



Bendigo Bank



Average Age of Sailors Falls Dramatically

The average age of sailors in Apollo Bay plummeted this week from an average of 104 years last season, to an average this week of 60+. Of course this often happens when the **'Interlude'** crew miss a race, but this week **'Interlude'** raced and the average age fell. Saturday's race was joined by three youngsters, Ella, Morgan and Findlay with an average age of 7. Very exciting times for the club and great to see a new cadre of sailors coming through. And we have a very eager Lily Cox planning to sail next week.

The opportunity for young sailors has come about with the help of the Apollo Bay and District Community Bank who sponsor a 26 foot Yngling called **'Community Bank'** for beginners who want to give sailing a try.

With a forecast of a 20 to 30 knot south-easterly, the race was a thrilling or daunting prospect depending on each boat's level of experience. All the more credit to Kelly Stewart and Gary Summers for their adventurous spirit in deciding to sail.

As it happened the wind barely reached 15kn but this still made for an exciting race despite the constant rain. The start was beautifully won by **'Windswept'** then **'Community Bank'** showing old hands **'Miss Molly'** how it's done.

'Interlude' struggled all day, tipsy and dragging a heavily fouled bottom around the course (I'm referring the crew and the boat in order).

Suze and John McBride on **'April Dancer'** showed great promise for a first time team. They had a very close race with **'Community Bank'** until a very close encounter encouraged the younger crew to back off - some want the boat renamed **'April Smasher'**.

Only five boats contested the event with some of the large keel boats not able to leave the harbour due to the clearing of the 'Japanese Kelp' around the pen area.

The race developed into three parts....

Part 1. The race for line honours between Matt & Peter on **'Miss Molly'** and Ian & Leo on **'Windswept'**. **'Windswept'** took early points with a brilliant start, but were unable to hang on with **'Miss Molly'** prevailing in the relatively light conditions.

Part 2. The race between **'April Dancer'** and the **'Community Bank'** Yngling. Suze at the helm of **'April Dancer'** eventually taking the lead and hanging on from **'Community Bank'**, skilfully helmed by the club's youngest skipper, Morgan Stewart.

Part 3. **'Interlude's'** crew's stamina versus the inclement weather. The weather won! John threw in the towel and didn't finish the race - a decision not unpopular with the duty boat.

Results:

Heat 2: **'Leo DiCecco Plumbing'** Pre Xmas Series
Heat 2: **'Beach Front Motel'** and **'Four Winds Marine'** Club Championships.

<u>Handicap</u>	<u>Yardstick</u>
1 st Miss Molly	1 st Miss Molly
2 nd Windswept	2 nd Windswept
3 rd Community Bank	3 rd April Dancer
4 th April Dancer	4 th Community Bank

DNF: Interlude

Thanks to all our sponsors particularly the **Apollo Bay and District Community Bank** from whom we recently received \$1500 for the replacement of our Rescue Boat trailer. Community Banking is indeed a great banking model. Steering the profits from your banking back into our community. Thank you.

Thanks also to Gary Millar for an excellent effort on the Rescue Boat and Russel Smith for his regular support.

Life is good. Come Sailing! ☺

New Members Always Welcome!



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Great supporters of the Apollo Bay Sailing Club.