



# The Spinnaker

The official magazine of the Evans Bay Yacht & Motor Boat Club

June 2007



**Andrew Cromarty reports in from Greece, details on Page 2**

## Racing and Events Calendar

Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>  
*Race 2, Winter Series*

Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup>  
*Rock & Roll party*

Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup>  
*Race 3, Winter Series*

Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>  
*AGM*

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**The Spinnaker** is produced bi-monthly, contributions (written and photographic) are welcome.

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Hi everyone

I'll start from the end of last season in November last year. Immediately that we have finished laying up the fleet of 150 yachts for winter (including hauling them from the water) I completed my RYA Yachtmaster qualification in Corfu and then spent the next 1½ months up until New Year travelling around Italy, Austria and Czech Republic before running out of money and flying back to the UK to doss at a friends place for January & February.

During the time in the UK I sought some short-haul yacht work around the UK and picked up a delivery trip from La Rochelle in France to Southampton (4 days) and another from Hamble along the south coast of England down to Falmouth (1½ days). Both trips we fairly short but the sailing across the Bay of Biscay and English Channel was great experience, especially when being the single person on watch during night in the English channel in SW force 8-9 conditions with lots of shipping around. I was also booked for yacht delivery from Barcelona to Scotland but the boat was delayed with repair work and I had to return to Greece for the new season build-up, thus I had pulled out.

So at the end of February I returned to Corfu for the 2 month build-up/fitout, which was great experience. Along with my all-Kiwi lead boat crew of Liz & Paul, we prepared all 10 of our flotilla yachts, carrying out all manner of minor repairs & maintenance as well as some major improvements on our lead boat Delphi, such as rebuilding the galley, interior vanishing, exterior coatings, gel coat repairs etc. On 6<sup>th</sup> May the first clients for the season arrived and we have just commenced our third 2-week flotilla of the new "Faraway Islands" route.

The first two flotillas have been very successful, with gentle NW breezes on the 1<sup>st</sup> flotilla and a more challenging (programming wise) mixture of weather and winds for the 2<sup>nd</sup> flotilla. The islands, which have never seen large flotillas of yachts before due to their relative isolation from the Ionian/Greek mainland and exposure to the prevailing NW wind (Maestro) & occasional southerly blast from the north African desert (Sirocco), have given us a great welcome and reception to date.

The group of three islands located approximately 8-12Nm off the NW tip of Corfu island, are very quiet, comprising mostly semi-retired or retired people running small fishing boats or olive groves and not a lot else. Each of the islands has its own beauty and charm, with varying Cyprus/bush covered hills and valleys, sandy beaches and rugged cliff coastlines. The focal point of the day is the arrival of the small ferry boat from Corfu, when cars and people appear from nowhere and descend onto the ferry quay to collect daily supplies and building materials.

Island life is slow and easy going, without much complication, and it is a real treat for both us and the clients to experience this piece of unspoilt, traditional Greek island life.

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Because of the isolation of the islands, the harbours are not as developed or protected as those available in the more sheltered Ionian waters. Thus we have to contend with greater exposure to the prevailing NW swell and we have to watch the weather very carefully in order to avoid southerly winds.

The highlight of each flotilla for me, as flotilla skipper, is the 35Nm trip from Paleokastritsas, down the west coast of Corfu island to the oasis of Lakka, on the northern tip of Paxos island. The western coastline is majestic in places with towering rocky cliffs in the north and long sandy beaches in the south. Turtles and dolphins can be seen along the route and sailing down the coastline with the prevailing NW breeze over the starboard aft is very enjoyable.

Our season runs until 6<sup>th</sup> November, then we lay-up the boats for winter again. I will be returning to NZ at Christmas and plan on staying until around early-Feb and hope to catch up with the folks at EBYMBC during this time. Then my plans are to return to the UK to be with my new girlfriend and who knows from there. Yes, romance is alive and well in my part of the world.

Well I hope this email finds you all well. I enjoy reading the Spinnaker whenever I get the chance and catching up on the goings on at the club. All the best for upcoming Winter Series and I hope to catch up with you all in the New Year.

Take care. Cheers Andrew

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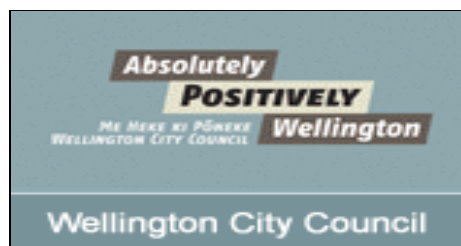
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### HAVE WE GOT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS ?

Two great reasons:

1. We will keep you up-to-date with events, racing & general happenings around the club, other clubs, Wellington. These emails come out fortnightly or so.
2. There was some general discussion during the review of the club Constitution that release of Notice of Meeting (AGM, SGM) could at some stage in the future, be done via email. Currently it costs us a minimum of \$300 a pop to send a notice to all club members, so there are good cost savings to be achieved, not to mention convenience & less trees chopped down. We're not quite at the stage of doing this yet, but it could be on the cards.

If you just want to get major notices & not the regular updates, that's ok too. Drop me a line, your email address is completely safe with me - [kokamo39@clear.net.nz](mailto:kokamo39@clear.net.nz)



**accumulation** (ə-kyūm'yə-lō'shən) (n.) The uncomfortably grotesque layer of slime that adorns the opening of a lotion dispenser.

# The Spinnaker



## Prize giving - May 13<sup>th</sup>

*From top*  
Glen Symans - Yachtsperson of the Year  
Alan Irvine (Summertime) - Pet Cup  
Junior Learn-to-sail receive their certificates from  
Sailing Academy Officer Brent Frogley  
Jane Thomassen - collecting the Mansfield Mug, the  
Classic Trophy as well as the Paper Tiger  
Season Championship.



## Rock & Roll Night



Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup>

Tickets are \$25, from the club office or your friendly neighbourhood Events committee member

**Cushla Hume-Merry, our rising star,** *by Alison Pritchard*



I can't help but be in total awe of Cushla Hume-Merry's ambition and mental strength. She wants to be the best woman sailor. In the world. And speaking to Cushla, you can really believe she will achieve that. At 15 years of age she won the female laser radial title at the Youth Worlds in Brazil, the youngest sailor in the competition, where many of the other competitors had just come from months of trials in Europe.

Now 16, and having already competed in the Hyeres Regatta in France this year, in a weeks time, Cushla heads for the Women's Worlds in Portugal, competing in the open grade against women far more experienced than herself. From there she goes straight to the Volvo ISAF Youth Worlds in Canada, where she will be in the Under 19s grade, fighting to win gold. And then it's on to the Netherlands for the Laser Radial Youth Worlds to attempt to retain the title she won in Brazil.

Back to New Zealand in August, she returns just in time for her school ball at Samuel Marsden College. Between school & friends, she's at the gym at 6am every morning doing cardio and strength workouts, then down at Evans Bay after school putting in a couple of hours training in her laser, doing tacking practice around the boats moored off Hataitai Beach. Sometimes she has coach Mark Hill out in a rubber duck spurring her on, or younger sister Hayley as competition.

At the weekends, Cushla is either in Auckland getting coaching with Yachting New Zealand, or competing in Auckland regattas, or taking part in club racing at Evans Bay, Worsler Bay or Titahi Bay. And somewhere in the middle of this incredible schedule, she finds time to do some coaching herself at the Tup Radfords Academy, an experience she positively glows when talking about.

All this drive and determination comes at a cost, quite a sizeable one financially. How many 16 year olds do you know who use the phrase 'Gold sponsor' on a regular basis? This is the name that she wants to go on sails, boat and clothing. The name that would be seen on the gear bags full of sails, ropes, centreboards & rudders she lugs through airports & hotels worldwide. They hire the boat hulls at competition venues, using stick-on sponsor labels, so different ones can be used at local, national and international events.

I'd be the first to admit to making a few scathing comments about Yachting NZ, "All they're interested in is the elite, they've forgotten us lesser mortals". But when you meet someone like Cushla it starts to make sense. To talk to someone who doesn't want to be the next Ellen MacArthur, who wants to outdo Ellen MacArthur, is just inspiring. So what us lesser mortals can do is get behind Cushla, contribute financially to her sailing fund, and get our names on her website in thanks - [www.cushlahume-merry.net](http://www.cushlahume-merry.net).

Cushla has moved up through Optis, P Class & Starlings to her present passion for lasers. Next year she'll compete in the trials for the 2008 Olympic team, but expects this to be a learning experience in preparation for the 2012 London Olympics. 16 years old and Cushla has this as her five year plan, though she's not discounting the 2016 Olympics or 2020 either. Beyond that, she wants to compete against her brother Aaron in a Sydney-Hobart, crew on professional racing yachts and eventually 'retire' to working on super yachts. Have a talk to her (if you can pin her down) and you'll believe she can do it all.



## Events, Events & more Events...

For members who attended Brian Taylor's presentation I trust you enjoyed the evening and will continue to support similar functions. I would appreciate comments from members on the Bio-Security talk "Protecting Our Oceans" by Rissa Williams and Peter Stratford on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May and also request that you state your opinion on whether or not we should look at similar presentations? The Events Team is keen to have functions which our members will support, and are keen to see more of our younger members participating in all club activities. Friday evening functions start at 6.30pm. The presentation format is arranged in such a way as to give members adequate time for questions.

With the prize-giving over (which was well attended) the next major club function to be arranged by the Events Committee will be a MID WINTER PARTY. We have confirmed 7<sup>th</sup> July as the date for this event which, by popular demand, will be a Rock and Roll evening, Dick Willard has again agreed to attend. Members who came along to last year's function will be aware how successful that evening was. There will be 100 tickets available, at a cost of \$25 each. Members wishing to purchase tickets can talk to the club's office manager, Dale Adams.

If any members have ideas for future events or speakers please do not hesitate to advise us. It is our aim to build participation in the club and particularly events in which families, and our younger sailors can participate. We will be inviting Michael Jones to come along & tell us of his trip on Gipsy Moth IV.

John Seggie  
(Events Officer)

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## Club Captains Report

The Facilities group are doing plenty to keep the club...facilities...in the best of working order. Such as:

- ☞ getting quotes for upgrading the electrical system in the hardstand and the trailer park.
- ☞ meeting with Dave Irvine, so we can improve the sound system to a more user-friendly system.
- ☞ putting a buoy marking the end of the northern ramp so people will know where it finishes until the council address/fix it (they are aware of it).
- ☞ new doors for the black shed will be arriving in the next three months (thanks to the Weltec students). The cost to the club is only materials.

On top of that, Matt reports that we have an unfinished changing room in the ladies and a little bit of work to do in the mens (painting and a little timber work). We're aware they're not the flashiest so it would still be nice to see them finished properly. Matt would like to have volunteers help finish them, *especially those who will be using them on a regular basis*. If you can assist please let Matt know, (email [mdlj@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mdlj@xtra.co.nz)) and he will try and fit the dates around you.

Matt's final words to all, "Enjoy the upcoming winter series on the water - I know I will!"

**arbitrator (är'bī-trā'tər) (n.) A mediator who suddenly takes sides in a dispute.**

## Biosecurity Alert

We had an excellent talk at the club one Friday night, by two representatives of Biosecurity. First up, they gave a run down on their general mission in life, how they work, where they work & how we can help them. The second half of the presentation focused on *Didemnum vexillum*, the Whangamata sea squirt. Don't let the name deceive you, the only reason its named after the Whangamata is that's where it was originally identified in 2001. Now it has also spread to Tauranga Harbour & parts of the Marlborough Sounds.

They showed a video clip of a diver swimming through mussel lines infected with sea squirt & it was truly horrible, the way it totally smothers them. Fragments of these infestations can break off & grow into new colonies on such surfaces as marine equipment and boat hulls. Hence why it is so very important for yachties travelling to & from the Sounds to ensure that our boats are cleaned & anti-fouled, this is not a guest we want to see invited into Wellington Harbour or indeed spread further in our beautiful Sounds.

So what does it look like? There are excellent photos on the website – [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didemnum](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didemnum) or it can be described as:

- A leathery or spongy texture
- It is a distinctive mustard or yellow/orange colour
- It often appears like a yellow wax dripping from artificial structures such as ropes or mussel lines
- Its surface has dark leaf-like veins with pores.

If you think you've found some, take a note of its location, take a photo even, & call **0800-4-DEBRIS**.

Biosecurity New Zealand are going to send us some laminated cards giving details of their most Wanted List, if you're a regular or even occasional traveller to the Sounds via boat, get a set of these cards & help do your bit to stop the spread of these noxious pests.

### University Sailing takes off in Wellington

The Victoria University has now reconstituted its old sailing group with over 20 members. The first Victoria University Club was established in the mid 1960's with ownership of 10 boats. The club has been non-existent for a number of years now, however after an initiative by Wellington Regional Support Officer, Lynette Merry, who promoted sailing at "registration day" - 43 students registered an interest in being a member.

There are now over 20 paid up members, 9 of which are currently doing a learn-to-sail course through Evans Bay Yacht & Motor Boat Club. Others are involved with a variety of classes like sailing on keel boats, Flying 15's and Etchells.

Victoria University will be working towards establishing a 420 sailing team to challenge other universities around New Zealand in the University Teams Racing later in the year.

Brent Frogley & Remy Thomassen have been running the course on Saturday mornings with the help of the Milly Morley and James Sorensen from VUW. Milly recently qualified as an instructor and James, a regular sailor at Muritai, was involved with TRIYA while at college.

The students are making very good progress after five classes and there should be another group of beginners starting up in the near future. We also expect to see some more experienced sailors from the university like Milly race the 420s.

We are looking forward to the ongoing association between the Victoria University Sailing Club and our Club and warmly welcome them to Evans Bay.

Regards, Remy

## Skippers Meeting

A meeting was called to discuss the format etc of next year's season. At the beginning of the meeting 14 members were in attendance which grew to 21. The following subjects/topics were discussed.

- ☞ Opening Day: This to be co-ordinated with other clubs to avoid conflicting. The date will be advised separately.
- ☞ Twilight Series: After discussion it was agreed that it would be to the benefit of the club as a whole to sail these on the Fridays as opposed to Wednesdays.
- ☞ Seasons Racing Days: This subject was debated for and against and the feeling was that racing should shift from Saturday to Sunday. Therefore the forthcoming seasons racing will be scheduled on Sundays. (The Winter Series scheduled day was also discussed and was also agreed to shift from Saturday to Sunday).
- ☞ Championship/Social Racing: In order to allow competitors to sail in a particular series with a reasonable result it was decided that shorter series be scheduled, with a mingling of social races. This also allows those class associations that have out of town series to participate in them without losing championship points/races. It was also discussed that the Summer Series Entry Fees be abolished.
- ☞ Handicapping/Combining Classes: The VC raised the item so that all those single entries on the day can race under a yardstick/handicap system. Discussion from the floor urged that the combination of classes be carefully considered to achieve the proposal.
- ☞ Timing of Races: For the benefit of the House and general get together, that racing should conclude at the same time as current. The Race Committee will consider this based upon the conditions and the numbers to race on the day.
- ☞ Wellington Anniversary Day Regatta: While the regatta is based upon the region's holiday, with all workers now getting four weeks annual leave, it is believed there will be a fall off in competitors. This will be raised at WYA level.
- ☞ Club's Two Day Regatta: This was supported to continue.
- ☞ EBYMBC/RPNYC: The VC reported that RPNYC wants to discuss involvement with the club and this is will be an ongoing subject.
- ☞ Computer System: The VC reported problems associated with the race results system for the past season but stressed that this will be overcome for the Winter Series.
- ☞ Publicity: Any publicity will benefit the club.
- ☞ Racing Secretary: In past years a position was assigned and from comments from the floor that this be considered for the forthcoming season.
- ☞ Participation by TY Park Owners: A suggestion was put that all the owners be approached to participate in on & off the water activities.

While there is a base of volunteers for racing there is a need to expand this base so that any gaps can be filled when the need arises. Any members who wish to be involved in all or some aspects of Race Management please contact the VC on [garywagstaff@xtra.co.nz](mailto:garywagstaff@xtra.co.nz) or 04 3872477 to discuss.

See you in and around the club, Gary

**bathquake** (**bath'kwāk**) (n.) The violent quake that rattles the entire house when the water faucet is turned to a certain point.



## THE BLACK SHED

There are no ground spaces in The Black Shed at present. It is the time of year to re-consider the needs of people with boats in the shed; hopefully this will be done on a co-operative basis.

The rules for the Black Shed are still the same as before in this respect:

1. You have to be a member of Evans Bay Yacht and Motor Boat Club.
2. You have to make known your need for a parking space - I am not a mind reader.
3. If you need a ground space and there is not one available, put yourself on the waiting list. I know it takes a while but your turn will come.
4. You are welcome to ring me and ask if there have been any changes in The Black Shed and how are you placed.
5. I am not able to manufacture a space that does not exist, nor will I move one person for another without consultation.
6. I will certainly consider any reasonable request that is made and will try to do something about it but I cannot remedy the situation immediately.
7. If you want to help the situation please give me your name, address, phone number, membership number, type of boat, and your requirements.
8. If you sail frequently, you are likely to be given preference over those who do not sail so often; tell me of your sailing intentions – and please tell me the truth.

### BOAT SPACES IN THE BLACK SHED

With regard to boat spaces in this shed, I have been rather slack about checking invoices for payment but will do this in the near future. When I have done this, I will send a letter to all boat space holders to confirm your need regarding your boat; please respond to this letter. If you do not receive one, can you please update me with your address. My phone number is 586-3919 and leave a message, if necessary. You will be asked what your sailing intentions are in the coming year. Allocations are likely to be made on the basis of this information, with favour being shown to those who sail frequently; please be honest with me.

Dorothy Fox  
Black Shed Co-ordinator

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## The Annual Sounds Trip, by Remy Thommasen



A couple of months back I was asked if I could organize the Sounds weekend this May, as I had done it last year. Jane and I had just been there with her sister, brother-in-law and two nieces but what the heck, we always have a good time there, so why not. At first it looked like we were going to have a lot of people out of Learn-to-sail but finished up with just enough people to crew 2 yachts. Still, that's enough for a party down the Sounds.

Marc Hill was in charge of *Vis-a-Vis*, a 36ft Jeanneau we have often chartered in the past, and I chose *Tranquility*, a 35ft Beneteau which I hadn't seen before

but apparently had seen service with Charterlink previously and also Port Nic's sailing academy. Marc, with his friends Joel and Tim flew over first thing on the 25<sup>th</sup>, to be able to get a full day's sailing, and five of us, Russ Drewry, Mark Tucker, Sailing Academy graduates Alison & Bruce McDonald, plus myself took the morning InterIslander.

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Lainey Cowan joined us in Waikawa and we motored out straight after a panic about not having any cutlery on board *Tranquility*, we felt very silly when Tony from Charterlink pointed out the drawer on the chart table side of the galley. The weather was great, the wind typically fickle and after a bit of a sail around we headed for our prearranged rendez-vous point, *Wakarere* and *Contention's* mooring in Double Cove, (thanks Matt and Errol).

Next thing we had dinghies in the water and Bruce, Alison & Lainey transferred to *Vis-a-Vis* as arranged. Paul Wavish and his crew Craig, on yacht *Temptation*, joined us for dinner. Russ had appointed himself head chef and taken ownership of *Tranquility's* galley. He did impressed everyone with his culinary ability, so much that we were afraid Paul and Craig would hatch a plot to Shanghai him.

After dinner Paul, Craig and myself motored across to Picton to pickup Russ's and my better halves, who had traveled across on the evening ferry. Paul brought his yacht in right alongside the ferry terminal, and soon we were steaming back with Helen and Jane on board.

In the morning Russ outdid himself again with breakfast and we were all set for great day's sailing, eating, drinking and cruising with dolphins. Unfortunately *Temptation* had to leave us in the morning, as Craig wasn't feeling the best and headed back to town. We met up with *Vis-a-Vis* at Punga Cove for dinner and the next day all on *Tranquility* except me went for a bushwalk, I stayed on anchor watch.



That day we saw more dolphins and explored some more before cruising back towards Waikawa in time for the 6pm InterIslander. Russ, Helen, Alison and Bruce were all new to cruising and sailing keel yachts and were all buzzing about the experience on the way home.

If you are new to sailing and would like to give yacht charter a try it is not an unrealistic goal. It is possible to charter yachts in great locations around the world, as some of us have done in Tonga, Fiji, the Whitsundays and the Mediterranean. When you club together with some friends or family the price per person can be quite reasonable. First get some more experience sailing with the club and on a variety of yachts if you can, there are Day Skipper, Seamanship and Boatmaster courses available through the Coast Guard as well as through local clubs. Charterlink in Waikawa also run Courses and give our club members a 10% discount. For more details check out [www.charterlinksouth.co.nz](http://www.charterlinksouth.co.nz).

### My last word on the subject...

Having served the maximum three year term as *Communications Officer*, I will be standing down at the *AGM*. Although I can't speak for Trevor, our webmaster *extraordinaire*, I will be happy to stay on the *Comms Committee* & help with the *Spinnaker*. There's about 6 weeks to go before the *AGM*, please have a think about whether you have the time & enthusiasm to stand for one of the *Committee* positions, we have 'job descriptions' available to help you find out what you're getting involved in; personally, I can truly say it is a valuable & rewarding experience, & only occasionally frustrating. I hope that in particular some more of our female club members think about contributing their time.

Miles Tremlett will also be standing down as *Commodore*, as he & Deana are relocating to Auckland later in the year.

Cheers, Alison

## **The Murray River Trip**

In May a party of eight travelled to Australia to go cruising on the Murray River - six of us are Evans Bay Yacht Club members - Brian and Brenda Parker, Joe and Bill McCullough, & Ann and I, with two other friends. We gathered in Melbourne, staying the first night there in the Mercure Hotel then the next morning we went by train and bus to Echuca-Moama, about 200kms north. While the trip was of three hours duration it was a modest cost at \$14 per person.

On arrival at Moama we went to the new local, very large Bowling Club for lunch, after which the women went shopping and the men took the vast amount of luggage to the boat. We had been told by an acquaintance of mine that the boat was of a high standard and I'm sure we all had differing ideas of what to expect. As it turned out the house boat was something else, fitted out to a very high standard & aptly named *Luxury*.

There were three fridges - two on the upper deck for wine and beer etc. and the one on the lower deck was a fridge-freezer for all the kitchen requirements. There was a washing machine, dish washer, microwave oven etc in a kitchen to die for. A 42" plasma TV, hifi sound system which included a DVD and CD player, & could be switched to various locations on the boat. There were five double bedrooms all of which had their own LCD TV, a king size bed, plus shower and toilet, and a door opening on to the outside deck. Last but not least was the very posh spa pool on the upper deck. *Luxury*, which was really a barge design, was powered by two 50 HP motors.

Enough about the boat itself. The Murray is referred to as Australia's greatest river and is 2600 km in length. The Murray River and its lakes are the epicenter for aquatic sports, including skiers, sailors and fisher persons. The port of Echuca is one of Australia's heritage icons and has the largest fleet of operating riverboats in the world.

We arrived on a Friday and hired the boat for seven nights, at a cost of hire of just over \$4000 for the week. This is a really fair deal as it works out, if you have ten people, to \$400 each person, much cheaper than staying in a hotel. The cruising is relaxing and you choose where to stop for meals or the night. To moor the boat one just runs it onto a sandy beach at right angles and tie the up-river side of the boat to a tree. Easy Peasy. The distances are clearly marked so you always know exactly where you're at. Should you wish a night out you call base indicating where you are moored and which club you want to go to and they arrange for a courtesy van to pick you up drop you off at the conclusion of the evening!

We had excellent weather and therefore went on a number of walks. There are tracks everywhere and as long as one keeps the river in sight it would be difficult to get lost. We saw kangaroos in the wild plus many species of bird life, and after a relaxing day's cruising we would have a spa under the star studied sky, complete, of course, with a glass of Aussie red. I would recommend

### **Management Committee Officers**

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## *The Spinnaker*

any member who wants to have a holiday with a difference to consider cruising the Murray.

On our boat we had a number of swallows which lived under the boat, (but not under water.) The swallows certainly fascinated me & I spent a considerable amount of time photographing these birds. If any member wants to know more please contact me as I have a number of photographs of our trip.

John Seggie



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