

SCOOP

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December 1999



Correspondence to The Editor, Couta Boat Club., P.O. Box 203, Sorrento, Vic. 3943

President's Comment

The season has opened and the first series has been run and won. Great to see so many people getting an early start to the season.

The Millennium celebrations at the club will no doubt finish off one magnificent year and drive us head long into an even better year. January is our most active racing and social calendar and it will be fantastic to see everybody enjoying everything Couta.

The overall membership is continuing to grow so please make sure you say hello and welcome to some of the new faces. The club welcomes visitors but applauds membership so see how you can do your bit in our continuing membership drive.

During the first few weeks of January, many of the activities around the club could use your assistance. So just like any well-run boat, it's the crew that makes the difference so its time for all hands on deck and let's lighten the load. When you're ready to lend a hand contact either Sally Williams or Mark Bergin.

To each and all of you, a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year and may all of your handicaps come down.

Chris Sinn
President Couta Boat Club

PS: If you haven't booked for New Year's Eve tickets are going fast!!!



Inside Scoop

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mazda

The Editor - Scoop & CoutaNet

Participation is key to a club. Whether it's out on the water, around the club, behind the scenes, or helping to foster the heritage. In the last month, the club member response to documenting the Couta Boat Club heritage has been fantastic. If anything, it's raised more questions than answers.

In this Scoop, we've issued the first of a series of questions to help document some of our Couta Boat heritage. You may not know the answer to this question but I'm sure you know the answer to many others. So keep sending them in because Couta Fishing always ended up with a lot of Couta Tales!!!

Over the last 12 months the committee has been organising a more structured manner for the running of our events and there are many opportunities to get involved with a small task either for a day or two or an afternoon. Your help will be appreciated.

Featured in this edition of Scoop is a Summer Holiday Planner. Why not put it on your fridge and don't just enjoy the scheduled racing but get involved with cruising, sailing to a picnic location or simply taking some friends out for an afternoon cruise.

Merry Xmas and may the force be with you

The Editor
Mark Bergin

ALL HANDS TO THE DECK

An exciting new development on the Sorrento foreshore! Have you had a chance to look at the new deck section gracing the front of the club house? This new extension almost doubles the decking area, creating yet another reason to frequent the club apart from sailing.

Next time you're enjoying a drink on this fine foreshore development, have a look around and see if you can work out how it was made possible. Who helped the club gain this valuable asset in such a prime location?

And we shouldn't forget that more deck space, means more bums on seats, which means more revenue for the club. So come and enjoy a drink on Sorrento's latest foreshore real estate development.

Couta Boat Club Committee 1999-2000

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COUTANET

Everything Couta Online. Over the last month the traffic on the website shows there are a lot of connected people interested in Couta Boats. For those who are yet to visit the site or join the newsletter, here are a few of the things that have been going on.

The weekly newsletter is now reaching around 30% of the membership and almost 90% of the active racing fleet.

If you want results and race notices fast then this is the way to go. Each week a short note is sent out via email including the race details for that weekend, a few social ideas and other important club information.

But by far the fastest way to get the results is online. So far, the results have been up on the site on the Monday following the weekends sailing. During the summer holidays, this should be even faster, hopefully next day.

The heritage section of the site is growing steadily with 5 boat histories being added in the last few weeks. We now there are a lot of histories out there so hopefully many of these will find their way onto the site. If you know more than the published history, please let me know. Many skippers are a little sketchy on the stories associated with their boats, so if you've got a few bobs worth, toss it in.

BOAT HISTORIES - HELP

We need a little help. CoutaNet received this email from Richard Walter "Jessie". If you know any more about this story please either email history@couta.net or call 03 9629 1666.

"Jessie" C78, Jock Bromell & Richard Walter. While moored at the wharf at Port Fairy about 18 months ago, a chap came along and stopped to have a chat. After asking a few questions about the boat and its background, he said that he was a former owner and had used her as a commercial fishing boat for 5 years, operating out of Portland. He said at that time the motor was set forward where the centre case is and of course there were no sails. At 19'6" "Jessie" was the slowest boat in the fleet. He used the boat for crayfishing and said that the biggest load he ever had on, was 22 craypots stacked as high as the mast! He seemed pleased he got home that day from behind St Lawrence Rocks.

Unfortunately, I neglected to record his name at the time and now wish I could speak to him again, or to any other previous owners of the boat, to hear their stories.

Regards, - Richard Walter - Co-owner "Jessie"

"PATSY MAKES HER WAY TO THE FRONT OF THE PACK"

The restoration of Patsy is well under way. In the last month both the conservation and project planning have been progressing smoothly with the Wooden Boatshop playing host to a range of Museum staff and experts.

As with any restoration the planning is paramount. However this restoration is a little different with Museum staff paying particular attention to the features of the Couta Boat fleet as sailed at the turn of the century.

From all reports the Patsy restoration will produce a boat that we can all be proud of. For those people who have donated to help the restoration, the pride will be even greater.

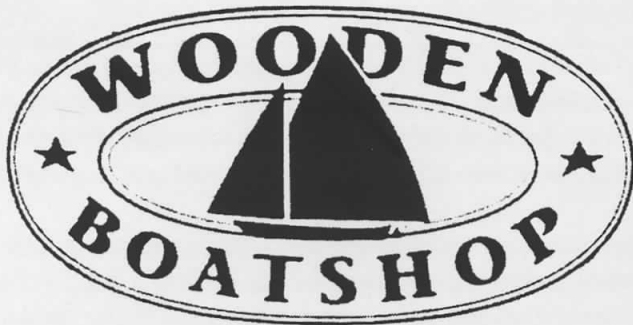
Patsy will take pride of place at the front entrance of the museum, representing the visitor's first contact with the quality of the museum's exhibits. The museum staff have definitely made the right choice, as a fine exhibit such as Patsy would be hard to beat.

The Couta Boat Club is seeking to raise over \$60,000 through individuals, companies and the membership base of the Sorrento Sailing Club/Couta Boat Club to assist in the acquisition, restoration, delivery, sails, conservation and display. To date the appeal has raised around \$10,000. A great start but we still have a long way to go. There is a donation form included in this mailing and on CoutaNet. You can also contact the Patsy Information Line on 03) 9629 1666 or email patsy@couta.net.

All donations will be tax deductible. Supporters of the project who donate \$1,000 or more will be individually acknowledged. The Couta Boat Club is targeting to raise \$10,000 through the Sorrento Sailing Club/Couta Boat Club membership base and will be named as a major sponsor of the project.

A "Patsy" Appeal Newsletter following the progress of the appeal and restoration will be published. If you would like to be on the mailing list please send an email to patsy@couta.net or sign up from CoutaNet at www.couta.net.





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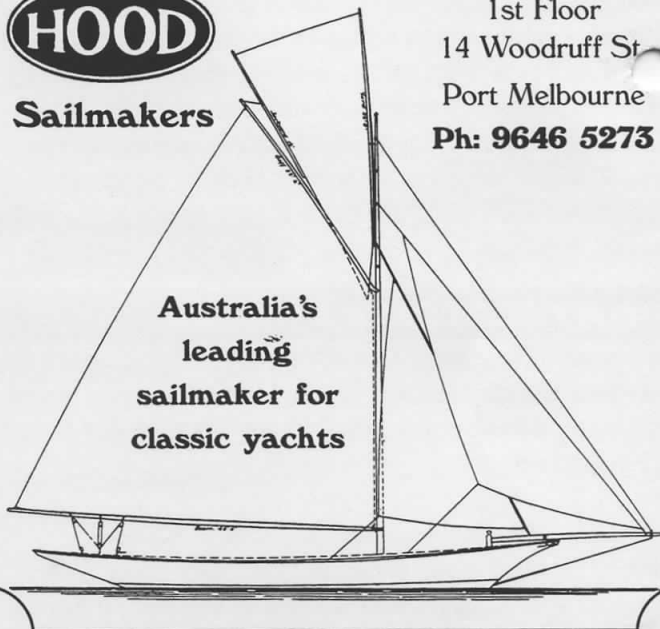
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