



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**DATE:** Tuesday, 1 February 2011

With it now two months since our last committee meeting, and three months since I last attended one, there has been a lot of goings on surrounding the club if not within it; Christmas, rock-star sailing and the Brisbane Floods.

From all accounts the end of the first half of our season went well. Many thanks to Santa and his helpers for assisting with the Christmas celebrations.

Over the New Year's period friend-of-the-club Leon McNeil and I took the big RIB to Lake Cootharaba Sailing Club to support the large contingent of Humpybong members competing at the Orange Power Australian A Division Catamaran National Titles. With a long list of national and international sailors intending on competing it was promised to be a not-to-miss regatta. And it certainly delivered with eight Olympians, and several America's Cup teams competing against the best HYC could throw at them.

On arrival we were asked to serve as the Media Boat for the event and for the next 6 days we chased the competitors around the course to get the best photos and videos for the media contingent. I also, as usual, took many photos of my own (over 1500); and while I'm probably a little biased I have seen more of our photos turn up in media around the world than those of the "professionals". We got up close and personal with some of the best catamaran sailors in the world at the moment and at the same time proudly flew the HYC burgee all over the course. I will ask our Rear-Commodore to investigate the bilge pump on Rescue One as we continued to take on considerable water each day at the lake. There are also a growing list of maintenance that needs to be addressed on our rescue craft and on the building and surrounds.

Following on from our assistance with the national titles we were approached by the Queensland A-Class sailors to host the State titles for the association this Easter. After discussions with those of the committee on hand at Lake Cootharaba it was agreed that in principal we would offer to host the titles. The proposal is to host the regatta from Good Friday till Easter Sunday with the ANZAC Day and Easter Monday public holidays leaving those who participate some long weekend left after the racing. The coincidence with the Brisbane to Gladstone race start on Good Friday was also seen as a great way to harness to publicity and promote both the titles and HYC to a wider audience. I will go through the further arrangements for the organisation of the titles as our main order of business tonight.

The biggest current issue facing the club however is the devastating effects of the Brisbane floods. Many of our members have been directly flooded with recent satellite photos showing at least one members boat floating in the middle of his backyard. Our thoughts go out to all of our members affected by this catastrophic event.

The floods have lead to the closure of all of the beaches surrounding our racing area, from Shorncliffe to Suttons Beach by both MBRC and BCC. The level of debris in the water has also been astounding; on recent visits to the club I have witnessed 25 000L polytanks and entire large trees floating past the clubhouse. Maritime Safety Queensland have requested that people stay away from the waters of Moreton Bay until the debris clears and the water quality returns to normal. These conditions have made it unsafe to conduct racing for the past two weekends. I have asked our secretary to contact the council to investigate if there is any financial leniency we can be given as without racing the club has no income to pay it's bills. We'll continue to monitor the situation and advise once racing can resume.

Matthew Johnson  
President – Humpybong Yacht Club