

Commodore's Message

HC Williams

This, my final note as Commodore, is written in warm sunshine on a late autumn Saturday. Three Dragon crews (drawn from our younger members) are rigging up under the watchful eye of shipwright Kingsley Hassett; the final service connections are this morning being made to the marina extension; and the new floating breakwater is being loaded for its journey to the Harbor. The extension of our Sail Training programme to give our Intermediate Members experience in Dragons, and the installation of the additional pontoons are the culmination of the plan of development as it was put together at the instance of my predecessors Alan Swinstead and Austin Gibson. It is the planning of the committees extending back for some six years which recently has enabled the Squadron to carry through so many projects.

In the longer term, the General Committee will have to explore the development of the Clubhouse itself to keep pace with the added demands which are now making themselves so obvious. Architectural plans in a draft form have been prepared. At the same time, there are a number of other issues waiting to be further assessed. The redevelopment of the area west of our Clubhouse is a matter which has already been discussed with our neighbours. The upgrading of our entrance gate security is closely linked with a more general question involving our office systems and the introduction of membership cards (and associated accounting) linked to computer. With these projects in view, I expect that the Squadron will direct an emphasis towards maintenance of our present assets whilst the demand for further marina



berths builds up. With our experience of the second stage of the marina project, the Committee can predict with confidence that a further marina development (after a necessary pause for consolidation) will generate funds to enable us to continue to steer our present course whilst keeping the cost of Squadron membership within reach.

At the same time as we continue our drive for new members the Squadron can expect to play its part in the development of Yachting more generally in South Australia. It is now only too apparent that outside the Squadron the current recession in this State has hit the sailing community very hard. It will be necessary for Yachting to promote itself. To this end we are looking to mould the weekend of 18/19 December, 1993 as a focal point for a co-operative effort between metropolitan clubs. At this time, the eighteen-foot skiff fleet will again be visiting us. The plan is to use this event to increase community awareness of the opportunities for

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sailing. The organisers and the major sponsor have already started work at our request upon this objective. Last year's event provided us with valuable experience as to what is feasible.

With this review of the Squadron's position, I am retiring as Commodore after serving the two year term allowed by our rules. I can assure you all that the Squadron's affairs are shipshape. The committees (together with a number of other volunteers) are being called upon to work very hard. There is, I believe, a wonderful spirit in the Club, and the enthusiastic support of members for the committees' efforts has been spurring us on. Ultimately, the effectiveness of our General Committee in breaking new ground is dependent upon the confidence and support of the general body of Squadron members. I consider that the Committee system is serving us well. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of

leading the Squadron alongside a dedicated and skilled group of fellow officers. **SQ**

Happy Birthday, Commodore

On Friday, 23 March, 1993 our Commodore, Tim Williams, celebrated his sixtieth birthday with over seventy of his Squadron friends.



Past Commodores Keith Flint and Dick Fidock at the Commodore's Party

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