



Gosford Sailing Club Annual Report

Commodore and Fleet Reports

2025

It has been another remarkable sailing season. I'm delighted to share the extraordinary achievements and growth we've experienced together at Gosford Sailing Club.

You will see in the reports prepared by our fleet representatives forming part of this report there are many people in our community enjoying the activities Gosford Sailing Club provides.

A Year of Unprecedented Growth

The numbers tell an amazing story. Just twelve months ago, many would have thought it impossible to predict where we'd be today. Yet here we are, celebrating achievements that seemed like distant dreams:

Training Excellence: Gosford Sailing Club has become the **third-highest keelboat trainer in all of Australia** – a remarkable recognition of our commitment to sailing education and development.

Junior Sailing Success: Our young sailors have made us incredibly proud:

- Junior sailors who joined us less than two years ago are now representing our club at national laser competitions
- One of our junior sailors won the All Schools ILCA 6 competition
- Over 50 students participated in our inter-school sailing program first term

Fleet Growth and Competition:

Our sailors have represented us at the World Etchells Championships and state and national competitions in Contenders and Lasers. Two Gosford Sailing Club sailors won Australian Women's Keel Boat Championships in Victoria. Our She Sails Regatta was a hit again this year. Activities continue to support female participation in sailing.

Our yacht fleets have significantly expanded their presence in prestigious events including the Broken Bay Island Series, Port Stephens Race Week, and the Beneteau and Jeanneau races. We have sailors heading to Italy this year to compete internationally, following the success of many Gosford sailors on the international stage

Community Engagement: The growth in our community is perhaps most visible in our event attendance at the end of the season. Our off-the-beach and Etchells presentation in May drew close to 90 people, while our main presentation evening celebrated with over 140 members – clear evidence of our club's vitality and strength.

Looking Forward - Exciting Developments Ahead

New Facilities: Construction of a dedicated training room is underway to accommodate the growing number of students in our Sailing Academy.

Junior Program Enhancement: We're engaging a Junior Fleet Representative and working with enthusiastic parents to reinvigorate our junior sailing efforts.

Event Hosting: We are hosting a Junior Open Skiff Regatta within the next 12 months adding to our hosting of the Laser Championship and Etchells Championship.

Operational Improvements: Behind the scenes, we're investing in SailSys and developing comprehensive sailing instructions to enhance our race operations management.

Equipment Renewal: We now have a replacement Committee vessel that's truly fit for purpose. We are also embarking on a refurbishment of the Magic Fleet.

Sponsor Support

This year's sponsorship support has been the highest we've seen since before COVID, enabling us to maintain our club boats and invest in our future growth.

Our sponsors being the Robson Family, Rivers Construction, Henri Lloyd, Rileys, Saint Products and Central Coast Rollers and Shutters have made a significant difference to our ability to enhance our sailing programmes at our club.

The Heart of Our Success

This remarkable year has come through the collective effort of our sailing community. Week after week, volunteers have contributed their time and expertise:

- Instructors sharing their passion with the next generation
- Race officials ensuring fair competition
- Committee members handling countless details
- Volunteers managing accounting, sponsorship, marina maintenance, general maintenance around the club and boat upkeep
- Members who show up with enthusiasm and participate wholeheartedly

The strength of Gosford Sailing Club isn't just in our boats or facilities – it's in our people.

Thank You

We've had a fantastic year of sailing at Gosford Sailing Club. This success didn't occur overnight.

It's the result of years of hard work from everyone involved in our club's development. This year we celebrated former Commodores being Brian Baker, Greg Bell, Chris Radford, Paul Gulliksen and David Neate. Each received a unique burgee that recognised them in their role as Commodore. Thank you to Brian Baker who has retired as the Laser Fleet Representative for 15 years.

As we reflect on this extraordinary year we can celebrate individual achievements and fleet successes. Together we've continued to build together a thriving, growing sailing community.

Thank you all for being part of this remarkable journey. Your dedication, enthusiasm, and unwavering support have made this incredible growth possible.

Here's to another year of growth, achievement.



Tony Clark

Commodore, Gosford Sailing club

Sailing Academy Report

July 2024- June 2025

Summary

The 2024-25 Season marked a year of growth, innovation and national recognition for the Gosford Sailing Academy.

The Sailing Academy successfully expanded program offerings, strengthened community engagement and enhanced instruction quality.

Its core focus has been on pathway development and sustainable participation.

Notably, Gosford Sailing Club achieved a national ranking of third in Australia for Keelboat Discover Sailing participation as recognised in Australian Sailing's annual participation report.

This is an outstanding achievement which reflects the strong foundations built over the 2024-25 Season and is a testament to the instructors who have consistently delivered Keelboat programs.

I would like to extend gratitude to the entire Instructor team for their dedication and hard work in delivering positive experiences for participants.

In a dynamic environment, the instructor team have been creative, patient and positive, to deliver courses which are progressive and fun for participants. Feedback from patrons has been positive and is a credit to their unwavering passion and dedication to the Club.

Adult Learn to Sail Programs

Throughout the 2024-25 season, the Adult Learn to Sail Program has been a cornerstone of the Sailing Academy, offering a well-defined pathway for adults who are new to the sport. The program's success was recently highlighted in the annual Australian Sailing Discover Sailing Centre report, where Gosford Sailing Club ranked third in Keelboat participation. The Keelboat Instructors at Gosford have been pivotal in delivering high-quality, nationally recognized programs over the past 12 months.

As interest has surged, the team has expanded to meet the growing demand, all while maintaining the consistency and structure of the course format.

More recently, the Adult Learn to Sail Program introduced Dinghy Sailing on ILCAs, bridging the gap between learning to sail and racing at the Club. This ILCA Learn to Sail pathway equips participants with more dynamic sailing skills, supporting a smooth transition into the Club's racing fleet.

Further courses such as the ILCA Start Sailing Two program will be offered in the upcoming season to capitalise on skill development and progression into racing.

School Programs

Over the last 12 months strategic focus was placed on refining sailing pathways to support long-term engagement. As part of this review, School Programs were identified as a key growth area with untapped potential to introduce young people to the sport and connect with the broader community.

Following this review, the newly launched Interschool Sailing Program was introduced, providing an accessible entry point for students across the Central Coast. Designed for Years 7–12 and catering to mixed ability levels, the 8-week course introduces participants to essential boat handling and on-water safety skills.

The pilot program, delivered in Term 1, 2025, involved 16 students from Central Coast Grammar School, Central Coast Adventist School, Kincumber High School, Gosford High School, and local home-school networks.

The program will continue into the upcoming season, consolidating core skills while gradually introducing racing concepts. In addition, the Academy maintained its partnership with St Joseph's Catholic College, delivering a Marine Studies sailing program across Terms 1 and 2.

40 students participated in fortnightly sessions which complemented classroom learning. In Term 2, the program expanded to include practical Powerboat training, offering students an even broader skill set and aligning with vocational learning outcomes.

Altogether, 56 students took part in school-based sailing programs on a weekly basis throughout the season—highlighting the growing role of education partnerships in the Academy's participation strategy.

With a refined course pathway now in place, the Academy is also preparing to introduce the nationally recognised Sail Lab Program.

This innovative initiative integrates STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) concepts taught in schools with practical sailing applications, using Radio Controlled Yachts as a teaching tool. Gosford Sailing Club has been identified as a key Club for the program's rollout, which will provide another pathway for school students to engage with sailing in an accessible and educational format.

School programs are supporting foundational skill development and helping the Club expand its reach—engaging a more diverse group of young people and building stronger community connections through structured, purposeful pathways.

Junior Sailing

Junior sailing remains a core priority for the Club, with a range of strategies implemented throughout the season to reduce costs, boost retention, and support skill development.

Initiatives included subsidised weekday training for weekend sailors, junior participation in senior races, and fun, low-barrier events such as Try Crewing and Radio-Controlled Yacht evenings.

Between January and March, 34 children regularly attended Saturday programs, with many progressing into the Saturday Laser Fleet. Highlights included 4 juniors competing in their first regatta at the NSW Open Skiff Championships and 15 participating in Youth Sail NSW.

Looking ahead, Gosford Sailing Club will host the Gosford Open Skiff Championships, which is expected to attract around 40 junior sailors from across the region—providing a clear goal for young sailors to work towards.

Plans are also underway to establish a dedicated Junior Club Championship series, led by newly appointed Junior Fleet Coordinator Andrew Fergus.

The Academy will continue to support junior development through learn-to-sail courses and free try sailing days, helping young sailors build the skills and confidence needed to enter the racing pathway. Looking ahead, the expansion of facilities—including the addition of a dedicated training room—will further strengthen the Sailing Academy's capacity to deliver high-quality programs.

Sophie McIntosh

Sailing Academy Manager

GSC
Sailing Academy Pathway

Kids
PrimarySchool

School Sailing Experience
In School Sailing Program
(Sport, STEM, Marine Studies)
After School Sailing Program
(for specific school)

Out There Sailing Experience ----- ! ----->

Tackers1 → Tackers2 → Tackers3

Remote Controlled Sailing After School Program

Out There Combined 1-3
Inter School Sailing Program

**Transition to Club
Racing**

Green Fleet

Teenagers
HighSchool

Try a Yacht Day

Adults

Discover Sailing Experience

Start Crewing
(Keelboat) →

Start Helming
(Keelboat)

Start Skippering
(Keelboat)

Start Sailing1
(Dinghy) →

Start Sailing2
(Dinghy) →

Start Sailing3
(Dinghy)



GSC Contender Annual Report 2025

To Tony Clark Commodore Gosford Sailing Club

It is with great pleasure that I present this run down of the Gosford International Contender fleets season of 2024/25.

This season saw 4 regular starters and up to 8 competitors in what was close and intense racing. The club Championship once again was a tight battle over 6 races with 3 boats still in contention going into the final heat. Coming out on top for his 5 title in a row was Mr Consistency Brian Pike, with John Humphries the perennial bridesmaid as the runner up.

On the regatta scene the club was well represented at both State and National competitions. Results from the NSW state titles 2024 Sunshine

- James Ellis 3rd
- John Humphries 7th
- Brian Pike 9th

(11 entries)

Results from the Australian titles 2025 Humpybong QLD

- James Ellis 12th
- John Humphries 15th
- Brian Pike 16th
- Ross Hansen 20th
- Sam Ellis 23rd
- (26 Entries)

Results from the Victorian state titles 2025 McRae

- James Ellis 8th
- Sam Ellis 9th
- John Humphries 13th

(45 Entries)

There are some exciting times ahead for the upcoming season, at the time of writing 4 Gosford Contenders are in final preparation mode leading up to the World Championships being held at Fraglia Vela Malcesine Lake Garda Italy, www.fragliavela.org With over 164 entries representing 12 countries and 3 continents, this is truly one of the most popular high performance single handed dinghy sailing in the world. We wish James Ellis, Sam Ellis, Brian Pike and John Humphries good luck and great racing.

In closing I would like to thank my fellow competitors for their efforts and commitment throughout the season. The Contender is a boat “engineered for accomplished sailors, this high-performance vessel delivers speed and precision—but demands mastery, not mere enthusiasm.”

Gosford Sailing Club
Central Coast Etchells Fleet
Fleet Captains Report - Season 2024-25
July 2025

The Gosford fleets season started once more with the hard stand nearly full with 10 Etchells. Sailing commenced with the opening Sprint series won by AUS991 Tally Ho. From race one of the main season, there was close racing and by race 5 very tight racing with multiple overlapping board rounding the first top mark each race. The season was closely contested with 5 different boats winning races, average race fleet of 6 -7 and a 100% fleet turn out for many races. In a first, there was a tie for most wins, shared between AUS970 Pointless and AUS874 Ivy.

The overall series scoring system for this season summed the finishing positions in the individual Spring, Summer, Autumn series. This resulted in even closer competition all the way to the last races of the season with little separating boats in the season point score or the club championship. The season point score results: 1st AUS970 Pointless, 2nd AUS874 Ivy, 3rd AUS991 Tally Ho. Club Champion AUS970 Pointless. At the end of the season John McDougal AUS970 Pointless announced his retirement from the class after a very successful, multiple club championships and point score wins. We wish him well and are sure to see him back for guest appearances or out on the water on his FD.

The Gosford fleet travelled to a number of events with AUS1450 African Queen as the leading travelling boat attending the Nationals, NSW States and Melbourne Worlds. AUS1291 The Don attended the Nationals and the Melbourne Worlds. AUS991 Tally Ho - NSW states. The fleet is looking forward to the upcoming seasons regattas and hosting the NSW states in Feb 2026.

Fleet Development, Andrew Smith has joined the fleet with AUS991 for the 2025/26 season bring the hard stand to capacity. Thanks to the GSC sailing management and volunteers for their ongoing support of our sport and the Etchells fleet.

Best wishes to all fleets for an uninterrupted season from the Central Coast Etchells Fleet.

George Johnstone
Gosford Fleet Captain

GSC Laser Fleet – 2024/25 Season Wrap-Up
By Mark Greenwood, Laser Fleet Delegate

We had a successful 2024/25 season, with active club racing and strong participation in ILCA Association events. The fleet held steady with 36 members, and most Saturdays saw between 13 and 21 boats out on the water — a healthy turnout that brought energy and competition to the season.

Throughout the year, we completed 28 pointscore races along with six Club Championship heats, which formed the backbone of our racing calendar.

Congratulations to our Club Champions: Jack Sprague in the ILCA 7, Leslie Druyf in the ILCA 6, and Amelia Thorne in the ILCA 4. Amelia also earned the Junior Club Championship title — a well-deserved recognition of her strong performance across the season. The overall Season Pointscore was taken out by myself, Mark Greenwood.

Special mention goes to Chris Meech, who was the standout sailor in this year's Ron Thompson Sprint Series, and to James McLaren, who took home the Charlie Clark Trophy after achieving the most handicap wins during the Club Championship series.

Championship runners-up included Erez Kaplan in the ILCA 7, Justine Gowland-Ella in the ILCA 6, and Eddie Cleverly in the ILCA 4 — each showing consistent and competitive form across the series.

Another significant trophy recipient this season was Greg Bell, who was awarded the John Rigg Trophy. Meanwhile, the Wally Cook Memorial Trophy for Most Improved Sailor went to Jonnie Luther, in recognition of the steady progress and dedication he demonstrated throughout the year.

It was great to see many of our sailors travelling to events around the country, representing GSC with pride. A particular highlight was seeing our junior sailors take part in the ILCA Nationals in Manly, Queensland. The club was pleased to support their involvement by covering the race entry costs. Congratulations to Amelia Thorne, Eddie Cleverly, Jonnie Luther, and Miles Greenwood for making the trip and competing at that level. A number of our Masters sailors sailed in ILCA State Masters and Kevin Phillips and David Edmiston sailed in all ILCA State, and the National and World Masters events, continuing GSC's presence at events.

A sincere thank you goes to our Board of Directors for ensuring we had the equipment and infrastructure in place to support racing at GSC. Your support plays a crucial role in making each season possible.

Thanks as well to Commodore Tony Clark and President Greg Humphries for your steady leadership and commitment to the club. I'd also like to acknowledge Charlie Hill, our Principal Race Officer, for handling the many decisions and responsibilities throughout the season, and to our dedicated club race officials who volunteered their time and helped keep things running smoothly. Also a shout out for our SailSys guru Dennis Gilsenan for his excellent fleet scoring.

A big thank you to Kevin Phillips for another year of service as Secretary.

And finally, I'd like to express appreciation to Brian Baker, who handed over the reins to me after nearly two decades involved in the Laser fleet — including 15 years as our delegate to the sailing committee.

Brian, your contribution has been significant, and we are grateful for everything you've done to support and grow the fleet.

Yours in sailing,

Mark Greenwood

Laser Fleet Delegate

Gosford Sailing Club – RC Division – AGM Update

I am pleased to announce that the RC division has transitioned from being an adjunct to the main sailing activities to becoming a more integrated part of the sailing division at Gosford Sailing Club.

We implemented several changes during the 2024/25 season in how our racing was being conducted, the focus on communication within the Division and an expansion of our fleet to include the DF 95 Class.

We are fortunate to be part of an ever-growing Sailing cohort that is now attracting a lot of interest and support.

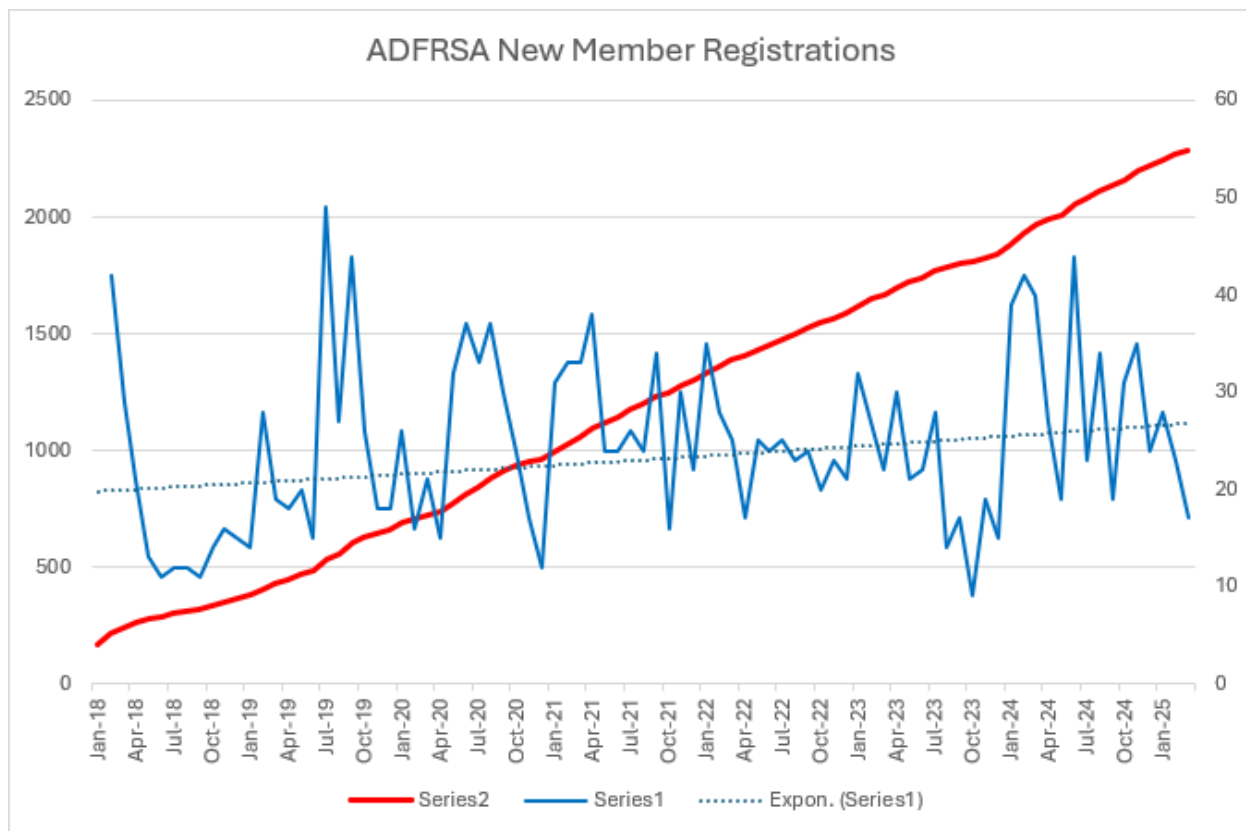
The RC division sails one design – out of the box RC yachts - DF 65 and DF 95 – the numbers indicate the length of each yacht.

The growth of the DF sailing community and the Australian DF Radio Sailing Association Inc.

@Jan 15

- The growth of the DF class is heading towards 2500 registered sailors (**Red LINE**) and by comparison double that of all other RC classes in Blue ..it should be noted that the DF class is principally a social sailing class, as only 10% attend the sanctioned racing events

**GSC –
RC**



Division

Our number of skippers has slightly declined due to several retirements, but we still have 10-14 skippers joining us weekly. Our group's core principles are:

- Connecting with the community
- Conducting competitions
- Encouraging companionship and social engagement.

Community -Open days and TRY RC days

Competitions – Regular club and inter-club competitions to improve skills and recognise achievements.

Companionship – Offer low-risk, low-cost activities akin to “**Mens Shed on the Water**”, fostering social support.

Our activities for the year include:

1. **Inter-club competitions** – Compete against local clubs.
2. School holidays, **learn to Sail RC program** supported by ADFRS Association.
3. **Father/Grandfather sailing events** where family members sailing as teams.
4. Expand RC sailing to include the DF 95 class.
5. Use Terrigal Lagoon as part of the GSC RC division racing venue.

Activities within 2025/26

Our Inter club competitions have now become a regular part of our racing fixtures, growing to be 4 events per year. (25 skippers registered to sail at the next event)

The Interclub competition is primarily between Wangi- Wangi club and they currently hold the trophy and have 2 -1 wins against Gosford.

2024/25 saw the integration of the DF 95 fleet, and numbers are growing towards the same as our DF 65 fleet.





Junior Sailing Events

Supported by Sailing RC division three additional junior sailors as of the program 2023/24. The events was to junior sailing offered by the an opportunity skippers to newly acquired series of racing events.



the Gosford Academy, the organised events for a continuation initiated in objective of the augment the courses club, providing for junior apply their skills in a competitive

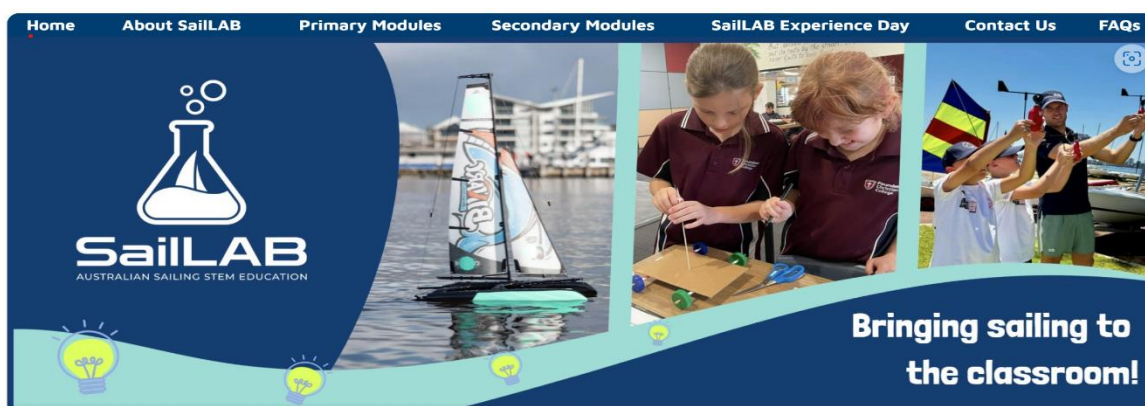


Our Plans for 2025/26

We will focus on:

- Connecting with the community
- Conducting competitions
- Social engagement for all participants

Our junior sailing program is now a key feature, linking in with the Australian Sailing Schools Program – SailLAB: Bringing sailing to the classroom, utilising the DF 65 Class.



SailLAB is a new initiative that brings the sport of sailing to the classroom through a custom 'built-by-teachers' STEM education program, linked to the Australian Curriculum.

By integrating Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic concepts into the classroom, we aim to inspire the next generation of sailors, innovators and leaders. Our program offers engaging experiences and challenges designed to spark curiosity, foster critical thinking and open doors to exciting STEM careers connected to the world of sailing!

Interclub competitions will feature DF 65 and DF 95 classes, and a TRI-club event with Gosford, Wangi, and Port Hunter clubs, where we can expect over 30 competitors on the water.

We will expand our club events to include skills sessions with a focus on:

- Match Racing

- Boat setup and tuning
- Family and friends' program
- Sailing tactics and rules

Thanks, Mark Ferguson

RC Division coordinator.



Season 24-25 Annual Report

Since the formal establishment of the SheSails programme in 2021, women's sailing at Gosford has steadily progressed. The 2024–25 season has seen the steady development of the SheSails fleet's sailing programme and the improvement in women's performance.

The following two achievements are particularly notable.

1. The GSC SheSails has seen increased competitiveness in sailing performance, with more female skippers achieving high placements in the club's own race series, and the club continues to host its own SheSails inter-club regatta.

In the 2024-2025 Twilight Point Score Series, more women yacht skippers have achieved high places in the race series. Liliana Calley's *Danielle* took first place in Division 2, while Minkang Kim Sankey's *Sailience* took first place in Division 3. Elisa James' *Swagman* took third place in Division 4.

The 4th GSC SheSails Sports Boat Regatta took place on 31 May 2025. This high-quality regatta showcased the race organising skills of GSC women sailors, not only in terms of sailing performance. Three teams participated and competed on the Club's Magic 25 boats. After four races, the *Magic Crew* team (skipper: Amie Graham) won first place in a tightly contested competition. SheSails at Gosford would like to thank Charles Hill, Peter Bailey and Robyn Denton for their contribution to the organisation and management of the regatta.



2. The GSC SheSails programme offers mentoring and training designed to increase women's participation in sailing.

On 25 September, the GSC SheSails annual Information Day took place. The event offered an introduction to training and regatta opportunities, the chance to meet women skippers within the club, and a seminar on the *Racing Rules of Sailing*.

In May 2025, two SheSails training programmes were offered to women sailors: one *Starting Helming* and one on developing racing skills. In June 2025, women sailors initiated ILSA training programmes, so far, with a total of ten new and existing women members completing an introductory ILCA training course.

We are immensely grateful to Brian Baker, who generously shared his expertise to enhance women's training within the club.



On behalf of the SheSails, big thanks to everyone who contributes to the bright future of SheSails at Gosford!

Sincerely,

Minkang Kim Sankey (SheSails Coordinator)

GSC Yacht Fleet 2024/25 Season Report

The Yacht fleet is a very diverse and well supported fleet in the Club.

Off water this season the committee has managed the fleet's extensive program of over 60 races catering for over 160 competitors.

This season the committee has worked on improving compliance with the help of Geoff Dillworth and safety where David and Sonia Dougherty have helped thanks for your work in these areas. A big improvement this season was the fleet's communication. Tim Wheeler and Rob Hook have done a massive job this season so big thanks to you both for this effort.

On water the events Inshore Series have been well run. Thanks to Rob Hook, Charlie and Dennis. Our successful Twilight series was overseen by Sonia and David - again thanks.

The committee have been keen to lift the standard of racing within the Spring and Summer events by trying to encourage the fleet through our mentor sessions at presentations and various other opportunities and as a result we have seen much closer racing this season.

The after sailing events have also been well attended with usual fun and camaraderie which is also encouraging. It was clear there have been issues with our handicapping system. Work has been done to improve this system and more needs to be done. This is the heart of our competition and our goal is to have a handicapping system that will produce closer, fair and fun racing, particularly in the Twilight competition.

The Technical and Handicap Committee tried to fix anomalies in the system. These were hampered as the management of the system settings were being better understood as the season progressed. After lots of feedback The Sailsys Working Group was formed with a representative from the Yacht Fleet. We are currently working with the Commodore to address issues in the system.

It was rewarding to see the continued growth within the fleets as participation was at an all-time high across all the events.

Congratulations to all skippers for your preparation of your yachts and crews in participating in the club events and of course congratulations to all the season winners. The ORC competition also grew with 18 yachts measured and 15 certificates issued across the Fleet making for good competition thanks to all skippers for supporting ORC.

The Club was well represented in the BBIS and Sail Port Stephens Regatta. Bob Swan did a great job coordinating these events. Unfortunately, we couldn't get to Sydney due to weather conditions but thanks Bob for all your work putting this together for the fleet.

Lastly a big thank you to all the Yacht fleet committee members for your input to the success of the season. Also thanks to Bob Swan and Paul Gulliksen for putting together the fleet's presentation night.

Peter Walsh Yacht Fleet Captain