



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi All,

I hope you all had a happy and safe festive season.

We had a great turnout for our second social weekend at Wills Bend, everyone who attended had a great time and the weather was nothing short of fantastic, which I believe is a far cry from the 50mm of rain that fell last year.

A big thank you has to go to Andy Harrison for organizing the warmest smoke free camp fireplace and the firewood to go with it. Andy obviously did several trips in and out of Wills Bend to manage to have his two boats, bus, car, wife, kids, toys, fireplace and a trailer load of timber out there. Th-anks Andy and Nyree your efforts were greatly appreciated.

See enclosed report on Wills Bend weekend written by Lyn Haritou – Thanks Lyn.

We had a club meeting on the Sunday morning which was a great opportunity for everyone to have their say and be brought up to date with what's happening and why. The next meeting date was set for 14th February from 12noon at Neil Williams home. We may be combining this into a trailer working bee as well, depending on the experts and time availability that day.

Not long to go until the interclub challenge with Nagambie Water Ski Club (see flyer). Noel and myself have met with Nagambie's club president to iron out the details and he tells us they have all been in training and are extremely determined to take the trophy away from us this year.

The balloon race is still a hotly talked about topic and will definitely be included again this year. Hopefully we have plenty of members available that weekend especially skiers who can make it through a slalom course – Nagambie had a slalom day last Saturday and certainly have some good skiers whom easily manage to get perfect passes.

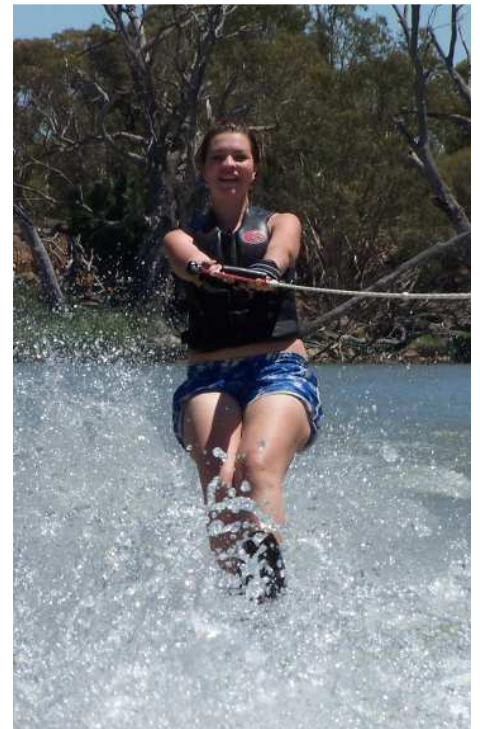
See you all soon

Kev



COMING EVENTS

- **FEBRUARY 14TH** **Club Meeting**
(date changed from 19th to the 14th at 12 noon)
Meeting to be held at 26 Walter Way Cranbourne Sth
BBQ Lunch provided BYO drinks
- **FEBRUARY 21ST & 22ND** **Nagambie Ski Challenge.**
- **MARCH 7TH** **Nagambie On Water.**
- **MARCH 19TH** **Club Meeting.**
- **MARCH 22ND** **Carrum Regatta.**
TBC.
- **APRIL 9TH** **Club Meeting**
- **APRIL 18TH & 19TH** **Echuca Regatta.**
CONFIRMED
- **MAY 21ST** **Club Meeting.**
- **JUNE 18TH** **Club Meeting.**



JENNY'S STAR PUPIL

Special thanks to Jen Grech for the helpful advice & to Lynne Haritou for the loan of the Ski.

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SSBOC /NWSC CHALLENGE

SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY

BRIEFING AND BREAKFAST AT NAGAMBIE WATER SKI CLUB

(Egg, Bacon, Coffee available)

8.00 AM SHARP !!!

THERE IS A LOT OF EVENTS TO GET THROUGH BEFORE 3.00 PM.

**ACCESS CAN BE EITHER BY ROAD TO THE SKI CLUB OR LAUNCH BOAT AT CARAVAN PARK AND
PROCEED ALONG RIVER APPROX. 15 MINS TO CLUB.**

(Caravan Park boat ramp for patrons only Public Ramp & NWSC ramp open 24hrs)

EVENTS

Barefoot Time Trials

Adult Ski Time Trials

(Men & Women)

Junior Ski Time Trials

(Boys & Girls)

Le Mans Ski Time Trials

Family Marathon

Slalom

(Men & Women)

Tricks

Wakeboarding

BBQ Lunch & Soft drinks available at NWSC

(NWSC SITE IS A STRICTLY NO ALCOHOL VENUE)

Saturday night BYO dinner back at Nagambie Lakes Caravan Park.

Sunday 22nd February Winery Cruise 10.30am

Leaving from Caravan Park, cruise to Chateau Tahbilk
then lunch at Mitcheltons.

Any question contact Noel Palmer 03 9401 2115 / 0428 318 564

He will be at either Nagambie Lakes Leisure park or NWCS site by 2pm Friday
Nagambie Lakes Leisure Park 5794 2373. When booking mention SSBOC

NOW
Nagambie On Water
SATURDAY 7TH MARCH

We have been invited by The Shire of Strathbogie & The Nagambie Water Ski Club
to put on a club display on water and a Show ‘n Shine on land.

On water there will be ski time trials, barefoot display and Boat a Kana.

There will also be a demonstration of the famous SSBoc Family Marathon.

The days demonstration will be a combined effort of the SSBoc & the Nagambie Ski Club

Below is a rough draft of the event schedule

8.00am	Organizers Briefing	
10.00am	Barefoot X 2 People & Barefoot X 3 People Demonstration	NWSC & SSBOC
10.30am	Air Chair	Demonstration
11.00am	Ski Time Trials Slalom	SSBOC vs NWSC
12.Noon	Swim Event – No Boats on Water for duration. 1 Hour event	
1.00pm	Wakeboard Demonstration	NWSC & SSBOC
2.00pm	Boat A Kana WOOD vs PLASTIC	SSBOC vs NWSC
2.30pm	Ski Time Trial Doubles Kids	SSBOC vs NWSC
3.30pm	Family Marathon x 2 simultaneously	SSBOC vs NWSC
4.00pm	Finish	

Last years event attracted over 5000 people and they are expecting an even bigger crowd this year

We need to know participants ASAP for this event and boat rego & licence numbers need to be phoned through to Noel Palmer 0428318564.

Committee Members

PRESIDENT

Kevin Grech
P.O.Box 284 Wallan
AH: (03) 5783 3963
Mob: 0438 319 889
Email: revjen2@tpg.com.au

VICE PRESIDENT

Neville Blake
1 Paisley Street
Bundalong Vic
AH: (03) 5726 8288
Mob: 0418 356 763
Email: nhblake@iinet.com.au

TREASURER

Allen Jones

PUBLIC OFFICER

Neville Blake
1 Paisley Street
Bundalong Vic
AH: (03) 5726 8288
Mob: 0418 356 763
Email: nhblake@iinet.com.au

SECRETARY

Neil Williams
26 Walter Way
Cranbourne Sth Vic
3977
AH: (03) 5668 1630
Mob: 0412 853 798
Email: aprilandneil@westnet.com.au

COMMITTEE

Stan Haritou	Chris Boyle
Andy Harrison	Peter Ralph
Tony Middleton	Caylea Blake

CLERK OF COURSE

Noel Palmer, Greg Smith, Tony Glass

Postal Address:
SSBOC
ABN 86 453 239 491
P.O. BOX 302 MULGRAVE
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www.ssroc.com.au





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BENDER AT WILL'S BEND - 16/01/09 - 18/01/09

A great weekend was had by all that endeavoured to come up to Will's Bend for a "Social Weekend". No sign of rain(not like last year)-great one day, perfect the next.

Great weather-perfect days and nights were just cool enough to sit around the ever popular "furnace"(focal point was discussing the chimney/door and colonial windows that were on the furnace) supplied by Andy Harrison(trailer of wood was gone by the end of the weekend) – job well done ANDY!!!! Neil provided a little comfort for us "girls" for supplying a "loo" on trailer with running water – thank you Neil.

The group consisted of the following:-

Kevin & Jen - they were enjoying a dirty weekend(no girls) – the RODEO was "a'rocking"

Neil, April and clan - his new boat looked good on the water Saturday morning, but looked even better when he was being towed back to shore by a "plastic boat" (not once but twice having to be towed-he also had to be towed back while driving in Renegade.

Running solo for the weekend was Alan and Lee – family members and friends had better offers.

Stan & Michelle – can't go anywhere without his parents but he did put up his mummy's tent for her.

Bender cont.

David & Emma(without Jason) – father/daughter bonding weekend kneeboarding/biscuit. After much persistence Emma finally got up on the double's, well done Emma. Thanks must go Ross in the boat and Kaye in the water with Emma for their great patience.

Andy & family – had not one boat but had to bring two boats (Envy & Renegade(Daddy daycare) big hit with the little ones).

Chris, Melonie & family – one of the first to arrive and last to leave (Monday)-Amelia did well on doubles

Tony Glass & mates – Was that BLOWN AWAY we saw towing a BISCUIT??? And was the person on it JANE DALTON??? Na couldn't be, we must have imagined it.

Li'l Tyke – didn't know Andy McLean could ski!!! The kids seem to have had a ball racing up and down the river in dads boat.

Murray Bowra – good observer for the weekend

Neville Blake & mates – "Sir Walter" was a great alarm clock Sunday morning when he got on the river to practice early in the morning

Ross, Kaye & Nathan – had to bring their "plastic boat" – Nathan needs to learn to walk on water, as he seems to be able to do everything else

George, Aidan & Matt – no-one has seen George sooooo quiet – Aidan enjoyed driving the boat(will soon be a better driver than his Dad)

Trevor Clancy/Graham Richardson – arrived late but still had fun.

LYNNE HARITOU



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Michael Konstandinou

Unit 23 / 417-419 Warrigal Rd.,
Cheltenham North. 3192

Ph: 9532 6000
Fax: 9532 6001

It's on again

THE ANNUAL SSBOC ECHUCA REGATTA

APRIL 18TH & 19TH

ON THE BEACH AT MEROOL ON THE MURRAY

Accommodation 03 54809111

**All the regular events
will be run again.**

HAPPY HOUR

SATURDAY NIGHT

**BRING YOUR CHANGE FOR
SOME RAFFLE TICKETS.**



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In his element: Water ski racing was Clint Middleton's passion aboard River Rat.

Young James loves his 'Rat'

At 11 months, James Clint Middleton looks quite at home at the wheel of River Rat, a replica of the boat his late father Clint skied behind in the Southern 80 and countless Murray river ski races.

Made by one of Clint's mates, Darren Cox, the replica was a highlight on Christmas Day for the Middleton family when young James took the wheel.

Tomorrow, most competitors in the Southern 80 will pause to remember Clint who passed away aged 33 in 2007.

A passionate ski racer, the Southern 80 weekend played a huge role in his life.

As a youngster living in Echuca, Clint first became interested in the great race at the age of seven.

"He had the legendary Len Retallick as his hero and eagerly followed his progress down the river," his mother Rhonda said this week.

"From that time, Clint became obsessed with river ski racing."

His first boat was an older wooden vessel, but later Clint's River Rat became a familiar sight on the water.

"His wife and children were the love of Clint's life, but ski racing was his passion," Rhonda said.

Along with several mates, Clint was a driving force behind the



Like father, like son: James Clint Middleton behind the wheel of a replica of River Rat at Christmas.

He had so many good caring mates, and they are still there for us.

— Rhonda Middleton

popular Seacraft Sprint, held each Southern 80 weekend.

Sentimental favourite for Saturday's sprint will certainly be Rumours Has It, driven by Clint's father Tony with close mate Gavin Milgate in the observer's seat.

In the same race, Cinders, driven by another close mate Peter Ralph, will be keen to honour Clint's contribution to the sport with a victory.

Clint will always be remembered

by the tightly knit ski racing community.

"Our family has received so much great support from all of Clint's friends and continue to do so," Rhonda said.

"He had so many good caring mates and they are still there for us."

As for young James, he might not be on the river just yet, but judging by his keenness to get behind the wheel, it might only be a few years before he follows in his father's footsteps.

— Graham Willis