

By Adam South, Boating Activities Coordinator



WITH the season closing out on a high note, our fleets competing in the Tight Access Cranes Offshore Series, Whitworths Coaster Series, Bravo Sails Women's Series and the Haese Marine One Design Series wound up racing at the end of May to crown their respective winners.

In the **Whitworths Coaster Series**, *Blue Diamond* took out the AMS and *Aracadia III* the PHS. In the **Tight Access Cranes Short Offshore Series** *Inukshuk* took out both AMS and PHS for a clean sweep.

The **Bravo Women's Series** had *Taniwha* on the top step in PHS and *School's Out* performing well to take out AMS.

Finally, in the **Haese Marine One Design Series** the winners were *Mystery Taxi*, first overall PHS combined fleets and Etchells One Design, *Cookie Monster* in J24 One Design and *Stealth* in the Sports Boats.

The **Inkster Memorial Race** has been run and won for season 2020-21. With a fresh sou'wester threatening to ruin the party, Roger Oaten the RO decided to have a quick gallop up and down the river. As the breeze built retirements bloomed and it was only the hardy that survived the day. Bob Schahinger and his crew on *Clockwork* were crowned the 2021 Inkster Champions, Wayne Knill showing a clean set of heels drove his Etchells *Medium Rare* into second place and Scott Mutton doing his best with 3 *Cool Cats* in third.

Easter Regatta Trophies

The Easter Regatta this year unfortunately didn't have enough entries to contest racing, so the Committee held the trophies back to be included in this season's winter racing

On 16 May the Germein Memorial Trophy (one of several Easter Regatta trophies) was contested, in conjunction with the Winter Series, on a trip around fixed marks off the northern beaches of the Peninsula. *Clockwork* raced out to an unattainable lead early in the race and showed great skill in flying extras to take out the beautiful trophy.



Germein Memorial Trophy: *Clockwork* (Bob Schahinger)

Presentation Night

This year's Presentation Night was a cracker! Master of Ceremonies, Caillin Howard, made the most of the evening and whisked us through a double presentation that included two seasons worth of accolades.

After the dust had settled, there was impromptu dancing on the Quarterdeck led by our SheSails team. With most of the night's participants tucked up in bed on their yachts, they boogied into the wee hours.

Eileen Hardy Trophy

Finally, congratulations go to our Club's allrounder Jodie Roberts in taking out the Eileen Hardy Trophy. She is a true sailaholic and major contributor behind the scenes at the Squadron. Well done, Jodie!

Season 2021 – 2022

Moving into next season the Squadron is looking at a revamped racing calendar with an emphasis on more collaboration with the Cruising Yacht Club in race management. Combined with unified race courses and paralleled race documents, racing off the coast should be stronger than ever.

Dock Talk

In a classic case of the mountain coming to Mohammed, the Oaten (Wonga Shoal) mark made its way ashore to pay homage to its namesake on Presentation Night. Pictured posing next to Mr Oaten, the mark described the evening as fun with interactivity and commented, "It was great to finally meet the legend himself."



Thank You from Lisa Bettcher

I would like to thank the Squadron Flag Officers and Staff for the lovely flowers sent to me and the visitors I had in hospital following an unfortunate accident in the Inkster Race when my thumb was nearly removed during a gybe. I would also like to make mention of the 20 leeches flown from Sydney that gave their service in my recovery process! The staff at the QEH were outstanding and did everything they could for a good outcome, and students enjoyed the learning experience of age-old leech therapy!

Helen Willmer

Helen Willmer was the winner of the 2019-20 Eileen Hardy Trophy. We are celebrating her achievements together with this year's winner, Jodie Roberts, as we were not able to recognise Helen's long-term contribution to the sport of sailing due to COVID-19 restrictions last year. Some of Helen's most notable achievements include:

- First female skipper to win a State Title (1960)
- Winner of Gwen 12 Nationals races
- Sailed on 94 keelboats
- Sailed in all Australian states
- Mentored/coached others in this great sport

Below are a few words by her about what winning the Eileen Hardy Trophy meant.



THERE is something very special about sharing a perpetual trophy which was first presented to Eileen Hardy OBE for Excellence in Seamanship by a Female Racing Sailor. She is reported to have won her first yachting race in 1921 – one hundred years ago – amazing! When I try to put this in context I remember the start of my dinghy days thirty odd years later. In the 1950s the ladies change room at the Grange Sailing Club was pretty much my very own! I suspect Eileen had the same experience at her yacht clubs.

Sailing offers so much. Eileen met her husband Tom crewing on his yacht, and they went on to own *Nerida* which had to be sold after the death of her husband in a plane crash in 1938. *Nerida* has since become a part of the Hardy family's activities in Sydney. No doubt Eileen's life was one of both triumph and tragedy – but what a strong role model to prove to us all that there is certainly no disadvantage in being female. I wonder how many bottles of wine have proudly displayed the Eileen Hardy name? The Squadron members certainly appreciate the generous donation of this trophy and understand what it means to today's sailors.

I recently read a quote, 'You don't stop sailing when you get old – you only get old when you stop sailing.' So for me it is onward to the array of opportunities that this sport provides. Many of you will know about my 'Sailed on Yachts' list – it is still extending. It has been through the generosity of others that I have been able to pursue with passion my sailing journeys and adventures. Why wouldn't you? Sun, rain, salt, sea – well connected to nature – but most of all connected to a great community.

Let's keep growing and celebrate the big strides that we have taken in women's sailing through our Women's Series, sail coaching and the new SheSails initiatives.

Jodie Roberts

Jodie Roberts was the winner of the 2020-21 Eileen Hardy Trophy. She said it was an indescribable honour and she was humbled to be awarded this Trophy, not just because she is surrounded by so many amazing women who have been members for so much longer, but also because of the history behind the Award. Below is Jodie's story of her journey into sailing.



Photo: Beard Vision

I GREW up in Alice Springs – not sailing, obviously – and horses were my first love. Competing is where I met Rear Commodore Ian (no relation) Roberts, and it was my life for nearly 30 years. Eventually, I realised I was better at designing courses than riding on them, and I did a lot at shows around SA and interstate, including several Royal Shows. An upheaval in my early 40s meant a reassessment of many things, and I just lost my passion for equestrian sport.

I did some dinghy sailing looking for a new focus, and to get more from the father/daughter Heron time during holidays at Wallaroo with my Dad, who took up sailing in his 60s. I remember meeting Bob Schahinger during a season at Adelaide Sailing Club on a Hobie 16 (thankfully, he doesn't remember me) when I learned what 'pitch poling' is!

I'm in financial planning and for a time worked with the then-Commodore of the CYCSA, Geoff Catt, who took some of us on a Twilight race. The skipper that night convinced me to not be intimidated and to get involved. I did a couple of introductory courses, put my details onto their crew site, and immediately found that keelboat owners will take anyone who shows up. Crewing met the criteria I had for my new 'thing' – outdoors, exciting and that enabled me to meet a lot of new people (at the time, I'll be honest, blokes). In more recent times, I've realised it's really important in helping me manage my mental health. I was on the bow on several boats while there.

Three years ago I was treated for breast cancer (go, Kaz, who is a big supporter of the Mother's Day fundraising run) and decided to make more of life; I got a catch ride at the AWKR in 2019, and started looking for more challenges and opportunities. The support that I saw the Squadron offering to women sailors was a real magnet so, in late 2019, I changed clubs.

From the outset people made me feel incredibly welcome. The Squadron provides so many opportunities to be involved (the Women on the Water training gave me the confidence to start crewing on the J24, *Cookie Monster*, and we won the State Championships and One Design Series this year), and not just with sailing. It's also possible to meet and learn from so many inspiring women, all ready to encourage and include anyone who's interested. The level of involvement and skill among Squadron women was a real eye-opener for me, and incredibly exciting. I want to thank those who decided I was deserving of the Award – I'm going to do my best to make sure that I am. And thank you to the Squadron and its members for offering seamanship and fellowship!