

# SAILABILITY

In the 2016 / 2017 the Sailability program has hosted 78 participants over our season.

This, in total, resulted in giving these participants 342 on water experiences.

Of course this result can only be achieved with the support of our wonderful volunteers, many of whom are past RGYC members, or simply sailing volunteers from the region. In total we have 33 people supporting our program.

We operate typically in the daylight saving period of summer, but are very dependent on weather conditions on the day to ensure the safety of our participants.

We operate three days per week with some

volunteers participating in more than one sailing day per week.

I thank Harry Farnell and his skilful band of helpers for the improvement to the infrastructure, so necessary for the safe delivery of our program for both participants and volunteers.

Some of the organizations which utilize the Sailability program include Scope, Shannon Park, Karingal Kable, Karingal (from Colac), Gateways, Encompass, and Barwon Valley School, along with a number of independent participants.

Our volunteers identified a special need for participant Brodie Shaw, and as result, we

designed and constructed (with the support of Solve Disability Solution, and Brodie's therapists) a special seating support.

Brodie's smile (with skipper Laurie Sullivan) is what makes our program so worthwhile for our regional community.

This year we have introduced the Lofty Thomas trophy to be presented to the "Sailability Volunteer" of the season. The first recipient being Tony Minchin, a very deserving winner.

## **Graeme Ritchie**

*Sailability Coordinator*

