

Sailability's Boatshed Program

Sailability's Boatshed program is an important part of the second birthday celebrations at the Boatshed. From the outset Sailability has been an integral part of what the Boatshed is all about – providing the opportunity to learn to sail for everyone. In fact Albert Park was the location of the first Sailability Program which was established in Victoria around twenty years ago. And in the last year around 50% of the Boatshed's 3000 clients have been involved with the Sailability program.

Sailability now operates at the Boatshed four days a week, and its only limitation to becoming a seven day per week operation is the number of trained volunteers involved in the program. The program's client organisations recognise the accessibility of sailing as a sport for people of all ages and abilities, and the ideal location the Lake presents; and want to increase the number of people in the Boatshed's learn to sail programs.

Get to know Josh Sadler



With VicHealth support Josh joined Sailability Victoria in January 2010. His role combines managing Sailability at The Boatshed and further developing and coordinating the activities of the other 18 member programs of Sailability Victoria across the State. Josh has an extensive background in sports administration and sports development, working more recently with Melbourne Victory FC and coaching rowing at an elite school level. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts (Sports Administration) and a Masters in Sports Business.

New boats and equipment thanks to Yuligbar Foundation

With assistance of YV President Graham Cunningham, the Sailability Victoria Committee, led by Murray Mitchelhill and David Staley have delivered major funding proposals to a number of major charities and foundations. Last year the Committee was elated to receive major funding support from the Yuligbar Foundation, a trust associated with the Myer family.

The funding from Yuligbar has enabled Sailability to implement the YV sailing

pathway by supplying equipment appropriate to the ten steps on the sailing pathway:

1. Introductory and learn to sail

Additional Access 203's dinghies and equipment such as cranes at the Boatshed. It has also enabled an upgrade of the mobile Sailability trailer, now an integral part of YV's Mobile Boatshed.

2. Development pathway sailors

Access 303's dinghies at Docklands Yacht Club as part of their successful Sailability program.

3. High Performance Sailors

A Skud at the YA/Victorian Institute of Sport Sailing base at Sandringham Yacht Club.



Vital support from VicHealth

Recognising the success of Boatshed activity in its first year, Boatshed Manager Rod Austin identified the need to recruit a professional resource to develop the sustainability of the program. Working with the team at YV a grant application was submitted to VicHealth who agreed to support the project. The Boatshed would become the model for all Victorian Sailability programs in:

1. Attracting, developing, training and retaining our valued volunteers.
2. Implementing YV's sailing pathway whereby everyone has the opportunity to progress from an introductory sailing experience up the learn to sail pathway to a level that suited them, including all the way to step 10 – Paralympic competition.



Success at the Special Olympics

One of the Boatshed's full time Instructors, Morgan Staley was recently the Coach of a successful Victorian Team that went to the Special Olympics in Adelaide.

The team illustrated well the potential of Victorian Sailability members to progress up the pathway to high levels of completion and won Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals.

Held every four years, the National Games include a variety of sporting competitions for people with an intellectual disability. Sailing was included for the first time in 2010 and drew entries from five States and Territories. Results of the event will be used to select an Australian Team for the Special Olympics World Summer Games Sailing Competition in Athens next year.

Sarah Millsom (Latrobe Valley YC), sailing with Unified Partner and Team Manager Alison Weatherly, finished with a 1st and 2nd placing in the last races to overtake the regatta favourites and claim the Gold Medal in the Level 2 Competition overall and top female crew. In this level, the Special Olympics athlete must helm for the entirety of the race.

In the Level 5 male solo division, Martin Waller (Sugarloaf SC) won the Silver Medal and was 3rd overall, while Mark Thorpe (Lake Wellington and Latrobe Valley YCs) won the Bronze Medal and was 5th overall. Martin and Mark both also have a physical disability and were the only competitors to use servo-electric equipment to control their boats. David Weatherly (Ballarat YC) was 5th.



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Krista & Paul in Europe

Popular Mornington Sailor Krista Bailey and Gippsland Sailor Paul Borg, both of whom have won Victorian Disabled Sailor of the Year Awards, took advantage of the availability of the Yuligbar Skud at SYC to undertake an intensive training program at SYC prior to embarking on their current European trip which sees them racing against the world's best competing in the World Championships in England.

Volunteer Training

YV recognises that a key to attracting and retaining volunteers is their training and recognition. With funding support from the Victorian State Government, under its State Sporting Association Grants, YV has recently provided extensive training to 34 Sailability volunteers. The training provided opportunities for volunteers to gain Assistant and Instructor qualifications inclusive of powerboat handling, senior first aid and radio operators courses.

YV has identified three key groups for training:

1. Existing Sailability volunteers to be trained as sailing instructors
2. People from the community to learn sailing and become new volunteers
3. Existing sailors for training in inclusion for all abilities

Welcome to new volunteers at The Boatshed

Sailability is a volunteer based program and it been great to see so many volunteers come on board from yacht clubs around the bay, from Sorrento to Port Melbourne, all lending their sailing experience to Sailability. Congratulations particularly to the team from Black Rock Yacht Club who have taken on total responsibility for organising and running all programs on a Monday. The Boatshed Program is also building links with organisations like Victoria University who have students wanting to enhance their program of study with practical experience.

JCAAA Funding

JCAAA are to fund evaluation of facilities at Albert Park in the vicinity of the Boatshed. With the growth of the Sailability program at the Boatshed, Manager Rod Austin recognises the need to improve the disabled facilities at, and near the Boatshed. Rod is now working with a team of people from Parks Victoria, who manage Albert Park, the City of Port Phillip and JCAAA on a report as to what could be done to enhance the park and sailing experience for people of all abilities and their families into the future.



To find out more about Sailability, become a volunteer or make a tax deductible donation in Victoria contact Josh Sadler, email Jsadler@yachtingvictoria.com.au or call 0425 826 390.