

By Owen Haskett, Chair



AT the time of writing this report we have just completed Opening Day for 2020 and I have just finished cooking the Morning After BBQ Breakfast with Deirdre and Zane. I have to commend the tireless efforts of our House and Social Committee and other Committees, the General Manager and everyone else, in making Opening Day happen; without you all it would have most definitely not been an event this year. I'll say more about Opening Day later.

Over the past three months we have started to see an increase in activity at the Squadron, with some major annual and biannual events being held despite the struggles of continuing COVID restrictions. The annual Volunteers Thank You Brunch was well attended with a large turn-out of Standing Committee Members and volunteer groups from around the Club. It

was great to catch up with everyone and talk about what projects each Committee and group is planning for 2020-2021, as well as some of the challenges we have all faced this year. We are pleased that we can reward the hard work of our volunteer community each year in this way, and we look forward to being able to host more in the future.

On the same day we cunningly held the first New Members Welcome of 2020. Doing so meant we managed to capitalise on the vast majority of Committee Chairs being available to say a few words. We asked each Chair to talk about what each of the Committees does to contribute to the Squadron community. This event is normally held twice a year, but as the event in May was cancelled we had more new members in attendance – it was lovely to meet you all.

Melbourne Cup was held on 3 November and, while attendance was down on last year, it was a great success. Sandee Bogner was once again the *Hostess with the Mostess*, and I'm sure the day would not be the same without her humour or amazing cat-wrangling abilities. The usual sweeps and raffles were held with prizes donated by Pertaringa Wines, Dee Henshall and the Squadron. Tickets for the raffle went into the draw for a 6-litre Methuselah of Shiraz on Opening Day. Fashion on the Field was judged with sashes and bottles of Chandon presented

With Melbourne Cup just passed, Opening Day was upon us for another year. Because of the COVID restrictions we were in doubt of being able to host Opening Day in the way we traditionally know it. Truthfully, 14

days out from the event we still had not had the Covid Management Plan approved by SA Health and months of planning came down to some eleventh-hour approvals and changes. I have to commend Robbie for his fortitude when it came to dealing with the demands of SA Health and the COVID-19 restrictions, and although I well understand that it is his job, I also know the stress of having to continually rewrite these plans to comply with ever-changing rules and regulations, sometimes just to have them rejected on wording alone.

To say the day was successful would be an understatement, and I have had a number of people say that it was one of the most enjoyable Opening Days they have had in recent memory. Through having to change the way we normally do things we have found some changes that will definitely be carried over to future Opening Days. I hope you all had as wonderful a day as I did, and we look forward to receiving your feed-back.

Once again, thank you to my fellow Committee Members – your efforts have been awesome this year and we have managed to overcome many obstacles to pull off some great events in this difficult time. I look forward to continuing this trend into 2021.

If you are interested in getting involved with the House and Social Committee, please contact one of our Committee Members or the Squadron Office. We are always looking for volunteers to help with organising and running events.



Melbourne Cup Luncheon



Best Dressed Gentleman (Chris Mandalov)



Dee Henshall presenting the raffle prize



Methuselah of Shiraz winner (Jill Roach)

By David Adams, Chair



the final touches being made recently, I am proud the Foundation has been involved in the improvements to the garden, and I am very grateful to all those members who have supported the project.



I WRITE this report as we get closer to our Opening Day, one of the highlights of the Squadron calendar. As with many other events world-wide during the COVID-19 pandemic, this year will be an Opening Day with a difference. We have been so fortunate in South Australia that the pandemic has, as yet, not affected most of us significantly, compared to elsewhere. We hope this will continue. We can be grateful for what we have, and what we are able to do.

The RSAYS Foundation is here for you. Although we have major exciting projects that we plan to support this year, we are here to assist you, our Squadron members, financially in your sailing pursuits. So if you and your crew are planning to attend an event and need some financial assistance, please contact any of the Foundation Trustees to see if we can help. Or go online to RSAYS Foundation.

We will soon be sending out a letter to all members, asking for financial support for the Foundation. We have been very grateful to so many members who have supported us over the years. We again ask that you give your consideration to making a donation to the Squadron. No matter how large or small, your donation will help. Please remember:

- your donations can be tax deductible,
- you can choose where your donation goes if you would like to, and
- the Trustees will ensure that Foundation funds are spent wisely.

We have welcomed Peter Cooling and Chris Henshall as Foundation Trustees, and we thank Marion and Roger Holden who have retired after their term of six years.

Last weekend I looked at our magnificent grounds and thought about the wonderful contributions, both financial and physical, of so many of our Squadron members. With

DIS-ABLE SAILING

By Deirdre Schahinger

Freedom on the Water

FREEDOM and volunteers Bob and Deirdre, and Peter and Dennis have been back doing what Dis-Able Sailing Inc (DSI) does best; sailing during the week with groups of intellectually disabled adults from day options centres. Minda at Brighton were one of the first groups to get in touch when COVID-19 restrictions eased, so on a Thursday in October Angela, Kim and Miles and their carer came to have a sail with Bob and me.

Not all the seals that usually lounge around at the end of the northern breakwater had left, so we got casual waves from the few remaining as a junior belly-flopped into the sea. A sole dolphin also made

an appearance having a leisurely swim. Despite the lack of smiles in the photos (printed with permission) it was clear everyone had a good day.

Dis-Able Sailing Inc is a charitable DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient), not-for-profit organisation run wholly by volunteers. It relies on donations (\$10 per person for the day options groups) and sponsorships such as Port Adelaide Enfield Council, Australian Hotels Association, Clubs SA, Bendigo Bank, George Wrobel and Bob Schahinger. We are also successful in obtaining grants from the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing for equipment such as life-jackets.

Dis-Able Sailing was born out of disabled sailors who were keen to sail 'on a

bigger boat' rather than the small, mini-keelboats, Hansa 303 that are used for the Sailability programmes. *Freedom*, a second-hand Payne 7.4, was purchased for us by an anonymous donor from Sailability Queensland. We ran aground when we first took her out, so a depth sounder was an urgent purchase!

Perks of being a volunteer are being able to race at the Squadron in the Twilights and Women's series. With her long cockpit seats *Freedom* is easily accessible for sailors of all abilities, but the crew had to admit defeat on a recent Twilight race when the wind reached 29 kts, though we were not alone!



Ange and Kim enjoying their day



Ange, Kim and Bob Schahinger



Miles has a smile