



MINUTES OF THE 153rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SYDNEY AMATEUR SAILING CLUB HELD AT THE MOSMAN ROWERS, 3 CENTENARY DRIVE MOSMAN 2088 ON WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST 2025 AT 19:30 HOURS

There being 53 entitled members attending in person, 3 online, thereby a quorum of 17.1% resulting, the required quorum was deemed to be achieved. 3 proxies were received. The Commodore opened the meeting at 19:30 hours.

Presiding:

P Scott	Commodore
C Manion	Vice Commodore
P Tanner	Club Captain
L Lorrimer	Hon Secretary
J Brady	Director

Item 1: Opening by the Commodore

Welcome all - members, long standing and new, fair and foul. - I invite you to take a moment here to appreciate that we are once again a club without a clubhouse, our thanks to the Mosman Rowers for helping out.

Through the wonders of the archives on our website I chanced upon the 1932 Annual Report which recounted the AGM of that year. It was held at the Allora Tea Rooms in Pitt Street, times were tough and money was tight, but the club was making good progress. The Kelly Cup was a series of 3 races. There were lady skippers winning races and membership numbers although lower were on the rise. Several of the boats racing then still race with us today and the harbour bridge had just opened. The main difference was that the club then included 42 youth members, we have one.

I am pleased to report that the club continues in relative good health. Our financial reserves have improved and membership numbers are reasonably stable and participation in sailing which is after all "our raison d'être" is strong. We also manage to throw a pretty good party every few months whilst remaining an integral part of the Mosman Bay community.

In 2019 Bruce Dover, then Commodore, challenged us to do better – to broaden the diversity of our membership profile, to maintain our infrastructure and to modernise our office systems. I can report that the club has followed that course and that through the dynamo that is our committee system, our dedicated volunteers have provided the energy and expertise to meet those challenges. You will hear from my fellow directors how we have fared this past year in addressing those specific areas.

The challenge in 1932 was the same as it is now, we are still focussed on taking our friends and families out on the harbour to sail; even to race in the same races in the same boats.

We have one advantage over our forebears, we do have a clubhouse and thanks to you all we have a magnificent club.

We thank all our staff for their service throughout the year in the office, slipway, maintenance and tender drivers. Thanks go to all the Directors - their contribution to the club is amplified through the committees they work with. Thanks to the volunteers who form those committees - The boatshed committee, the membership committee, the website committee, the sailing committee, the archives committee, the Gaffers Day committee, the race management team and certainly not forgetting the Water Women.

Purpose of the Meeting

The Commodore advised that the purpose of meeting is to adopt the annual accounts and to elect auditors, directors and flag officers.

Item 2: Apologies

The Hon Secretary announced apologies received from the following:

M Blight, J Brennan, S Coulson, T Cousins, J Crawford, W Hogan, A Hughes, I Lewis, M Loaney, I Macintosh, Alice Murphy, W Prest, R Sutton and M Tapia. J clancy. B Hawke. M Tomaszewski.

Item 3: Minutes

The motion was put to the members that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 August 2024 be accepted.

Moved, that the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 7 August 2024, be taken as read and adopted.

Proposed: S Kelly. Seconded: C Maclurcan. Carried.

No Matters Arising.

Item 4: Address to members on operations 2024/2025

Finance

The Commodore, in the absence of the Treasurer, outlined the key aspects of the Club's financial performance for financial year ending 31 May 2025.

The Treasurer John Brennan has reported that 2024 - 25 has been a good year for the club's finances. The net result was very close to budget, confirming the effective management of the club's various activities.

The investment strategy is yielding encouraging gains. The stock value of the investment portfolio under management increased over the year. The gains made will help underpin the club's budget for capital expenditure commitments. We have the dedicated volunteers to thank for their work in maintaining our infrastructure.

The Treasurer wished to thank Sophie for her tremendous contribution in the preparation of the club's financial reports and her liaison skills with the auditors.

Questions

In response to a question the Commodore advised that the cost of materials is around \$30k and the labour is by volunteers, specifically thanks go to Bruce Dover, Trevor Cosh, Bruce Brown, Martin Van Der Wal, Bob Langley, Bruce Brown, David Field, Herschel Smith and David Salter on the BBQ.

The members commended the Board and everyone involved 'at the back end' for having done an amazing job in a financial climate that runs hot and cold. Applause.

Boatshed

Vice Commodore Chris Manion delivered the Boatshed report:

The Vice Commodore's responsibilities encompass the daily infrastructure: from tenders, start boat, slipway, both boatsheds, pontoons, moorings and the clubhouse itself. The success of these operations is due to a dedicated and skilled workforce, supported by a generous community of volunteers.

Clubhouse & Structural Works

This year we commenced a major project—the assessment and partial reconstruction of the clubhouse's south-eastern wall—prompted by concerns about structural integrity. Following inspections, we planned a staged reconstruction process.

- *The removal of original timber weatherboards, sash windows and decorative trim*
- *Careful storage and repair of heritage fabric to preserve architectural continuity*
- *Exposure of the wall's frame to identify termite damage and timber decay*
- *Replacement of compromised elements including wall plates, battens and support timbers and replacement of all the inside panelling*
- *Integration of new materials to match original weatherboards and trims, preserving heritage character*
- *Final painting and sealing of the entire section.*

Given the Club's 2013 heritage listing, we worked closely with North Sydney Council to secure planning approval within just 2 weeks. Thanks to members Bob Moore and Paul Connect, whose expertise in heritage compliance and planning facilitated smooth approvals and preserved the integrity of the building.

The replacement of the new timber weatherboards, sash windows and decorative trim is the last remaining works to be completed.

The key members of the team to be thanks for weeks of work – Bruce Dover, Trevor Cosh, Bob Langley, Martin van der Wal, David Field, Bruce Brown, Herschel Smith – our Salvage team.

Volunteers

Volunteers have once again gone above and beyond. Among many contributions, one member designed and fabricated new outdoor seating and dining tables for the deck—a hands-on project requiring welding, carpentry and finishing. This small transformation has improved the Club's social spaces significantly – thankyou Bob Langley.

We've continued to hold regular Boatshed Committee meetings, using them to review current infrastructure and prioritise upcoming projects. Planning is underway for the next Club working bee, with a growing list of small but meaningful jobs ready to be tackled.

Start boats & Tender Service

In September, the Club launched Kareela, our new start boat, which has already proven reliable and well suited to its task. At the start of 2025 also marked the sale of Captain Amora, concluding her long and valuable service to the Club.

The tender fleet has maintained consistent service throughout the year. The Nancy K continues to be our primary workhorse, with the Jack Millard, crewed by volunteer drivers, providing additional support on busy race days. Our midweek Wednesday tender runs have grown steadily in popularity, offering additional convenience for members.

This service would not operate without the generous contributions of licenced and trained volunteer drivers who give up their time each weekend and midweek – rain or shine.

Slipway Operations

Our slipway remains a vital asset. Led by Rod Phillips, with support from Peter Cowman and Curtis Smiles, the team ensured that both member vessels and Club boats are serviced efficiently, safely and with exceptional attention to detail. The team's knowledge and approachability have earned praise from members who work on their own boats at the facility.

Pontoons & Moorings

We are in the planning phase for the replacement of two aging mooring piles off the main deck. These have been supplemented by Mediterranean-style moorings to increase flexibility and berth capacity. This work is being carefully coordinated to balance functionality, cost and environmental considerations. Our thanks to Tony Cousins for his tireless work managing the Club's moorings throughout the year.

Working Bees

Club working bees have been held and cancelled due to wet weather in the past few weeks with a growing list of small but meaningful jobs completed and ready to be tackled. Thank you to the 60+ members who have offered their help and assisted to get a lot done.

The main boatshed & Green Shed are tidy. We need this to continue – please label all your items and be aware there is a fee for a locker and dingy space and a fee to store an outboard engine. Many members are not paying the appropriate fees. Please contact the office immediately or we may dispose of the items. We have an ongoing issue with the charging of batteries – this can only be done in the main boatshed when you are at the club and never in the Green Shed.

Questions

In response to a question about the Club's policy about tender drivers wearing life jackets and the loading of boats, the Vice Commodore outlined that all tender drivers are asked to wear a life jacket (PFD). Technically, this is not required on Nancy K, but you must be wearing a life jacket on Jack Millard. We have reviewed the Safe Work Method Statements. With regard to the loading of the boats the driver plus 14 are allowed on Nancy K and the driver plus 8 on Jack Miller. Skippers should not put pressure on the drivers to take more passengers than permitted.

In response to a question about on youth sailing programs in relation to the design of pontoons, the Vice Commodore indicated that such a dinghy sailing program has major impact, such as requiring the storage of dinghies.

Racing

Club Captain Phil Tanner reported on club racing.

The 2024–25 season built on recent strong participation, with around 120 active yachts competing across all series. Friday Twilights and the Winter Series again attracted the largest fleets, and overall engagement remained high across the sailing program.

Race Management

Kareela has proven an excellent start platform, with upgrades during the season (e.g. new flag gantry) improving capability and reliability. The full transition to SailSys was completed smoothly, with features such as SMS sign-on and results embraced by the majority of skippers. The system has streamlined administration, improved competitor engagement, and enabled seamless collaboration with other clubs for events such as Women on Water and the Sydney Harbour Regatta.

Encouraging Participation

The new 10-race Commodores' Cup offered classic yachts a flexible alternative to the full weekly program. The Classic Divisions welcomed new yachts, and the Folkboat fleet continued its resurgence, regularly fielding five boats. The Sprint Series maintained strong Ranger and Folkboat participation, while the interclub Sheepstation Series expanded successfully to five races and the Cavalier 28 class saw renewed strength with eight competitors.

Short coastal events are growing following the adoption of Category 5 safety for daylight races and we're adding the Don Dellar Race this Season to the short coastal events, building to a short coastal Series (Lion Island, Bob Brown and Don Dellar)...and looking to include another race next season to Botany Bay and back.

Sharing Skills & Broadening Involvement

Friday Twilights averaged over 30 starters, while the Winter Series averaged 35. The Club's informal cruising group thrived, with nine yachts joining this year's Port Stephens cruise, which will return in November.

Major Events & Collaborations

Gaffers Day 2024 drew over 60 yachts in excellent conditions, highlighted by the attendance of Kathleen Gillett from the Australian National Maritime Museum.

The Annual Prizegiving attracted more than 120 members, with the revised seating format well received. SASC continues to work with neighbouring clubs on joint racing, handicapping options and offshore category refinements—always maintaining the Club's unique racing ethos.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Racing Secretary David Pryke, Race Officers, Divisional Representatives, crew coordinators, digital support, office and boatshed staff for their professionalism and dedication. Congratulations to Very Tasty and the Tasty Syndicate for winning both the Club Championship and the Kelly Cup, and to all skippers and crews on a successful season.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another outstanding season of racing in 2025–26.

Questions

One member noted, regarding *Kathleen Gillett*, that the name is pronounced 'Gillette' like the razor but the 'e' was once lost in a gamble.

Membership

Director John Brady reported on Membership.

In the last few years, we have lost more members than we have gained. To better understand the membership, we will survey the membership.

Crew Members don't drive the revenue. Members with boats drive the opportunity to sail. More people in boats leads to more members.

There are people around the club who sail for years and don't become members. We ask all skippers to give them a nudge to become a Crew Member.

We continue to look for ways to create pathways for youth.

Resignations are not dramatic. We lose people each year as they get older, become silent member and then resign. Keep in touch with them. Don't let them fall away.

Junior members. Hugo Darin is a good example of a young member with a boat. He took the boat on as a project.

The challenge is finding ways to get people into boat ownership. Some people with boats then drop off.

This club has performed really well over a number of years.

We encourage all members to get active. Skippers - nudge crews. A lot of crew members have moved to full membership.

Find ways to make membership more attractive and find ways to attract people.

Item 5: Adoption of Annual Accounts

Moved, that the 153rd Annual Report, Balance Sheet, accompanying statements and reports of Directors for 2024-2025 Financial Year be adopted.

Proposed: T Tomaszewski; Seconded: C Manion. Carried.

Item 6: Auditors

Moved, that Crowe, being eligible, be appointed as Auditors for the 2025-2026 Financial Year.

Proposed: J Sturrock; Seconded: C Manion. Carried.

Item 7: Election of Flag Officers and Directors

No vote is required this year as all Flag Officers and Directors have been appointed unopposed. The Treasurer and Honorary Secretary are confirmed to continue in their roles. The following are therefore elected:

Commodore	Peter Scott
Vice Commodore	Chris Manion
Rear Commodore	Alice Murphy
Club Captain	Phil Tanner
Treasurer	John Brennan
Honorary Secretary	Leone Lorrimer
Director	John Brady
Director	David Brown
Director	Tony Cousins
Director	Sean Kelly
Director	Maz Neyakivi

Item 9: Honoraria

Moved, that the membership approves the payment of honorariums of no greater than \$450 at the discretion of the Board as it deems appropriate during the 2025-2026 financial year.

Proposed: S Kelly; Seconded: T Tomaszewski. Carried.

Item 10: Regrets

The Commodore proposed a motion that the Club records our regret at the passing of the following members:

Frank Talbot
Phil Kinsella
Ian Anstee
Bill Gale OAM
John Jeremy AM
Jim Lawler
Don McCorquodale
Hugh Treharne OAM

Moved, that the Club records our regret at the passing of Frank Talbot, Phil Kinsella
Ian Anstee
Bill Gale
John Jeremy AM
Jim Lawler
Don McCorquodale
Hugh Treharne OAM

Proposed: P Scott; Seconded: C Maclurcan. Carried.

Item 11: Life Members

The Commodore would like to record the following persons who have joined the ranks of our life membership.

35 years:

- David Pryke
- Anthony Davis

40 years:

- Michael Cranitch
- Tim Ingham
- Richard Lamrock
- Peter Pangas
- Bruce Watson

45 years:

- None

Item 12: Other Business

The Commodore opened the floor to general business.

Pagan

Pagan, a boat that is 100 years old and has circumnavigated the globe, is for sale for zero dollars. If we know someone who is interested in the project, please let them know.

Crewing

One member identified that there have been 70 applications to crew and encouraged skippers to take prospective crew out sailing as the starting point for getting them down to the club on the pathway to membership. It was noted that there will be a new portal on the website that will make it much easier to match crews and skippers/boats, as well as monitoring progress from sailing to membership.

Centenarian Event

Inspired by Martin van der Wal whose *Hoana* is turning 100 years this year. a committee is organising the Centenarian Yacht Event with the Maritime Museum. Fifteen 100-years-old boats will be displayed at the Maritime Museum from 29 September over the long-weekend through until the 12 October rally and gathering based at the Amateurs, where the cannon will be fired, with food and beverages. Boats include ANMM centenarian fleet's *Akarana* and *Thistle*, as well as *Kelpie* and *Landseer*.

The meeting closed at 20:34 precisely.

Signed: Dated: