



2025-26

Canberra Yacht Club Annual Report





Introduction

This report summarises the activities and operations of ACT Sailing Inc. (Trading as Canberra Yacht Club). The report also contains the Annual Report of our inclusive charitable programs Buoyed Up and Sailability. The Club's audited financials are found in a separate document, available to members and to others upon request.



Commodore's Report

It is with pleasure that I report to members as Commodore of the Canberra Yacht Club on the activities of our club during the 2025-2026 financial year.

At the outset I acknowledge the very sad death of Vice-Commodore John O'Donnell during the year. John made an outstanding contribution to the CYC in a range of ways and he is very sadly missed. The role of Vice-Commodore has remained vacant although Doug Witschi has kindly and commendably taken on a number of tasks that fall within the domain of that position, for which I thank him greatly. I also note, even though it is outside the formal reporting period, the passing of Ailsa Forster who, with Peter, have been mainstays and stalwarts of the CYC since its inception. On behalf of our community, our sincere condolences go to Peter and family.

Once again, it has been a busy and productive year for the CYC and the Committee as we have dealt with a lot of sailing business as usual activities and, unfortunately again, a couple of issues which have presented particular challenges, one or two of which have reflected on the culture and values of the CYC and caused unnecessary stress and additional workload for the Committee and the Management team. As noted in reporting last year, we are all responsible for the quality of our culture and therefore where and how the club grows into the future. Maintaining the balance is a difficult task and one that the CYC Committee strives to achieve for the benefit of the majority of sailors when managing the conditions for inclusive, fair and safe sailing. I ask all members to bear in mind that 'healthy competition' encompasses self-improvement, mutual respect and fairness and is to be reflected in the way that we interact with fellow members both on and off the water.

During the year the Committee has continued to work hard on maintaining our strong and collaborative working relationships with the CSCC, the ACT Government, the NCA and other key stakeholders and maintain our standing as a strong community partner. We continue to focus on the recruitment and retention of members which is the lifeblood of our Club and our community and actively seek to build the membership value proposition through our programs and Club activities.

The CYC remains in a reasonably sound financial position under the stewardship of the General Manager and Rear Commodore Finance, notwithstanding the loss being reported in the financial statements. This will be addressed in Amanda's report. As part of the Club's focus on financial security, efforts continue to be made to build sponsorship support as both an increased revenue source and to broaden engagement with business and the community. This is difficult but we will persevere.

Major activities during the year in addition to normal operations included the 2025 Australia Masters Games which we ran in collaboration with the YMCA Sailing Club, an enlarged City of Canberra Trailable Yacht Championships which incorporated the inaugural Castle 650 Nationals Titles and most recently the Zhik Youth Sail Event, again run with the YMCASC.

The She Sails program has been an outstanding success this year building on the first year of operation. Interest continues to grow from women both new and returning to sailing as well as from a number of CYC members who have made their boats available during the She Sails activities and/or came down for a social get together at the end of the working week. This all culminated in the CYC winning the Australian Sailing She Sails Award for the ACT and NSW. This win has now gone through to the National Awards which will be announced on 30 October in Sydney. Congratulations go to all those involved in the She Sails program who are very well-deserving of the Award.

Congratulations also go to Gerry Brooks who won the Australian Sailing Volunteer of the Year Award for the ACT and NSW against very stiff competition. Gerry epitomises all the very best attributes of our Club and indeed of volunteers in general and, again, is extremely well-deserved.

The Sailability program, under Rear Commodore Inclusion, Julian Slater, has continued to provide opportunities for people who otherwise would not be able to enjoy sailing as we are able to. The sustained year-on-year growth in the Sailability program through participation and recognition in the wider community is remarkable.

We have for some months been working with the Making Waves Foundation to set up the Wright of Passage Program at the CYC. This program provides options for young people from local schools and youth support services between the ages of 15 to 18 for development outside of the classroom. Specifically, the program focusses on building Rainbow Dinghies from scratch in an on-site workshop with the students working with volunteer mentors, and the CYC will provide sail training. The aim is to build confidence and consistency and develop the positive attitudes and skills needed for their journey through education, training, and employment. The program has received a three-year funding grant from Rotary and its Patron is the Governor-General. Making Waves is currently working through the ACT Government approvals process.

This is a very exciting development and would be a good fit with our Buoyed Up Program. We are hoping it will positively influence the various arms of the ACT Government to review its overly restrictive policies which continue to prevent us from running Buoyed Up.

Throughout the year we have continued to review and strengthen our processes around governance, risk identification and management across all aspects of the Club's operations. Going forward the Committee will look to streamline its operations, reporting and workplan to enable a greater focus on strategy and efficiencies.

I acknowledge the work of the members of the CYC Committee and the sub-committees who so willingly volunteer their time to ensure that the Club is well managed and continues to provide the services that we enjoy. I thank most sincerely my fellow Committee members over the last 12 months Leo O'Keefe, Amanda Munn, Steve Swinsburg, Rob Saunders, Julian Hill, Doug Witschi and Zoe Kershaw. Rob is stepping down from this Committee at the conclusion of the AGM and I think him very much for his diligence and outstanding service to keeping us all safe.

The success of the CYC over the last 12 months is again very much due to the efforts and commitment of Steve, Mary and Flynn to the operations of the Club on a daily basis, which well and truly exceed their duty statements. I also acknowledge the work and commitment of our outstanding instructors and assistant instructors through the year, and of course everyone who has given generously of their time in a volunteer capacity.

We have had a great start to season 2025-26 and I very much look forward to seeing you all around the Club and on the water.

Sue Hart

Commodore



Rear Commodore Finance Report

The Club remains in a sound financial position at 30 June 2026, supported by a strong cash position of \$494,554 and net assets of \$628,004

Revenue

Income and gross trading surplus for the year was \$708,802, a decrease of \$69,544 compared with \$778,346 in the prior year. Course and Training Fees remain the Club's largest source of revenue. The reduction in income was largely attributed to lower grant funding, with \$26,299 recognised during the year compared with \$80,675 in prior year, when the Sailability grant funding was recognized.

Expenditure

Employee costs, including wages, superannuation and employee leave entitlements, remain the Club's largest operating expense, totalling \$479,769 for the year. Insurance also remains a significant operating cost at \$61,138.

Depreciation of \$65,145 continues to have a significant impact on the Club's reported financial result, reflecting investment made in recent years in the Club's assets such as the RIB and improvements to the Cat parking facilities. The Club achieved an operating surplus before depreciation of \$7,880. After depreciation, the reported result for the year was a deficit of \$57,265.

Balance Sheet

The Club continues to maintain a strong balance sheet, with total assets of \$836,143, including cash of \$494,554, against total liabilities of \$208,139 at 30 June 2026

Forward grant funding was utilised during the year to support Club programs, including \$2,989 for SheSails. Encouragingly, further funding has been secured from Australian Sailing for 2026-27 to support the continuation of the SheSails program.

Employee entitlements increased by \$13,585, from \$78,632 to \$92,217. Managing leave balances and the associated liability will remain an area of focus during 2026-27

Business Unit Performance

Sailing School

Sailing School income decreased by \$10,223 compared with the prior year, lead by lower Adult Learn to Sail Course enrolments. Despite lower income, the Sailing School achieved a surplus before depreciation of \$18,939, compared with \$4,156 in the prior year. The improved operating result was supported by lower costs, particularly repairs and maintenance, which reduced from \$39,699 to \$18,988.

Canberra Yacht Club - Member Services

Canberra Yacht Club (Member Services) recorded a deficit before depreciation of \$16,171, compared with a deficit of \$11,564 in the prior year. The current year result included \$3,979 in bad debts written off, relating to amounts carried forward from the previous accounting system.

Boat Shop

Boat Shop income increased to \$87,369, up \$15,773 from the prior year. The Boat Shop generated a surplus before depreciation of \$6,285, compared with \$11,704 in the prior year. The lower surplus reflects increased operating costs, including costs associated with the Lightspeed system and adjustments relating to clearance stock.



Sailability

Sailability continues to be supported through grants, donations and sponsorships. During 2025-26, total income was \$11,719, against expenditure of \$12,892, resulting in a small operating deficit of \$1,173.

SheSails

SheSails program expenditure for the year was \$2,989, excluding salary costs, which were absorbed within the Sailing School and Canberra Yacht Club. Program expenditure was funded through the Southern Cross Club grant. Funding has been secured through Australian Sailing to support continuation of the program in 2026-27.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead to 2026–27, the Club will continue to balance careful cost management with investment in its future. Staffing and insurance costs will remain key areas of focus, As the Club's asset base grows, there will also be an ongoing commitment to planned repairs and maintenance to protect our investment, preserve asset value and minimise the risk of significant future replacement costs We will also continue to seek sponsorship and grant funding opportunities that support membership growth, participation and the ongoing development of the Club.

Amanda Munn

Rear Commodore Finance

2025-26 Presentation Night

It was wonderful to celebrate all the achievements of our CYC members from the 2025–2026 season at the Presentation Dinner in May. With close to 100 members in attendance, it was a fantastic night of recognising effort, success and community.

A big thank you to the Canberra Southern Cross Club for hosting us and providing catering.

Awards for racing results for Championship, Pointscore and Sprint formats were delivered to recipients. It was fantastic to see some of the upcoming talent in our club reaching the podium and, in some cases, the established sailors holding them out and retaining top spots. We look forward to another season of hotly contested racing in all Divisions!

Winners of major awards:

YACHTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR	Grace Becker-Scott
YACHTSMAN OF THE YEAR	Sam Bylett
MOST IMPROVED SENIOR	Rob Saunders
CREW OF THE YEAR	Dawn & Kevin Gillies
FAMILY TROPHY	Cartright / Munn Family
CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR	Geoff Comfort
JUNIOR YACHTSWOMAN	Anna Malpas
JUNIOR YACHTSMAN	Alex Power
INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT AWARD	Harley Dusink
MOST IMPROVED JUNIOR	Tom Fisher
JUNIOR CREW OF THE YEAR	Zaak Bourke
JUNIOR CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR	Olivia Dhepnorarat







Rear Commodore Sailing Report

The 2025–26 sailing season proved to be a mixed one with some major regattas and greatly unfavourable weather. On the weather side, a large number of races had to be abandoned due to in the most part excessive winds. The biggest impact was on the Matthew Owen series where all three races in the series could not be raced. Similarly, for the Winter series only half the number of races could be conducted.

The major regatta undertaken by the club, in collaboration with the YMCA Sailing Club, was the 2025 Masters Games. Previously, the sailing section of the Masters Games has been conducted in single handed dinghies. But for these Games, both clubs decided to go much broader with multi handed dinghies, multihulls, and windsurfers included. This format turned out to be a rather successful with 102 participants across the whole fleet. To cater for such a big fleet, the races were conducted in Central Basin (for the slower dinghies), Westlake (for the multihulls and faster dinghies) and Yarralumla (for the Windsurfers). Having boats sail in Central basin was certainly a good advertisement for the sport of sailing. The weather during the week was a bit variable with 2 days lost over the five days due to excessive breeze. But at least 8 races were able to be sailed with the Windsurfers managing to get 11 races in. With a big regatta like this being managed across 2 clubs, there were bound to be a few teething problems, but overall, the regatta was a great success with the participants enjoying a good week of sailing.

The other regatta of note that the club conducted was the very first Castle 650 National Championships – held in conjunction with the annual City of Canberra Regatta. We had 19 boats participating in the Nationals, with the majority coming from interstate.

With having so many interstate boats take part, this year's City of Canberra Regatta was the biggest for some time (31 entrants).

Every year on Australia Day, the club conducts the Chief Ministers Regatta. As Australia Day, occurred on a Sunday in 2026, it was decided to conduct this event over 2 days (ie. Saturday and Sunday) rather than have it as a single race. So, for this year, the regatta was sailed over 5 races with a total of 52 entrants.

The club also hosted the ACT Optimist Championship, which was once again well attended, attracting 69 competitors across the Open and Intermediate fleets.

In addition to these regattas, we held our SheSails Day again in February. This followed the format of past season of having it as a stand-alone event with no club racing on the day. Like previous years, it was very successful with a large number of participants. Of course, these days would not be what they are if it wasn't for the members who offered to take participants out on boats. In addition, in recognition of the success of our She Sails program, the club won the Australian Sailing award for this category for NSW/ACT.

Participation is the core focus of the CYC Sailing portfolio. It can be seen from the ten year participation graphs (attached at the end of this

report) how it has been trending in both the Championship and the Pointscore series. Participation across the Championship and Pointscore has remained fairly flat over the past few years though the slight dip can possibly be attributed to the less than favourable weather or the course of the season. This may have discouraged some members from participating on certain days. This is most notable in the drop in the number of regular sailors (ie. those sailing at least 50% of the races in each series) sailing in the Championship series.

An important part of the sailing program is having volunteers to assist with race management and rescue duties. I would like to thank all those people that did do the various duties over the year. Without you, the races would not take place.

An important group among our volunteers are our Race Officers. Once again, we hosted a Race Officer training course, which Australian Sailing conducted by. This course was designed to train new Race officers as well as further strengthen the skills and knowledge of our existing Race Officers. The training has contributed to building a more confident and capable team, ready to support the club's sailing program in future seasons. To support this, we have continued

with our forums for Race Officers which have provided a valuable opportunity for our Race Officers to come together, discuss issues of concern, and share ideas and experiences with one another.

I would like to particularly thank Gerry Brooks for his unwavering dedication as our principal Race Officer. His commitment to the role and his mentorship of other race officials have made a significant contribution to the strength and capability of our race management team. It is good to see this commitment being recognised with Gerry winning Volunteer of the Year at the recent NSW/ACT Australian Sailing Awards.

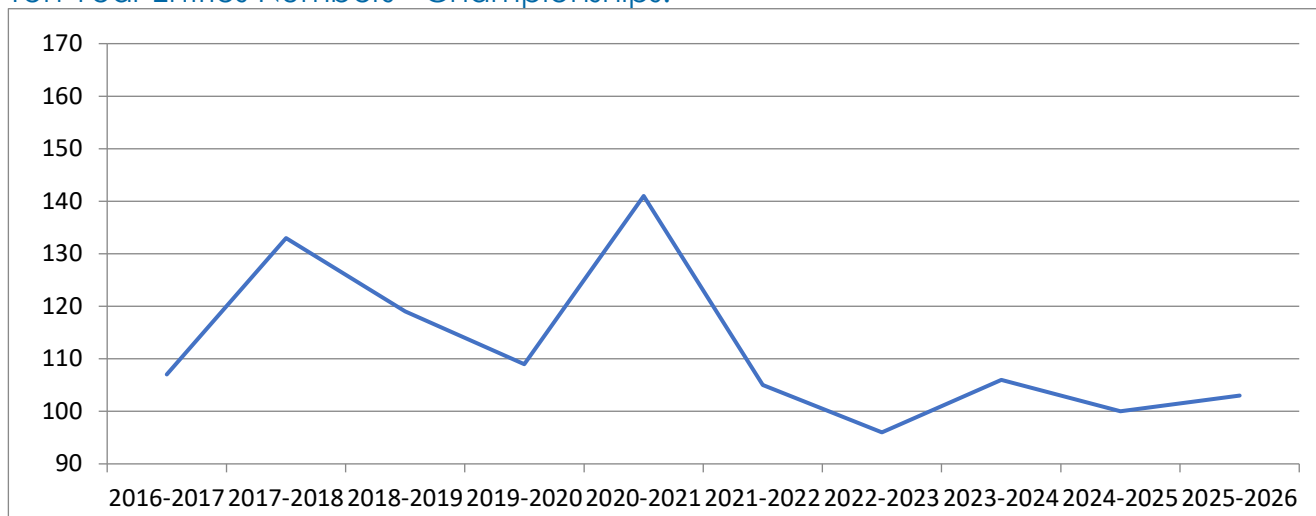
Finally, I want to say thank you to the members of the Sailing Committee that helped me in putting together last season's sailing program and in dealing with the various issues that arose during the season. Their collaborative efforts were instrumental in ensuring the smooth running of our sailing activities. Also, I want to thank the CYC staff members for all the work they do and for the support they have given to me and the Committee.

Leo O'Keeffe

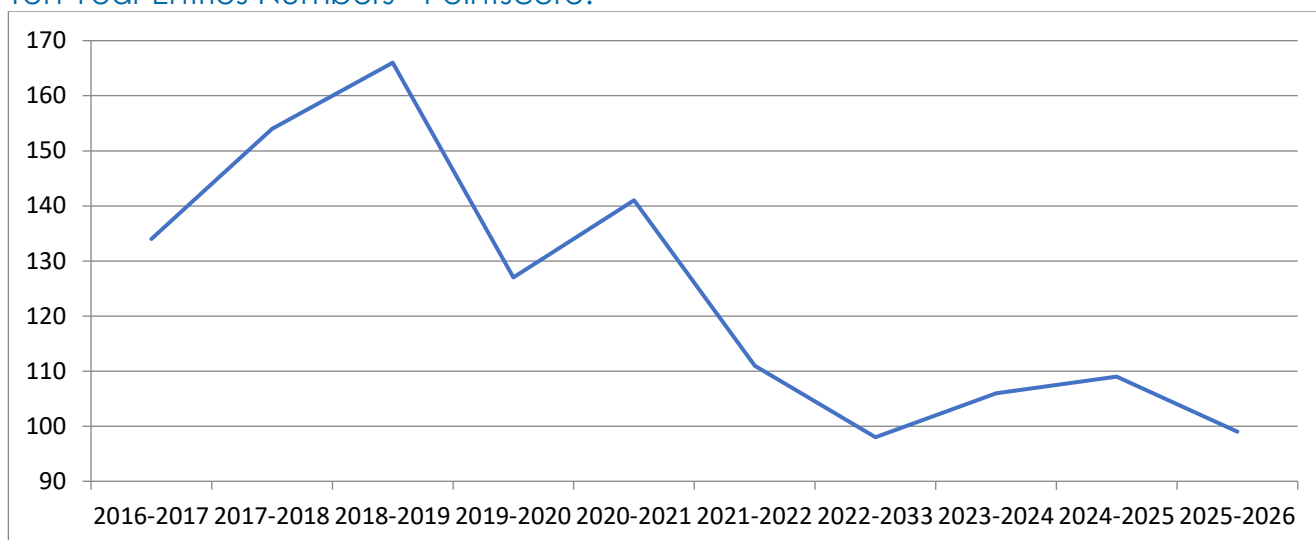
Rear Commodore Sailing

Ten Year Racing Participation Graphs

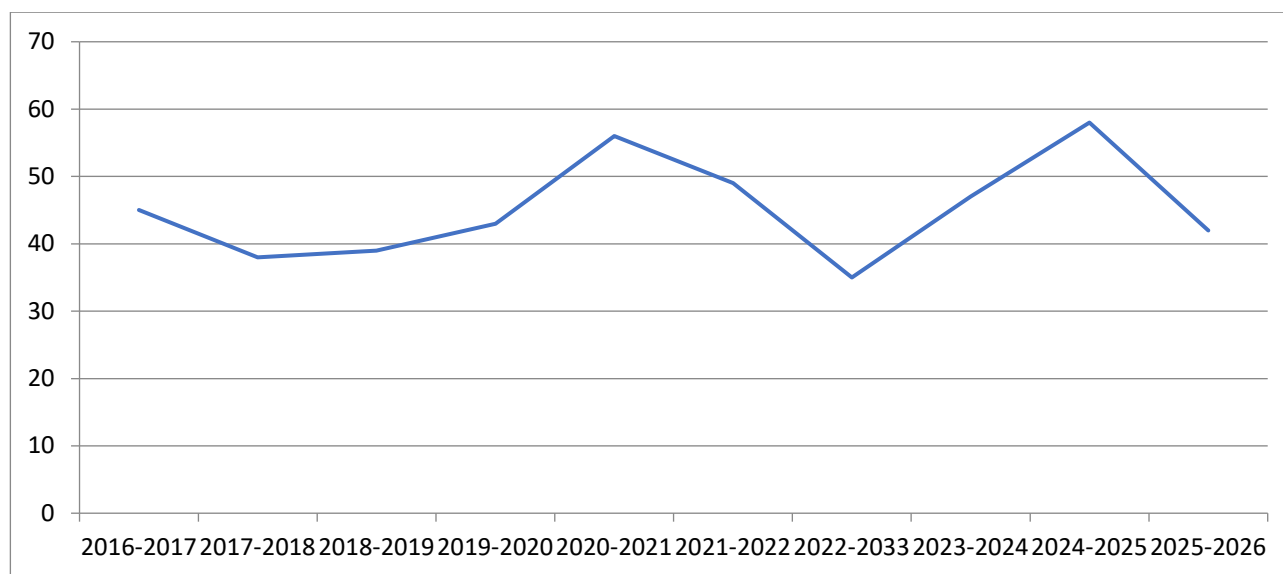
Ten Year Entries Numbers - Championships:



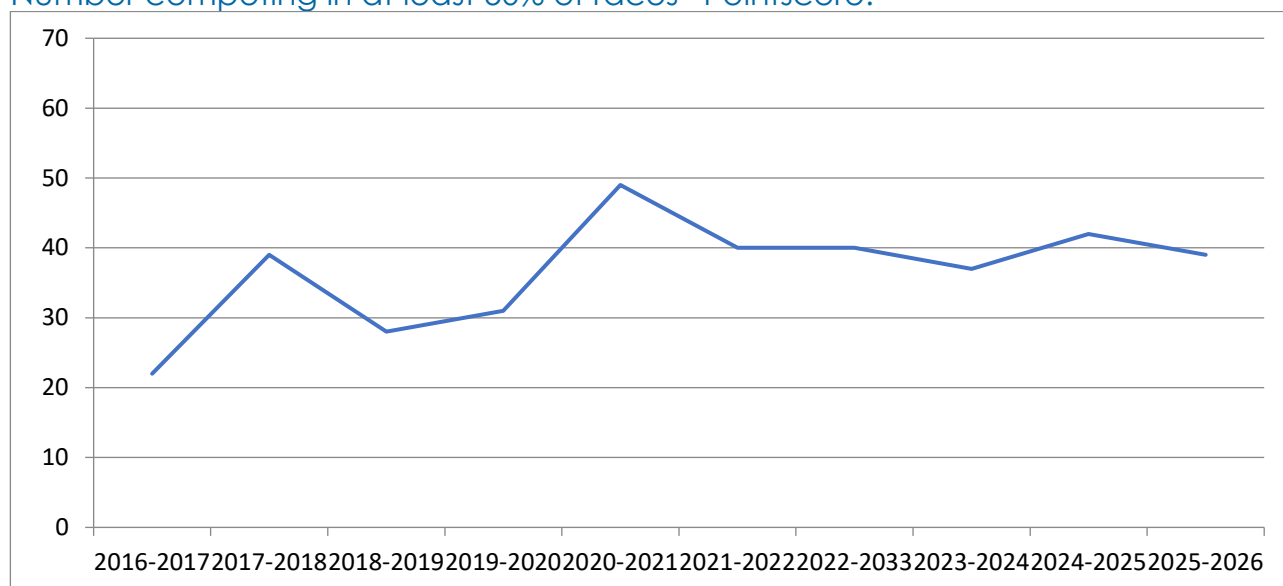
Ten Year Entries Numbers - Pointscore:



Number competing in at least 50% of races – Championship:



Number competing in at least 50% of races –Pointscore:





Rear Commodore Risk & Safety

ThFY25/26 saw yet another busy season for us and we have certainly faced some challenging weather from benign to too much! The Race Officers and Duty Committee Members are supported in their decision making on whether it's safe to conduct a race by their own expertise and the use of a Immediate Risk Assessment form. Regardless of the RO/DCM decision on whether to conduct a race, all skippers are reminded of Rule 3: *"The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone"*. Primarily this falls upon the skipper to assess their own, their vessel & crew on their ability to participate noting the prevailing environmental conditions.

We have had one serious accident this year, one that could have been prevented if the crew a. knew the rules, & b. conducted a proper lookout. Thankfully no one was injured, but it was a close call. Rule 14: (World Sailing Case 107 & Case 26)....*that a boat not keeping a proper lookout fails to do "everything reasonably possible to avoid contact". Even if a boat has the right-of-way, a failure to scan the horizon or notice an approaching boat will result in a penalty if a collision occurs.*

Head injuries are a continued risk factor for us all (yes even for the trailer sailors!), so please seriously consider purchasing a helmet or at least one of the new, stylish Vaikobi bump hats, which are subsidised in the club shop. You will be thankful in your later years for helping to prevent acquired dementia! Unfortunately I have to step down from committee duties for the next season, but I intend on keeping sailing and contributing where I can.

Rob Saunders
Rear Commodore
Risk and Safety

"There is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats." - Kenneth Grahame

CYC Executive 2025-26



Sue Hart
Commodore



Doug Witschi
Rear Commodore



Amanda Munn
Rear Commodore Finance



Leo O'Keeffe
Rear Commodore Sailing



Steve Swinsburg
Rear Commodore Member
Services



Zoe Kershaw
Rear Commodore



Rob Saunders
Rear Commodore
Risk & Safety



Julian Slater
Rear Commodore
Inclusion

CYC Staff 2025-26



Steve Hart
General Manager



Flynn Jocumsen
Sailing School Manager



Mary Kershaw
Office Manager

Major Supporter



Major Sponsors



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