

By Mary Rawnsley Photos by Antoinette Art-Ography

The Wedding of David and Mary Rawnsley

David met Mary about ten years ago and slowly introduced her to the joys of sailing on *Blue Water II*. Mary's first offshore cruise was to the Squadron Easter Regatta at Port Vincent in 2012 when they set off in moderate conditions but the sea state changed when a storm developed. They arrived after nine hours, feeling exhausted and anxious, but Mary was able to pick up a mooring on the first attempt, without having had any experience. Jacques and Sally Metzer on *Emma* told them they watched a dolphin leap out of the water, flip its tail and return at the moment that Mary had picked up the mooring. David then cooked a roast dinner and they drank plenty of red wine, turned up the music, and after inspecting Mary's bruises had a well-earned sleep. Members have seen this loving couple together at the Club and on *Four Seventy* frequently, and we wish them well in the future.

OUR nautical style wedding was recently held on the lawns at the RSAYS. The day was destined to be perfect, albeit the forecast of rain in the afternoon. There were a few drops from the heaven – our blessings – however, the weather held off while we completed our vows which were nautical in verse, and exchanged our nautical-designed rings. The guests were then treated to a cocktail party on the Quarterdeck while an acoustic duo played our selected favourites.

The cocktail party was followed by a dinner for family and friends in the Dining Room. The table décor set out by the staff was in a nautical theme, exactly as we had envisaged it. The florals were of natural Australian foliage with white and pale pink mini-roses, gypsophila and fairy lights. Our stunning cake was decorated with nautical ropes and an anchor, and we danced to Michael Buble's 'For Once in My Life' – choreographed by the Squadron's own Carol



Wellman-Kelly! We completed the elegant moves to finish with a high kick and a kiss to seal the day.

The organisation for our wedding reception was excellent. The food was sumptuous and generous, and the shared buffet courses at each table worked well for everyone regarding choices and variety. The service was absolutely outstanding and the staff were professional and genuinely friendly. The wine selections were welcomed with compliments.

All in all it was an amazing day and we felt very proud to be at our beloved RSAYS with our friends, family and sailing mates, which added to our euphoria on the day.

We were very pleased that more than \$2,000 was donated to the RSAYS Foundation on our suggestion, instead of wedding gifts. Friends and members thought it was a great idea for special occasions and milestone celebrations. Thank you to all who contributed.



Wedding party and guests assembled on the Squadron lawn



The Dining Room awaits guests for the reception

Melbourne Cup Lunch

ON Tuesday 2 November a small group of enthusiasts gathered upstairs in our picturesque Clubhouse to celebrate this year's annual Melbourne Cup horse race.

Several attendees got into the Spring Racing Carnival spirit, wearing brightly coloured fascinators, and most had one or two horses to cheer along in the sweeps organised by our Club's friendly staff.

Winners were grinners, and it was a great opportunity mid-week for members and friends to dress up, have a bit of fun and share a relaxing meal in one of the Peninsula's premier locations.

By Peta Stump



Lunching ladies show off their fascinating fascinators!

Dis-Able Sailing Partner with Saltwater Veterans

By Nick Grant

SALTWATER Veterans (SWV) is a social group of military and emergency services veterans who use sailing to be physically and mentally active. The Saltwater Veterans collective continues to grow in both veteran and non-veteran volunteers in Adelaide as well as in Sydney, Nowra and shortly, Newcastle.

SWV has enjoyed a strong year of growth and it's pleasing that our swelling ranks are demanding more events. It has meant we have had to look beyond the Wednesday night Twilight Series and consider, among other things, events during the winter season so that participants can maintain a level of engagement, fitness, and bone up on some skills ahead of summer.

We have been extremely fortunate to have forged amazing partnerships with very generous organisations to help us grow. Initially our partnership with Dis-Able Sailing Inc (Bob and Deirdre Schahinger) was to meet the demand for winter sailing. *Freedom* is an excellent vessel offering many opportunities for veteran engagement and training, and particularly given its ability to cater for injured or disabled veterans.

October was a busy month for SWV on, in and around the water, and it was only natural that the SWV partnership with



Dis-Able Sailing would continue into summer sailing. We returned to Twilight racing and held two major events to get 'Veterans Moving' – the nation-wide theme of Veterans Health Week. Dis-Able Sailing Inc were fantastic partners for the events, with Bob Schahinger ensuring that SWV was looked after with a vessel and a master for the events. SWV also appreciates the supportive partnership we have with Young

Veterans Australia and the Department of Veteran Affairs which has enabled SWV to broaden the scope of the events to reach more veterans.

With better-than-expected numbers of participants at both events, Bob and Deirdre Schahinger offered *Clockwork* (Sydney 38) rather than the smaller *Freedom*. Bob, also a Royal Australian Navy veteran, regaled us with stories of his own service on the carrier, *HMAS Melbourne* and *HMAS Brisbane* (DDG). Bob and Deirdre facilitated a sailing master class, with both hosts being very generous with their time; coaching and providing everyone opportunities to be involved and learn new skills.

Though Veteran Health Week is over we continue to grow and be involved in many events around the Squadron, especially the Twilight Series. Keep an eye out for us and give us a 'hoi' if you think you could do with an extra hand on board for a sail.

If you know an organisation or person who can support our cause, SWV is actively seeking sponsors to support our future growth and activities.



Safety briefing on *Clockwork*



Beautiful sailing weather on day 1



Supporters of the Twilight Series

