



## Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

### The Ray Maki 5 race gets under way

- Sunday December 28, 2014

#### Losing the post Xmas blues....in Lonsdale Bight!!

As we said farewell to our old friend Santa...it was onward to the last few of the Ray Maki Series ....

Especially after Saturday's popular and well attended cruise to view the Melbourne "Eastcoaster and Westcoaster" races off Portsea. Thanks to those that participated!



Today it was unfortunate that a number of our skippers and crew did not present at briefing for the Ray Maki 5 Series race in the harbour....too many of something and possibly a sleep in...oh well!!

At briefing it was four skippers and over twenty crew that assembled greeting Commodore Jill who wished everyone a pleasant sail and opting as OOD with Frank McMahon to manage the racing today.

The Course set by the Club Captain was presented in chart and instruction format to each skipper being a new course in Lonsdale Bight.

Starting at Grass Beds to Drapers, around Bucket Rock and off to the inner Parks Buoy before going to the outer Parks Buoy back to the inner Buoy and returning to the outer Buoy, back to Drapers via Bucket Rock and finally to Grass Beds finish.

Starters were Sundance, Tintagel, Drizabone and Wave Dancer. Amongst our visitors today were Jim and Cathy Barrow from St Leonards Motor Yacht Squadron....(Jim is Vice Commodore) and Gus Permezal a newer member with Mum and Dad who sail in our Messabout Days and is looking as a junior to join with our Saturday sailing and sailed on Sundance for the day. Thanks once again John Barry!

On the course it was a pleasant sail around before the start with forecast light winds mostly from the south with some ebb tide before the flood later which was to assist the crews getting to and from the Bight.





In Div 1 it was Drizabone and Tintagel heading into the starters hands almost on time. Dave Hatton in Wave Dancer was the lone starter in Div 2 and of course it was Sundance as again the lone starter in Div 3.....but all were away nicely.

It was a beat to Drapers Pile as port mark and then on a reach down to the inner Parks mark, so spinnakers got to fly for a brief period....

The early leaders were still the division one yachts whilst the division two and three played catchup coming along Shortland's Bluff which was packed with onlookers and cars in the carpark at the lighthouse.

The beat to the outer Parks mark provided some differences in tactics with Wave Dancer taking a port tack toward the

Lonnie shops .... We think the young lady admirers were there waiting for Dave! .. whilst the balance of the fleet took to starboard tack before coming about to make the mark and return to the inner mark.

Similarly the return journey was similar as the back markers took hold but sorting out the fleet wasn't easy as the downwind legs saw little in speed or distance between the competitors.

Finally all vessels made the outer mark for the last time and headed off toward Bucket Rock....and everyone found the lighter breeze and shifting breeze slowed their progress before making for Drapers Pile on their homeward journey.



At Grass Beds finish it was Sundance again with line honours ahead of Tintagel which grabbed the fishing line of our OOD (they were quite close to the stern of Swan!).....and Wave Dancer with finally Drizabone some sixteen minutes post Sundance.



However on handicap it was Dave Hatton in Wave Dancer that pulled off the win followed by Tintagel, Drizabone and lastly Sundance. Congratulations Dave and well done.

The handicapper had done his darndest and it was the three first placegetter finishing with just over three minutes between them and Sundance a further four minutes behind these three.

Comments after the race , ("at The Espie for a few quiet ones"), were most positive with a number referring to a great sight from Shortland's Bluff as the fleet sailed around and back. And to those that didn't make it ...oh well!!



*Commodore Jill and the Committee wish all our skippers and sailors a very Happy New Year and look forward to completing a second part of our seasons sailing in 2015 as successful as we have enjoyed so far in 2014...*

*See you next Saturday (3<sup>rd</sup> Jan) for the Ray Maki Race 6 before an enjoyable Messabout Day at the Club House on Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> January.*

