



# Merricks Moments

All the news from MYC | Autumn Edition, April 2024

## Contents

Commodore's Report **Page 1**  
Rear Commodore's Report **Page 5**  
Social News **Page 8**  
Craft Group Contribution **Page 12**  
Younger set **Page 13**  
Junior Sailing **Page 14**  
Merchandise **Page 16**

## Coming up

Stern Chaser, Drinks and Nibbles - **April 13**  
End of Season Working Bee - **April 14**  
AGM and Presentation Night - **June 8**  
MYC 24/25 Opening - **November 2**

## Newsletter Contributions

"Merricks Moments" is a biannual publication. Submissions and photos most welcome  
newsletter@merricks.org

## CLOG!! (Commodore's Log)

23 March 2024 9.07 am. The Melbourne Grand Prix is on tomorrow. We'll be on the water for two Autumn Series races while Grid Qualifying takes place. Who will provide inspiration for my racing today – Oscar, Daniel or my favourites, Max and Cheko!! It's Max, so cool, so calm, so clinical .....

**Beep, Beep, Beep, Beep (the sound of a digital alarm), it's Groundhog Day in Merricks (the stage show seen recently by the Commodore and FLOMYC – and highly recommended). There are two newsletters a year but they seem to come around almost daily. This is my fourth contribution to the newsletter under the CLOG banner, and like Groundhog Day it seems everything to report is the SAME. Great club sailing (again), we win the Montalto Marathon again (!), we have a fantastic summer season of social activities and events (again), the Younger set are having fun and our volunteers are working hard to make it all happen (again). It's all true and I experienced it like the two Phils (Connors and the Punxsatawnet groundhog).**

**SKJERA BAGERA** – this is a Norwegian phrase with multiple meanings, "what's up", "nothing much", "someone who is very detail oriented" or "something that is done with precision and diligence". It's my favourite saying for 2024 and sums up the Permit Application for the "Shed" – coming soon to a yacht club near you. The process is also like Groundhog Day – a lot of people seem to be asking the same questions and getting the same answers at different over and over again. After getting the green light from the Members at the last AGM, we immediately started on the approvals process.



With the assistance of the Bendigo Bank we put up a new MYC sign on the Clubhouse.



And given their huge support of the club over the years, we were pleased to hang a Bendigo Bank sign as well.

## CLOG!!...

I am hoping that by the time the Newsletter is published, our permit will be granted after around 9 months that included onsite assessments, climate impact studies, documentation, letters and multiple responses to various parties. Our Crown Land overlay introduces additional levels of government to the process, each seemingly trying to do the job of Council. How am I feeling about this all – it's made me older and wiser, I'll be ecstatic once the Permit comes through. More Groundhog Day. Our Sailing Captain, Stewart, has put on an excellent season for the sailors, all having fun and (dare I say) competing vigorously. Stewart has improved our skills and inspired us to two Montalto Marathon victories in a row. Now that's history making! - and I'm not talking about the Siege of Vienna.))

**Sue, Penny, Caz, Kaye and Volunteers put on the best events ever!! My favourites - Quiz night, thought I may have gone on a little too long in my own round and am in danger of never being asked back ..... Burgers by the Bay, even though the power went out and our air conditioners couldn't work on the hottest evening of the year, the team pulled together (with the help of the battery and a borrowed generator) and put on a great spread that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.**

**Thanks to Tom and his team for Junior Sailing, mostly good weather this year if not always for sailing - unfortunately the two attempts for a Flinders overnight cruise failed due to strong winds. Better luck next year!**

**Younger Activities were well attended and under the leadership of the Queen of the Kids, Nish, and her team they all went ahead seamlessly – apart from the occasional technical glitch on Movie Nights with the club's audio video visual system. There are moves afoot to address this over the winter break.**

**Huge thanks to the Committee and all our volunteers. I'm hoping by the time the next AGM comes along, the shed will be in construction mode – we shall see!!**

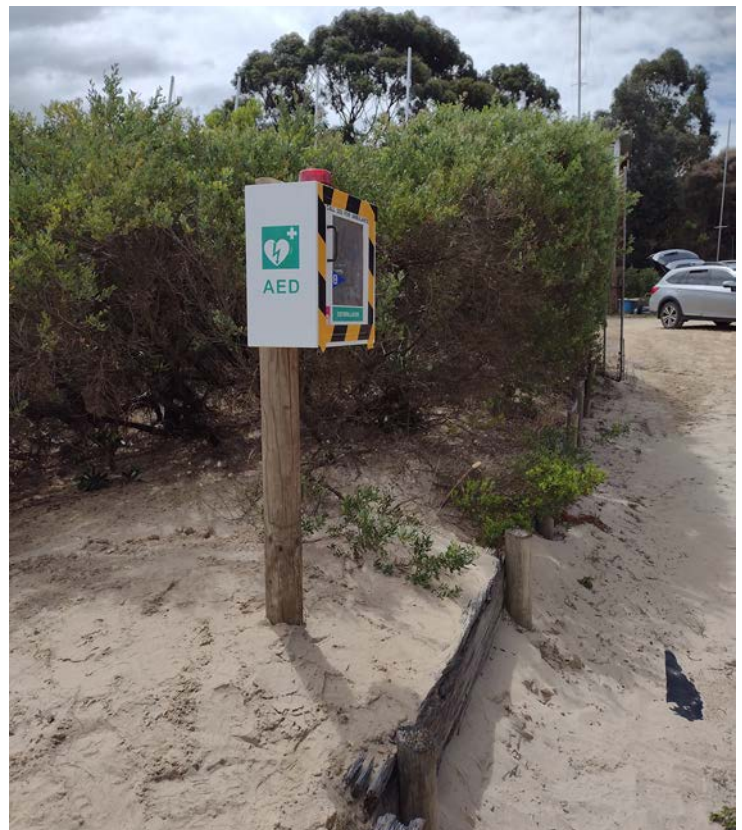
And finally, Groundhog Day is ultimately a story of redemption and love, perhaps we should all experience it at some point in our lives.

**All the best and philosophically,**

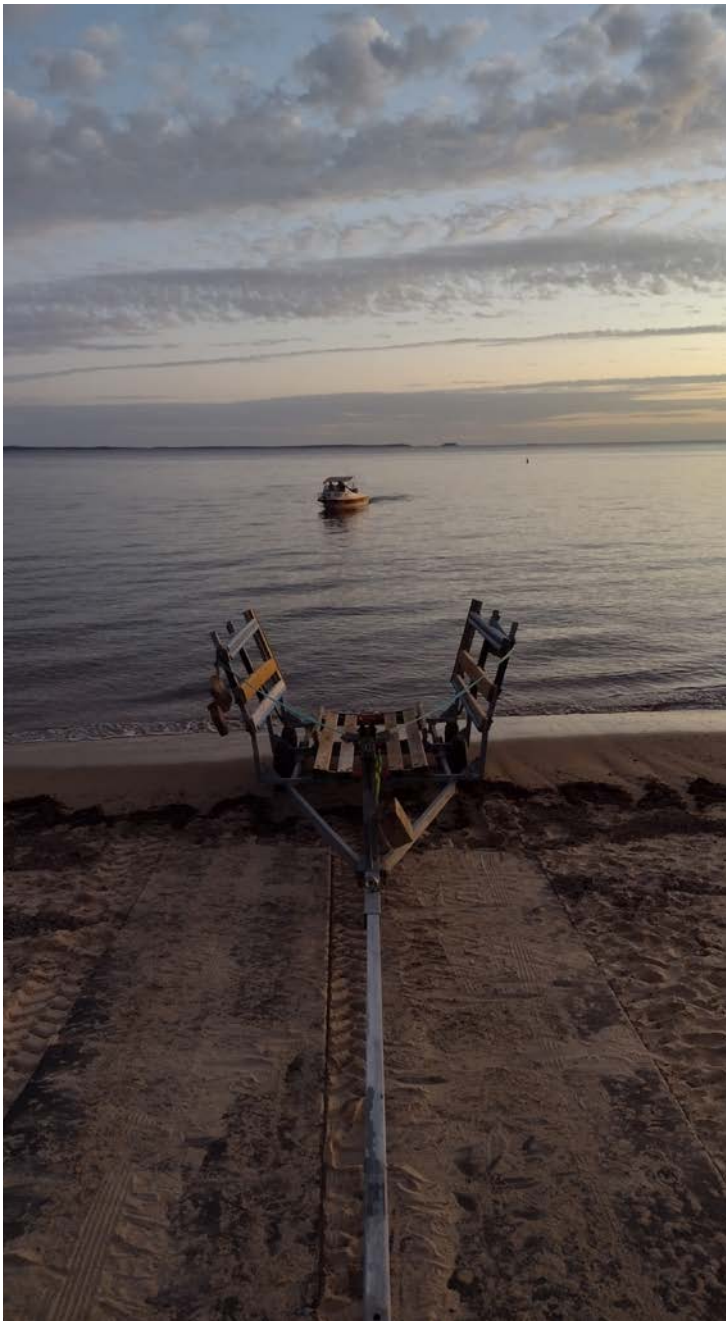
*Peter Balka,*

**Commodore**

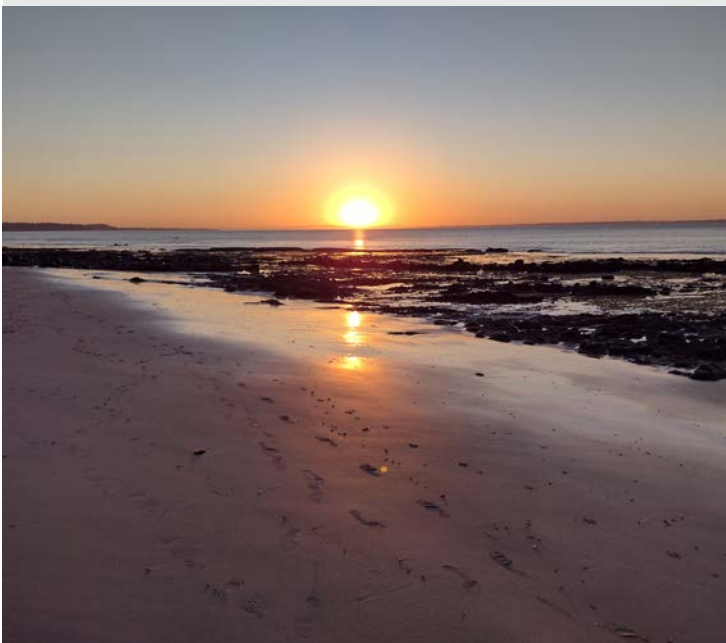
PS: See you at the Sternchaser, AGM and Presentation Dinner



**Prior to the start of the season the House and Yard Captain organised the placement of the club's second defibrillator on the beach side of the club's gates. Now it can be accessed 24/7 by both members and the public.**



Doug and Kieth back at Merricks just before nightfall. Doug in ML11 towed Keith's Castle to Hastings after it hit a rock during a race.



The tower was painted during the pre-season working bees.



Anthony and Carolyn launch their new Tasar.

# Chain Gang at work at Merricks

In collaboration with the Office of Corrections, inmates from a nearby facility are working at Merricks. Under strict supervision, as part of their rehabilitation program prior to release, they repaired some of the club's retaining walls and dug out the pad for the new CFA water tank (required as part of the shed build). Can these hardened criminals be put on the path to righteousness and integrated back into society – we're sure of it!!

See the photos below, names have been withheld to protect their families.



Hard at it!!



Better than new.



Getting ready for the new 10,000l water tank.



Montalto Marathon



A local earthmover did some sand removal at the club prior to the season.



Montalto Marathon

## Rear Commodore

Autumn is here and the sun has set on the 2023-24 Sailing Season but firstly, a BIG thank you to all the volunteers on and off the water that we all need so that we can “go for a sail” and a special mention to the junior set, great effort and turn out this year, including the Teams Racing 2024. THANK YOU.

Fortunately, as the year progressed from our opening day Regatta, the MYC fleet grew with some “newbies” on the water with some new yachts that have improved the class and interclub racing. There were several highlights throughout the MYC sailing year, and once again the MYC fleet were able to take out the Club Trophy for the Montalto Marathon. Weather this year has been a major factor with lots of instability over the Christmas break, making some schedule races being cancelled. But numbers on the water have been great with a constant core group racing. We now approach the final few races for the end of Season stern chaser and the traditional final drinks on the balcony to celebrate the Season.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen work commitments, combined with a few adventures, I will not be continuing in the role of Rear Commodore, but I would like to say thanks to those who have supported me during my two year yenure in the role.

See you out on the water.....or in the bar, safe sailing for 2024-25.

*Stewart Carter,*  
Rear Commodore



## The View from the Tower

**Despite numerous messages from the Tower that large cash payments would ‘facilitate’ the recording of results, disappointingly none were forthcoming. Nonetheless, the Tower Team would like to thank everybody who volunteered for a stint in the Tower, as well as those operating ML11 and ML2 (and even ML5), and earnestly hope that the lack of pecuniary reward did not diminish their enthusiasm.**

On a serious note, the competence and good humour of the rescue boat crews makes our job much, much easier, and thank you for your patience, forbearance and understanding (and being able to count down from 10).

Despite cancellations particularly at the beginning of the season, and some mid-race abandonments later on, the Tower Team have enjoyed some good racing, fine weather and of course the best of views, all whilst staying dry. Several times this season the races were also enlivened by the presence of dolphins. Our particular thanks to Jonka for manning the radio during the latter part of the season. It has been very good to have him back, and I am sure that the tractor drivers have appreciated the tips coming over the loudspeaker system.

We would also thank the sailing master Stewart (and his able deputies when not there) for setting up the races clearly and concisely, making our job an awful lot easier. The sailing master having a radio whilst on his Melges has been a great innovation this year in changing the course between races whilst necessary.

We would always encourage volunteers in the Tower - there is always someone to show you the ropes (and there are fewer ropes than on an actual boat) and no experience, sailing or otherwise, is necessary. Plus, where else could you find such sparkling conversation and engaging debate? Recent subjects discussed in the Tower, whilst waiting for competitors to cross the line and whilst scanning the water for ‘swimmers’, include subjects such as the proper pronunciation of ‘castle’ (hint : carrrsle), games played in the

school yard as children, places to visit in London, philosophy, colleges, siblings, Russia, flags and buoys, is Raleigh “rally” or “rawly”, Paris, the Antarctic, the word for being really annoyed by a repetitious sound, cataract operations, chemo, how many times a competitor is likely to capsize (we look forward to seeing who wins the Turtle award this year), which competitor do we think swears the most whilst sailing and, of course, the weather. That is only a very small example of the wide-ranging conversations you would likely encounter, plus free cups of tea!

**Once again, thanks to all our volunteers – it is, we are sure, obvious to everybody that we could not do what we do without you giving up your time, and it is very much appreciated. We hope that you enjoy it as much as we do.**

## The Tower Team



Jonka back on deck



It's relaxing in the tower, but it turns your hair white!



View from the tower



Stewart (under the high-viz sombrero) at briefing



Action on the beach

## Glorious Leader Inspires

So, as you've heard...repeatedly, Merricks has again won the Montalto Marathon.

However, the headlines should have read –

**“Glorious Leader inspires Merricks Yacht Club to Montalto Marathon back to back victories!”**

The scene is set.

Saturday 17th Feb, 81 starters from around Westernport, cloudless skies, 10kts of wind, perfect sailing conditions.

Pre-race, to continuous polite clapping, our Glorious Leader paces the yacht club yard, his anxiety palpable.

He can be heard muttering –

“Legacy, legacy, I must have a legacy.”

“No excuses will be acceptable!”

After several failed rocket launches during the week, a victory for the Glorious Leader was imperative.

To inspire the Merricks competitors, Glorious Leader addresses the sailors.

**“Our cause is just and the might of a Merricks Yacht Club united with truth is infinite!”**

He continues..

“There can be neither today without yesterday nor tomorrow without today!”

Silence.

Glorious Leader turns his back and walks to the change rooms.

The team is powerfully motivated and yet at the same time bewildered.

And it was, that actions validated his words of wisdom, victory became ours (his).

The proof was in the pudding (of which he has had many).

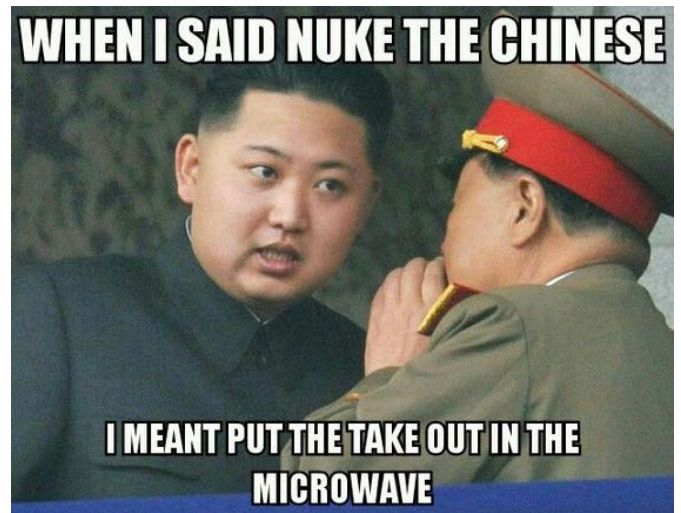
Some outstanding individual results and a spectacular team effort had obviously been driven by our stirring Glorious Leader.

We thank him as he becomes the most successful Commodore in the last two seasons.

However, a massive shout out must go to Stewart Carter and all the MYC volunteers who gave up their day to make the 2024 Montalto Marathon such a successful event. Thank you!

A heavy load now lands on the shoulders of next years' leader, expectations are high for a threepeat.

However, as Terry Venables said – “If history repeats itself, I should think we can expect the same thing”...genius.



## Social news...

Oh what a very social year we have had so far. Great numbers in attendance to all events with waiting lists for many.

### Post Race Nibbles and Drinks / December 30th, 2023

This was a new idea to make the informal post race drinks a little more formal with organised nibbles and the bar open for drinks. A lovely warm evening when many people attending, including many non sailing members. A great time was had by most people although Keith had hit the reef with his rudder during the race and was being towed to Hastings by Doug in the Merricks Patrol.

**We will try more post race nibbles and drinks next season!**

### Quiz night / January 6th, 2024

On January 6th the clubhouse was packed to the rafters (where our beautiful bunting for once was somewhat in the way of the screen) as the minds of Merricks gathered for some fierce and noisy competition.

We started with the Commodore's round about ... commodores. His research was so extensive - from our very own Commodores to cars, computers and Lionel Ritchie - that he exceeded the question limit! No penalty ensued. As the following Masterminds can attest it is hard to pull it back to your favourite 10 once you get going.

Charlotte gave us an informative and rather tricky round about our native flora. David challenged our knowledge of literature and the sea, the Boxer family our attention to detail with song lyrics and Mick our recall of political affairs. Sally and Simon produced a cunning round about world flags and the origin of popular words. Tom came up with a great round about the wind and we finished off with our two Toms, back for a second year, with a very catchy music round. On the tables were some sailing anagrams and also movie descriptions to test the little grey cells further.

Each round was entertaining and made us work hard. The variety of topics set by this year's Masterminds was excellent. Sue worked all evening without let up on the scoring and must be commended for that! At the end of the evening Mick's team took out the winning prize while younger members of Webster and Hansford clans were pleased to receive a super useful wooden spoon. Thanks to Masterminds for their efforts and to all who attended!

**Planning ahead for next season – if you would like to host a round please let Penny know. She will be hunting down willing victims later in the year, so get in quick!**

Teams	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10									
The Commodores	9	6	15	8	23	2	25	7	32	9	41	3	44	14	58	4	62	9	71
The Bay Mints	9	4	13	8	21	3	24	8	32	10	42	4	46	14	60	5	75	9	84
Tavia Newton John	10	5	15	6	21	3	24	7	31	8.5	39.5	3	42.5	16	58.5	7	65	11	76.5
Pea Brains	12	3	15	5	20	3	23	3	26	9	35	2	37	15	52	13	65	11	76
Let's get quizziac	13	5	18	5	23	4	27	6	33	8.5	41.5	4	45.5	19	64.5	14	78.5	11	89.5
The Club Champions forever	10	3	13	6	19	3	22	8	30	9	39	2	41	13	54	6	60	4	64
The Windnuts	9	4	13	8	21	3	24	10	34	9	43	3	46	20	66	6	72	9	81
Pip & Murray	8	5	13	7	20	7	27	8	35	9	44	4	48	13	61	11	75	8	84
Keen as Mustard	7	6	13	2	15	4	19	1	20	9	29	3	32	18	50	2	52	11	63
The 170ers	10	6	15	7	22	4	26	7	33	9	42	2	44	17	61	10	67	8	75



## Curry night / January 13th, 2024

The curry night was full booked and much excitement and enthusiasm abounded. A new local caterer, the Tulum store, was used and was a great success with a beautiful range of curries. The hard working volunteers did have a few issues with frozen product, but all was resolved in time for a wonderful feast of curries, rice and more on the night.

## Easter BBQ / March 30, 2024



# Endless Summer Paella night / January 27th, 2024

Paella night was, as usual, a big hit with Juan catering and creating a beautiful feast. The crowd enjoyed the Paella, Pinot and amazing pavlovas provided by a range of great sous chefs of Merricks Beach. This event always sells out quickly so make sure you buy your tickets early next year to avoid disappointment.



## Burgers by the Bay / March 9th, 2024

All was going well with the Burgers by the Bay and we had prepared what we could in the morning in the air conditioned comfort of the yacht club on a stuffy 34 degree day.

At 4pm we returned to start setting up and the final preparations for the evening when the power suddenly went out. No air conditioning, no oven, no WATER! Luckily the fridges and emergency lighting are run by the electric battery. What could we do? We pulled out the BBQs for the meat cooking and warming, prepared what we could, but we couldn't wash our hands or flush toilets. Stewart Carter came to the rescue with his portable generator that ran the water pump so the water issues were thankfully solved.

The evening was going very well, though quite warm for the workers inside the building. The light was fading then the external emergency lights came on to everyone's excitement but still no power. We were rinsing dishes as the dishwasher couldn't run. It was getting very dark inside the building and then finally the power came on. Normality returned. The air conditioners were powered on, the dishwasher started up and the partying continued. Dancing ensued. A great night was had by all.

**Coming Up: AGM Dinner June 8th 2024**  
**Don't forget the AGM dinner on June 8th**  
**as a final celebration of a great season.**  
**Hope to see you all there.**

*Sue, Penny and Caz*  
Social Committee



## Contribution from Laine Larson

It's all happening at the MYC Tuesday morning Craft, a very inclusive, friendly group. Lots of social chat as well as helpful advice.

*Laine Larson*



Penny Balka runs the group. Marie Ferguson is a wonderful crafter and teacher.



Kaye Williams gave me some orange wool, and got me started knitting again after decades, only simple scarf but very rewarding and relaxing.



# Youngerset

Merricks Yacht Club had an exciting and fun-filled summer for junior social activities! The “little dudes disco” was a huge hit with the kids, they loved the chance to dance for prizes, play games and generally have a blast. Movie nights with big crowds created a great sense of community and enjoyment for all attendees (kids and adults alike). And the games day provided plenty of entertainment and excitement, especially with the donut rides on Craig’s boat – what a thrilling way to end the activities! It’s been wonderful to hold such successful events that bring joy and camaraderie to our junior members of the yacht club.

*Nish Langford*



# Junior Sailing

One of the things that makes sailing more fun than, say, croquet is that you always have to be on your toes, because you never know what wind and sea conditions will be dished up. But this summer, things got a bit ridiculous. The weather gods were particularly fickle for our junior sailors. We had a couple of Wednesday mornings when the sea breeze blew up sharply, just as we were about to push the Pacers onto the water, and another with no wind at all – so we improvised some kayak & SUP races instead.

But our Merricks junior sailors were undeterred. And they looked resplendent in their new customised MYC rashies, which Nish procured just in time for summer! (Oh, and special mention to Etienne Woods who also rocked the beach with his captain's peaked hat.) Soon enough, the whole club wanted in on this must-have fashion item – as did the junior sailors round the corner at Merricks East Yacht Club!

Speaking of which, we enjoyed another fun day's racing at the Bright Brewery teams racing regatta. This year, the Merricks team broke a string of 3rd places to take out the C-Div championship.

And the weather gods kept on playing their tricks when we twice had to cancel our planned overnight cruise to Flinders YC due to strong winds. But we had great fun joining in with the scratch "Hobie Hawk Challenge" that Somers YC organised instead, and our juniors jumped at the chance to splash about on the Hobie Hawks with some more experienced skippers. Special mention to Annabelle Gurvitch who, with her skipper Gautier, were neck and neck in the final match race, when they pitchpoled in the last leg back to the beach, only to be pipped by the eventual champs. It's not only the weather gods that can be fickle...!

**Lastly, I can't conclude a junior sailing report without remarking on Kobe Langford's persistent efforts in his Pacer over the summer. Through February and March, Kobe has picked up a number of first place finishes in our Saturday club races. Great reward for persistence and improvement over the summer!**

*Tom*  
Junior Sailing Captain







## Merchandise

[www.merricksyachtclub.square.site](http://www.merricksyachtclub.square.site)

*Bec and Nish*







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