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John Butterfield

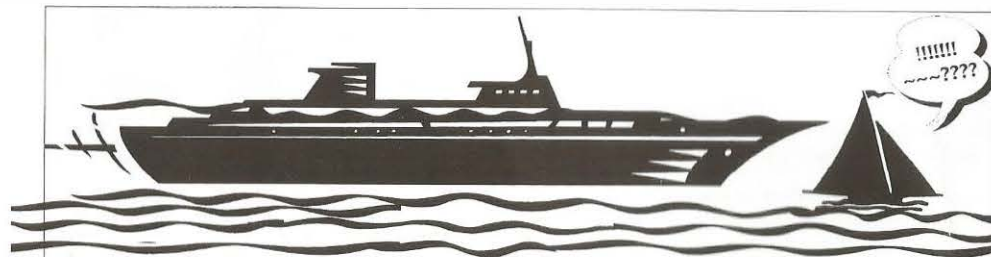
The Editor has allowed me to add this report of the 1998 Opening Day.

Our hearts were in our mouths on Friday night prior to Opening Day as the weather forecast took shape. A very spectacular lightning show preceded the strong frontal change and predicted rain for our day. But the Squadron's luck held. The weather steadily improved, and by the afternoon it was excellent. All who were there enjoyed themselves immensely, and I thank you for your participation.

All craft and crew were well behaved on water and off and a credit to the Squadron. This was the impression of Commander Sandy Coulson, Senior Officer of the RAN in South Australia. She took the salute from the official boat, Bill Yard's *Margaret Mary*, because our Patron, His Excellency Sir Eric Neal and Lady Neal were committed to a previous engagement. Many of our guests commented on how much they enjoyed the friendly and casual atmosphere of the Squadron whilst putting on such a spectacular event.

The Port River Marine Prize for the best handled sailing vessel was called correctly, but unfortunately your Commodore made a mistake by giving it to another boat. In true sportsmanlike manner and with a lot of understanding, the blunder has been sorted out.

The correct winner of the Port River Marine Prize was *Cabaret*. The prizes and plaque have been presented to Dr Alan Cotton. My sincere apologies to both parties, and thank you for your help in making the correction.



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