



Stephen Luther - Nominee for Commodore 2026

Stephen Luther has been an active and dedicated member of Gosford Sailing Club for more than 25 years. Throughout this time, he has generously contributed his expertise and energy across a wide range of initiatives, including the organisation and delivery of junior sailing programs, supporting the revitalisation of the Sailors Bar, and assisting with numerous maintenance and infrastructure projects throughout the Club.

A passionate sailor, Stephen has owned and raced three yachts over the years and has been a regular participant in Club races and regattas. His long-standing involvement on and off the water has given him a deep understanding of the Club, its members, and its future potential.

Stephen has served on the Gosford Sailing Club Board for more than four years and is currently its longest-serving board member. Joining the Board during the challenges of the COVID-19 period, he played a pivotal role in helping the Club navigate uncertainty, maintain operations, and position itself for future growth and success.

As the owner of a successful business and with more than 30 years of experience in the building industry, Stephen brings extensive commercial expertise and a strong network of local industry and community connections. He has consistently leveraged these relationships to assist the Club in achieving its objectives in a cost-effective and practical manner. His professional knowledge has also been invaluable in ensuring major Club projects are delivered efficiently and within budget.

Among the significant projects Stephen has helped deliver are the renovated downstairs bathroom facilities. His expertise was instrumental in contractor selection, negotiations, and overseeing the renovation process from commencement through to completion. He is also actively involved in the development of the new training room, a project that will further enhance the capabilities of the Club's training academy and support the next generation of Sailors.

As Commodore, Stephen is committed to building on the progress already achieved and further strengthening Gosford Sailing Club's position within the broader community. He is passionate about fostering relationships with local organisations and community groups, creating opportunities to attract new members, events, and functions to the Club. He is also keen to enhance the Club's engagement with other sailing clubs and sailing associations, encouraging collaboration and supporting the growth of sailing throughout the region. Equally important to him is improving communication and collaboration between the Board and members, ensuring that both sailing and social members remain informed, engaged, and connected to the Club's future direction.

Steve Luther



Peter Walsh - Nominee for Commodore

I have over 35 years of experience in sailing management and training. Prior to my time at the GSC, I was managing Batemans Bay Sailing Club as Rear Commodore and Commodore (President for 5 years). In 2000 I was awarded the Australian Sports Medal for my service to Sailing management and Race Management. That I was also honored to be a Race Officer on Course C for the Olympic Games. I ran an Australian Sailing accredited commercial sailing school for both the Adult and Junior learn to sail programs.

In September 2009 I accepted the position of Sailing and Marina Manager at Gosford Sailing Club. This role also included being the principal of the Clubs Australian Sailing Accredited Sailing School/ Academy. During my 14 sailing seasons in the role at the Club I worked with 5 Club managers 5 Presidents and 3 Commodores to produce an ambitious sailing and training program including numerous national and State Championships for various classes including Etchells, Formula 16s& 18s multi-hulls, A Class Cats, Contenders, Lasers, NS14s, MGs, 16Ft Skiffs, F11s, Sabots and Optis to name a few.

Managing the Clubs marina was challenging since we didn't own the berths, so basically it was not contributing to the Club's revenue so in 2014 I encouraged the Board to buy back the berths and set up and managed the scheme to archive this. We now own 24 of the 29 berths and the marina now contributes to the club's revenue.

Over my time as a sailing instructor, I introduced and taught over 1500 adults and 2000 juniors to sail.

To support the above I held and hold the following qualifications:

- Advanced Certificate in Marina Management
- USL Master Class 5 skipper Tickets
- ULS Marine Engineer grade 3
- AYF Yachtmaster Instructor/ Endorsed Examiner
- AS senior Keel Boat instructor
- AS Dinghy Instructor
- AS Power and Safety boat instructor
- AS Sailing Coach
- AS Regional Judge
- AS National Race Officer
- National Measurer for IOR, ORC and AMS yacht rating systems

Since my retirement from my position at the Club in February 2023, I have still be active in the club's yacht fleet as competitor and serving on the committee. I have also been engaged in running Australian Championships as the PRO for MG14s, 505s and Impulses out of Brisbane and Etchells in Coffs Harbour and Geelong Victoria. I have recently been invited to attend an International Race Offices seminar hosted by World Sailing in Melbourne in September.

Peter Walsh



Robert Hook - Nomination for Election to the Board of Directors - Director 1 Year

CANDIDATE DETAILS

- Full name: Robert Bruce Hook
- Membership number and category: 791
- Continuous membership: 1972-1983 and 2016-current
- Phone: 0434 746 651 Email: robert.hook@gmail.com
- Date of application: 15 July, 2026

Robert is an experienced senior manager and sailing administrator whose association with Gosford Sailing Club spans more than 50 years, having joined as a junior in 1972. His background combines governance, leadership, business development and community engagement with extensive experience in sailing, coaching and competition management.

He was appointed to the Club's Management Committee in 1980 and served as a Club Coach from 1980 to 1982. He holds Australian Yachting Federation Sailing Master and Club Coach accreditations (1983) and Keelboat Instructor qualifications (2024).

His sailing achievements include selection in the 1979 NSW YouthSail Team—invited to represent in two classes, Laser and OK Dinghy, uniquely. He was also a competitor in the 1983 International 505 World Championships and offshore racing with the Junior Offshore Group (JOG) from 1979 to 1982.

Professionally, RBH has held senior leadership roles across local government, private enterprise and international business. He became the youngest Director-level appointee in NSW Local Government at age 38, contributed to Sydney 2000 logistics task forces and the Sydney Parks 2020 Planning Group, and built Australia's largest single-practitioner high-performance coaching practice, specialising in business and sport. He also established an international media business and was twice recognised in the *Business Review Weekly* Fast 100.

Following a period focused on his family and professional career, he returned to active Club service in 2016 as a Sailing Coach. He currently serves the Club as Yacht Captain, Competition Manager, Event Manager, Keelboat Instructor, sailor, and volunteer.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am seeking election to contribute my governance, leadership, business, coaching, and sailing experience to the continued success of Gosford Sailing Club.

My involvement with Gosford Sailing Club spans more than five decades, including representative sailing, coaching, committee service, competition management, and instruction. Professionally, I bring senior management experience across government and business, including major event planning, high-performance coaching, and international operations.

My priorities are sound governance, financial responsibility, strong member engagement, increased participation, volunteer support and effective communication. I am committed to ensuring the Club remains a successful, inclusive and well-managed organisation for current and future members.



BOARD CONTRIBUTION

RBH offers a strong combination of long-term Club involvement, representative sailing experience, and senior leadership.

He brings:

- Proven governance and management capability
- Deep understanding of sailing operations and competition management
- Strong commercial and strategic perspective
- Extensive high-performance coaching and leadership-development experience
- Major event and logistics experience
- Commitment to safety, participation, and member engagement
- A collaborative approach to working with Directors, staff, and volunteers

His focus is on strengthening governance, supporting sustainable growth and maintaining the Club's strong community and sporting culture.

VISION AND PRIORITIES FOR THE CLUB

If elected, my priorities would directly support the Club's stated Vision — "Excellence in Sailing and Participation in Boating" — and its values of One Club, Integrity, Openness & Transparency, Respect and Safety. The development of pathways to encourage two or three handed dinghy classes encouraging experienced and beginners to race together. Participation numbers are important.

SAILING AND CLUB EXPERIENCE

Sailing Background and Achievements

- More than 50 years of sailing, coaching, and race management
- NSW YouthSail Team (1979), invited to represent in two classes
- Competitor, International 505 World Championships (1980)
- Active Club racer of Yachts and Sportsboats, inshore, offshore events

Sailing Qualifications

- Sailing Master and Club Coach Accreditation, Australian Yachting Federation (1983)
- Keelboat Instructor, Australian Sailing (2024)
- First Aid, CPR, and related certifications (2024)
- Working With Children Check (NSW) — current; clearance number available on request (obtained 2024)

Club Governance and Leadership

- Gosford Sailing Club Management Committee, appointed 1980
- Gosford Sailing Club Coach, 1980–1982
- Yacht Fleet Committee Competition Manager, Yacht Fleet, 2024–Present
- Keelboat Instructor, 2025–Present

PROFESSIONAL AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

His career provides strong capability in organisational leadership, high-performance development, and strategic management.



Career Highlights

- Twice listed in the *Business Review Weekly* Fast 100 Companies
- Built Australia's largest single-practitioner high-performance coaching practice, specialising in business and sport
- Coached and supported high-performance business leaders, sports personnel, and organisations
- Director-level leadership in NSW Local Government, becoming the youngest person appointed at that level at the time in NSW
- Senior roles across government, tourism, marketing, coaching, and media
- Appointed to Sydney NYE Celebrations and Sydney 2000 Olympics logistics task forces and the Sydney Parks 2020 Planning Group
- Established an international media business in Noida, India, employing 70+ staff
- Created an online radio station supporting high-performance business and sporting personnel
- Business management experience at local, state, national, and international levels
- Established and developed what became Australia's largest single-practitioner high-performance coaching practice, specialising in business and sport (2002-2014).

Core Capabilities

- Governance and strategic planning
- Financial and operational oversight
- Business development
- High-performance coaching
- Leadership and organisational development
- Risk, safety, and compliance
- Event and logistics management
- Stakeholder engagement
- Staff and volunteer leadership



Mark Ferguson – Nominee for Board Member Role

I am interested as a candidate for the role of Member of the Board of the Gosford Sailing Club.

I am a relatively new face to the Gosford community and to the Gosford Sailing Club, having recently moved (April 2022) to the Central Coast region. The move was about relocating our lifestyle and expanding the opportunities to become more involved in the community.

I am currently an active member of the club boards and as the RC Division Coordinator and a dinghy sailing instructor within the Gosford Junior Sailing program. I have had a lifelong involvement in sailing. This included competitive dinghy sailing (Heron and Mosquito Class) as well as inshore racing at the RPYC – Pittwater. As the RC division coordinator, the focus was on making the division more relevant within the club and to the community, leading to a growth in our membership and expansion of our classes/fleet and competitive sailing program, i.e. the Central Coast Interclub Challenge. A key passion of mine has been integrating the RC sailing within the Sailing Academy. In 2025, this was realised through the creation of the RC Yacht Division and the Gosford Sailing STEM Program, now an ongoing pathway within the Gosford Junior Sailing Curriculum.

In my professional capacity, I manage a niche data intelligence business and am also engaged as an advisor to small businesses, with a focus on helping them grow and expand their market offering. These advisory positions are both commercial and Pro Bon in nature, advising and mentoring the CEO's and the business on how best to enhance their "Go To Market" position.

My most outstanding attributes, which set me apart, are that I am not shy in asking difficult questions and then brainstorming solutions with others around the table. I have been highly successful in facilitating a productive and collaborative culture, navigating the many and often conflicting priorities that many volunteer entities face.

I bring the following values and capabilities to the board.

- I am a highly collaborative individual, which enables me to bring the best out of the team (the best ideas come from anyone at any time and from anywhere) to supercharge the club, across all levels.
- A passion to give back to those interested in joining like minded individuals.
- A disciplined approach to things that matter – processes and governance.
- I am proud of my strong and extensive business capabilities, which include brand building, team culture development and community engagement.

I am eager to bring this same commitment and energy to the board, working collaboratively to support and advance the club's goals.

Throughout my business career and now with my community involvement, my primary focus and passion have centred on helping people realise their full potential. The area that I feel I would be able to add the most value, is working to grow the club's pathway for Junior sailors, as it is often the first point of contact for new sailors.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Ferguson