THE VERFURTH PERPETUAL CUP

FOR THE MEMBER CONSIDERED TO HAVE DONE THE MOST FOR YACHTING DURING THE SEASON.

SUE HARMAN

I started sailing at Portland Yacht Club as my parents loved sailing and my father was Commodore for 2 years. He built and sailed numerous yachts including a Quick cat and a Contender, and ended his sailing on a 37ft Tasmanian designed timber double ender. This was where my sailing began.

I have a strong memory as a teenager of working in the Portland Y.C. canteen after Saturday afternoon racing, serving thirsty and hungry sailors.

For many years I did complain to my parents that it was unfair that I couldn't play tennis 'like all my friends' because I had to sail every Saturday afternoon. I still can't play tennis but I now appreciate the opportunities sailing has provided me and am passionate about it as a sport and pastime.

In my early 20's if I wasn't sailing I was either windsurfing, kayaking etc, always in, on or close to the water.

I began sailing at RGYC shortly after moving to Geelong when my neighbour suggested I come down for a Wednesday twilight.

Sailing with a young family is always a juggle, but eventually Georgia and Dominic began crewing in Cadets, completing the Tackers course and sailing Opti's. Gradually we became more involved in Off The Beach (OTB) sailing.

I have been involved in the OTB Working Group since 2012, including working bees, club events, and OTB canteen rostering for 3 years.

In August 2015 I took over the role of Chair of the OTB Working Group from Peter Alexander. Apart from the monthly meetings and representation on Yachting & Boating Committee this has included:

Involvement in the organisation of major OTB events such as Spring Sail, Cadet Tillets Selection, Senior Members' Dinghy Race and various OTB regattas.

Coordination of OTB volunteers to complete the Festival of Sails fence wrapping, contributing to our OTB fundraising activities.

Following through on the suggestion of Fun Sail events, two social sailing events were organised this season, involving our skippers and experienced sailors pairing up with Tackers.

This last season we introduced the OTB Ambassador role; acting as a link for new families, communicating with Tackers and their families about opportunities in OTB, increasing opportunities for those interested in sailing OTB to get out on the water and providing information about the Sailing pathway within OTB.

The saying that strongly guides me in my current role is "Sailing for all and Sailing for life".



