to raise funds to help us buy our own equipment and have asked for support from the other four Rotary Clubs in our area and we are slowly building up finances. We are also seeking corporate sponsorship and have regularly placed articles of our progress in the local newspapers.

State Conference

The State Conference will be held at the Narrabeen Sports Academy Wakehurst Parkway Narrabeen starting at 5.00pm on Friday 23 August 2013. Finishing on Sunday 25 August with the Annual General Meeting.

Delegates: Maximum 2 per branch for accommodation including meals
Other delegates can attend on a daily basis

Travel Expenses: Delegates outside the metropolitan area can submit travel expenses for reimbursement.

Committee: Neil Anderson
 John Price
 Eli Demeny
 Russell McLaren

An agenda will be forthcoming and all branches have been given advance notice of the details.