

Karen Johns

Social Sub Committee Chair

24th March 2026

Social Sub Committee Report

March 2026

Firstly I would like to thank the members of my committee for their enthusiasm and tireless support. The members are dedicated to providing fun and informative activities for all club members, and have now been tasked with increasing the income in the Members Bar on a Friday night. The members of this committee meet at least once a month and are always ready to jump in and help with any projects around the club.

The members of the Social Sub Committee are:

Karen Johns, Chairperson

Joyce Cosgrove (chair while Karen Johns is away)

Steve Reynolds General Committee Representative

Sue Cassidy

Di Alan

Karen McCloskey

Kenn Williamson

Jacqui Provos

Margaret Rowe

Claire Pritchard

I would also like to acknowledge the support that we have received from certain new members of the General Committee, especially Steve Reynolds, Mark Buckley and Johns Mooney, who instead of throwing road blocks in our way have smoothed the path.

This year's sailing season opened with salute to Sailing, Past, Present and Future. The Joan Ellen team was outstanding as Jason and the Argonauts, yes even resplendent with the Golden Fleece. This opening day dress theme has been picked up by other clubs around the bay, but doesn't

seem to create much excitement within our club. The Social Committee has offered to organise the social aspects of opening day this year. Watch this space!

Friday nights have become more important as we strive to increase the club income. On 31st October, Halloween, we filled the bar with ghouls and ghosts and our guest Fortune Teller, Tony the Magnificent. Staying with the horror theme, our next Friday night speaker was sailor and club member Allan Briedahl, who warned us of the dangers of skin cancer that is prevalent amongst those who participate in our sport. Swimming member Nick Desira shared his story of his swim across the English Channel. Truly inspiring.

We bid Farewell and Fairwinds, to our sailors who were racing and participating in regattas both inside and outside the bay. This year we celebrated the return to club sailing decorating the members bar with signal flags and asked our members to decipher the message in the flags. Valentines Day was celebrated with gifts of balloon hearts and a raffle for a bottle of Prosecco.

With the Grand Prix back in town we invited Nicole Piastrì, Oscars mum to share her son's journey to the Formula One world championship stage.

Although the \$ draw does increase patronage in the members bar, the nights that we have extra activity adds additional funds. The average income from a Friday night without a special speaker is approximately \$2000, whereas on the Oscar Piastrì night it was in excess of \$4000.

In the pipeline we will host a footballer and a heart surgeon and have some fun with both a joke night and a night to show off your general knowledge

The draw at 7pm will be maintained until the \$1000 is won. In the summer if there is a second draw this will be at 7.30pm. If there are 2 draws during the winter one will be at 6.30pm and the second at 7pm. We will also add in a raffle on some Friday nights.

We are also looking at ideas for events outside Friday nights. This year we repeated the St. Patrick's Day luncheon on Sunday 15th March.

Our major project over the past 12 months has been "Paint the Sails", in support of our 150th anniversary. The artwork presented by the local schools involved was outstanding.

We were disappointed that the original concept, approved by GC, to display the sails on boats was not achieved. We had feedback from some of the schools who were likewise disappointed that their sails were not displayed on boats. This negative feedback from these schools demonstrates that we did not maximise the opportunity to promote our junior sailing program and encourage new senior members from the local schools community as we might have. The underlying purpose of the project was to strengthen the club's connection to the local community. I would like to thank the club members who worked hard to hang the sails on opening day.

We are proposing to run Paint the Sails in 2 years time concentrating on sails from the off the beach fleet. We are currently looking for donations. Our local state member, James Newbury has offered to publicise any new Paint the Sails event