

Freedom on the water regardless of ability

SAILABILITY HISTORY

(Compiled by Fran Hill December 2008) (Edited by Bob Chapel)

1997

- Cathy Post learns from Dr David Straton of a sailing dinghy, which may help to realise her dream of overcoming her disability and sailing independently.
- Doctors Straton and Sivyer of Gold Coast Care for Children Fund acquire an Access 2.3m dinghy and donate to Cerebral Palsy League. 'Accessibility' is chosen as name for the donated dingy.
- Cathy Post receives sailing instruction from Wayne Forbes of Southport Yacht Club.
- The Cerebral Palsy League contacts Sport & Recreation Queensland to see if they could set up a sailing program.
- Peter Teloar of Sport & Recreation contacts Marion Ham at Headway to find suitable people with disabilities to take advantage of the use of the Cerebral Palsy boat. Sport & Recreation contacts Southport Yacht Club for the use of their Hollywell facility.
- Wyn Treasure AM from SYC suggests a Sailability program he has heard about. This program began in the UK in 1986 and in Melbourne in 1991.
- Initial sailing program conducted at SYC facility at Hollywell with Wayne Forbes as instructor.
- Gold Coast Care for Children donate another 2.3m dinghy 'Cathy's Dream'.

1998

- Generous contributions from Southport Yacht Club's Associate Committee and Gold Coast Care for Children Fund enable the purchase of two more 2.3m Access Dinghies – Treasure and Kerry
- Access Dinghy Sailing Program conducted on Thursday with between 12 and 16 sailors receiving instruction.
- Program works closely with Sailability Queensland, which has been set up largely by the efforts of Wyn Treasure and Yachting Qld. The Gold Coast program becomes the first Sailability group working in Queensland.
- Sailability Queensland informs club that Mission Employment under a work for the dole scheme will build 2 new 7.4 metre Salvo yachts in 1999.
- SYC Sailing committee schedules Access Dinghy races in its annual program.

- David Martin, project co-ordinator for Mission Employment Nerang's Work-for-the-Dole scheme begins organising the building of first 7.4 m Salvo. Sydney boat designer David Payne accepts challenge to design two boats – 'Freedom' and 'Spirit'.

1999

- 19/06/1999 Sailability Gold Coast founded. A non-profit community service organization. Dr David Straton named as Patron and Wynn Treasure was elected the inaugural President and Faye Nielsen the Secretary.
- The following are the minutes of the formal meeting at Hollywell on the above date. This marked the start of Sailability Gold Coast. Dr Phil Vardy from the Australian Yachting Federation attended.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES OF SAILABILITY AUSTRALIA

PRESENT: Mr Phil Vardy (Convenor) in the chair, Ms Cathy Post (Facilitator), Mr Bruce Chapman, Mr David Martin, Mr Denys Christian, Mrs Faye Nielsen, Mrs Marian Ham, Mr Mick O'Connor, Mr Neville Perrett, Mr Peter Buhman, Mr Peter Trelor, Mr Rob Holmes, Mr Ron Hampton and Mr Wyn Treasure.

APOLOGIES: Ms Andrea Gower, Dr David Straton and Mrs Joy Malane

ADDRESS BY CONVENOR: Mr Phil Vardy, National Co-ordinator of Sailability Australia welcomed attendees and thanked SYC for hosting the meeting.

He outlined the history, development, current status and future planning of Sailability Australia and screened a promotional video featuring Access dinghies and their unique refinements in adapting to the specific needs of individual disabled sailors.

He introduced Mick O'Connor, Chairman of Sailability Queensland, who reported on the establishment of the State body and foreshadowed the availability of the draft Constitution in July.

He next called upon David Martin, Work for the Dole Co-ordinator of Mission Employment, who spoke on the advancement of construction work on the project which is a joint initiative of the Salvation Army, Work for the Dole Scheme and Sailability Australia.

David anticipated handover of the first of two 7.4 metre yachts in December 1999 and the second in March 2000. He reported on financial aspects and the need for further sponsorship to raise the balance of funds needed for completion.

Ron Hampton, lecturer in Boat building at Gold Coast Institute of TAFE, as supervisor extended invitations to visit the site at Ashmore Campus. Bruce Chapman, Chief Executive Officer of Queensland Yachting Federation, expressed concern regarding ongoing liabilities for maintenance, management and related factors.

Phil Vardy summarised viable options for management of the Salvo yachts, both of which will initially upon completion become the property of Sailability

Australia. Discussion of these merits and disadvantages followed.

FORMATION NEW BODY: Moved by Peter Buhman, seconded by Rob Holmes, that Sailability Gold Coast branch be formed. Carried.

OFFICE BEARERS: Moved by David Martin, and seconded by Bruce Chapman, that Wyn Treasure be elected chairman. Carried.

Moved by Cathy Post, seconded by Wyn Treasure, that Faye Nielsen be elected Secretary. Carried.

COMMITTEE: Andrea Gowers, Bruce Chapman, Denys Christian, Marian Ham, Mick O'Connor, Peter Buhman, Peter Telor, Rob Holmes, Neville Perrett accepted membership of the Committee.

PRECEDENTS: Phil Vardy kindly donated Sailability Australia's starter kit, for which he would forward supplementary material and updates as available.

NEXT MEETING: 01/07/1999 same venue.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- *To provide the opportunity for people to make their dreams a reality by achieving freedom on the water, via solo sailing or by participating in a crew.*
- *To offer sail training with qualified instructors in a safe environment*
- *To provide sail training in solo or tandem dinghies or Salvo keel yachts*
- *To encourage independence*
- *To foster a positive attitude and understanding between able bodied and disabled sailors*
- *To encourage the development of friendships in a social atmosphere*
- *To develop an integrated community club with a sailing emphasis*
- *To provide competitive boats for sailors to compete at local, state or national level*
- *To foster a recreational sailing program*

2000

INCORPORATION – 22 March 2000

Incorporation under the auspices of Sailability Queensland widened the objectives to those listed below: -

- To provide a safe and fun environment where people with disabilities are accepted and encouraged to participate in the sport of sailing.
- To implement safety and procedural policies in relationship to activities pertaining to disabled sailing on the Gold Coast.
- To support people with disabilities to participate in the Association at all levels.
- To increase rehabilitation, recreational, competitive, therapeutic and training opportunities available to people with disabilities through the provision of sailing and power boating and sail and power boat training programs, from fun and social activity, to elite level competition.
- To provide sailing opportunities for people with disabilities on the Gold Coast of Queensland.
- To provide support, information and training for volunteers.

- To liaise with sporting bodies, educational institutions, government agencies and other relevant bodies to represent the interests of the members of Sailability Gold Coast.
- To implement fundraising and sponsorship activities to maintain the financial viabilities of Sailability Gold Coast.

Annual General Meeting and election of Management Committee held in August. Wyn Treasure elected President SAILABILITYGC and Terry Richards as Secretary.

Payne 7.4m yacht 'Freedom' launched.

Second Salvo 'Spirit' completed.

Construction is a credit to David Martin and Mick Harris, the project's Shipwright, and his boat building crews.

Thank you to Mission Australia, Mission Employment, Nerang RSL, Dept. of Employment Workplace Relations and other generous small businesses.

In this year the total number of Salvos to be built was increased to four.

2001

The first training day for new and existing volunteers.

At AGM Terry Richards elected President. Rod Cooke is Secretary. An Ex-officio position was created to honour ex-president Wyn Treasure's dedication and hard work since the inception of Sailability on the Gold Coast.

Approximately half-way through the 2001-02 committee year both the President and Secretary were unable to continue their duties. No replacement of officers was considered appropriate and others accepted additional duties.

Sonja Gilmore was the only Queensland entrant in the National Access Dinghy Championships in Canberra, winning division 4 and her third Australian Championship gold medal. Barry Newton-Coates and Wyn Treasure tutor Sonja. Barry Newton-Coates wins Access Championship Volunteer of the Year Trophy

Sailability provides sailing experiences for up to 70 clients some Tuesdays. Race practice days on Thursdays for competition on Sundays in SYC open competition.

SAILABILITYGC now has eight dinghies, two 7.4m yachts and a powered rescue and safety boat (donated by Jupiter's Casino).

Sailability members participate in the Asia Pacific Masters Games Gold Coast in Dinghy and Yacht events.

December 2001 Volume 1, Issue 1 of Freedom News published for Sailability Gold Coast. Thanks, Wyn Treasure's great efforts of fund raising to keep club equipped and operational.

Rolly Redshaw receives Peta Kaye-Croft Appreciation award during International Year of Volunteers.

2002

AGM - Bob Holmes elected President with Secretary Greg Williams. Kevin Garcia Treasurer.

Wyn Treasure is elevated to position of Life Member

SAILABILITYGC currently has nine Access dinghies and two 7.4m yachts taking over 70 people with disabilities sailing each Tuesday. These people come from organizations such as:

- Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland
- Blue Care
- Endeavour Foundation
- Gold Coast Recreation & Sport
- Headway Gold Coast Inc
- Multicap
- Multiple Sclerosis Society of Queensland and
- St Luke's Nursing Service

7.4 m Daysailer yacht 'Hope' hull is completed and donated to SAILABILITYGC from the 'Work for the Dole' scheme.

Estimated cost to outfit 'Hope' is \$23000.

13 sailors participate at National Access Dinghy Championships in Canberra, Sonja Gilmore wins gold and Gary Fludder wins silver. Sonja Gilmore and Barry Newton-Coates participate in International Access Dinghy Championships in Osaka. Former world-class long jump ski champion Geoff Carrington disabled in 1990 begins sailing at club.

In Freedom News Issue No.2 in March, it was noted that there was a need for increase in active member participation levels and an increase in number of volunteers.

2003

In January Patricia Richards replaced Greg Williams as Secretary
AGM - Rob Holmes elected President of SAILABILITYGC with Michael Gofton as Secretary Cathy Post replaces Michael Gofton as secretary. Kevin Garcia Vice President.

Refurbishing of 'Freedom'

News letter changes name to Making Waves

Zonta Club of Paradise Point raises over \$1000 for Sailability Gold Coast.

David Payne Daysailer 'Hope' is launched.

The hull was built through a Work for the Dole project funded by the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and the Queensland Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

Funding by Queensland Gambling Community Benefit Fund and Associates Committee of SYC enable fitting out to be completed.

John Bertrand lends a hand to help SYC raise funds for SAILABILITYGC.

To date Sailability Gold Coast has seven 3.03m Access dinghies, four 7.4m yachts, four 2.3m Access Dinghies and a rapid response rescue boat.

In recognition of their continuing efforts several members received public recognition. Kevin Garcia was nominated for Gold Coast Volunteer of the Year Award at International Volunteers Day. Both Joan and Bill Wade were acknowledged with Community Service awards.

Sailability members continue to compete. Sailors include Sonja Gilmore, Brendon Hain, Barry Coates, Jeff Smith, Will Pringle and Joshua Roberts.

Joshua Roberts positioned 3rd at Australian and International Blind Developmental Regatta using the Gold Coast developed Directional Positioning system.

John Rynn, a young cerebral palsy victim describes how he feels about sailing with SAILABILITYGC.

'Sailing Into Freedom'

The sky is blue,
The sun is out,
On my own I am sailing,
I feel as free as a bird,
I love getting to know the wind,
I feel free outside my wheelchair,
I can do anything!

2004

AGM - Bob Curtis elected President with Gail Robinson as Secretary.
Averaging 51 disabled clients being serviced by 28 volunteers. Record of 84 clients in one day.

The Primary Club (a cricketer's charity) make donation towards purchase of an Access Liberty dinghy.

New Liberty added to our fleet earlier in the year will be called 'Primary'

'Primary' is an Access Liberty Servo Assist for Quad and Para Olympic Solo competitors. The Liberty is now accepted by ISAF as an International Federation Disabled Sailors vessel for Para Olympic Solo competitions.

On Queensland Day, Kevin Garcia received the Moncrieff Community Award while Bill Wade also received an award from Peta-Kaye Croft for community service as well as the Moncrieff Community award.

'Freedom' undergoes repairs - a hull refurbishment and re-rigging and equipment replaced. This has been accomplished due to the generosity of Mission Australia and the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. 'Faith' sold to Sailability Bayside Brisbane.

Will Pringle and Brendan Hain attend The International Federation of Disabled Sailors World Titles in Melbourne

2005

Bob Curtis re-elected as President with Gail Robinson as Secretary.

Vice President Kevin Garcia wins the Sporting Award at Gold Coast Australia Day Awards ceremony in recognition of service to the club on many levels since 2001. Joan Wade received a Contribution to the Community award at the Queensland Day awards for her tireless and sustained efforts.

Cathy Post is honoured with Life Membership of SailabilityGC for her initiative and ongoing dedication to our organization.

Annual garage sale injects over \$2000 into SAILABILITYGC. Thanks to Joan Wade and band of willing helpers.

Sailing instructor Stan Phillips begins instruction courses to train sailors to crew Salvo yachts.

Sailability members continue to compete. Sailors include Sonja Gilmore, Brendon Hain, Barry Coates, Belinda Hill, Geoff Carrington, Jeff Smith, Will Pringle and Joshua Roberts.

2006

Bob Curtis re-elected unopposed as President. Gail Robinson also unopposed as Secretary. Bob Chapel elected as vice-president.

Currently there are approximately 70 volunteers with a regular participation rate of around 50% each week.

Boat shed extension at SYC Hollywell facility are completed and houses all

SAILABILITYGC equipment ending 8 years of sharing a small space with the generosity of SYC.

A small ride-on type tractor is purchased to help with moving dinghies on some new lightweight trolleys.

A new path is completed to ease moving between facilities.

An inventory of vessels currently available to SAILABILITYGC and their donors is as follows: -

2.3 METRE ACCESS DINGHIES

'Accessibility' – GC Care for Children Fund

'Cathy Dream' – GC Care for Children Fund

'Kerry' – S Y C Committee members

'Treasure' – S Y C Associates

'Sonja's Gold' – Sailability QLD

Gold Coast Game Fishing & Yacht Club Runaway Bay donates 2 more 2.3 dinghies.

3.03 METRE ACCESS DINGHIES

'Witches' – SYC Associates Committee

'Fraser East' – The Fraser East family

'Stella & Joan' – Orthocare Pty Ltd

'Wynne Taylor' – Rex Taylor

'Clive Collins' – Cummins Marine

'Jupiters Sailing' – Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund

'Southport Rotary' – Southport Rotary

'Rotary Runaway' - Rotary Runaway Bay

ACCESS LIBERTY DINGHIES

'Primary' Primary Club

SALVOS 7.4M YACHTS

'Freedom' – Qld Vocational Training

'Hope' – Mission Australia and Qld Gambling Community Benefit Fund

'Spirit' – Mission Australia and Qld Gambling Community benefit Fund

Powered Rescue and Safety vessel – Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund.

'African Queen', a motorboat which takes clients on a ride through nearby canals has been kindly donated to us by Rex Taylor.

A donation by active member Nola Goode has been used to purchase a new 303 dinghy 'Nola Bell' delivery expected in January 2007

Other financial support from: - Dept of Family and Community Services (\$1000 for a new lifting crane), Qld Dept of Sport & Recreation (\$1000 for First Aid and CPR

program) and Dept of Sport & Recreation Minor Facilities Program (\$50748 to assist in the construction of the extension of the boat house facilities), SYC (purchase of 6x303 trolleys) and other numerous and generous donations from local businesses and individuals.

Roly Redshaw and Stan Phillips each receive a Commitment to Disabled Sailing award during Queensland Day.

Preparation begins to have representatives at the World Special Olympics in Shanghai in 2007.

Belinda Hill, Sonja Gilmore, Warren Hawkins, Nicole Bailey and Nathan West are contending and are assisted by Barry Coates, Neville Perrett, Di Wobcke and Tina Starr.

Sailability Gold Coast web site (www.sailabilitygc.org) has been launched due to the persistent hard work skill and exuberance of member Tony Matthews and assistance from Bob Chapel.

The extremely hard working maintenance team continues to work tirelessly to keep our vessels and gear in excellent working order. Special thanks to Bert Francis, Ron Hardess, Bob Chapel, Paul Anderson, Brian Finn, Colin Cuthbert, Chris Ruston and Roger Standley.

Salvos continue to race successfully in race days on various weekends and are always keen to have new crew from our volunt