

Looking back...with Molly

By Molly Smith

With the opening of the yachting season approaching, it would seem to be a good time to look back at the start of the very popular Walpole Yacht Club.

A certain tourist holidaying at Rest Point in 1956 probably had no idea that he would be indirectly responsible for the formation of the Walpole Yacht Club. The idea had been tossed around for a time – why not, considering the beautiful waterways available.

But Terry Swarbrick purchased a yacht – a VJ 12ft. 2crew – from the tourist in 1956 and sailed tantalisingly close to Claude Cooper and son Frank in their flattie one day in Swan Bay. The knowledge that there was a yacht in the town soon spread and it wasn't long before a day was organised for interested people to meet and take part in a sail on the VJ.

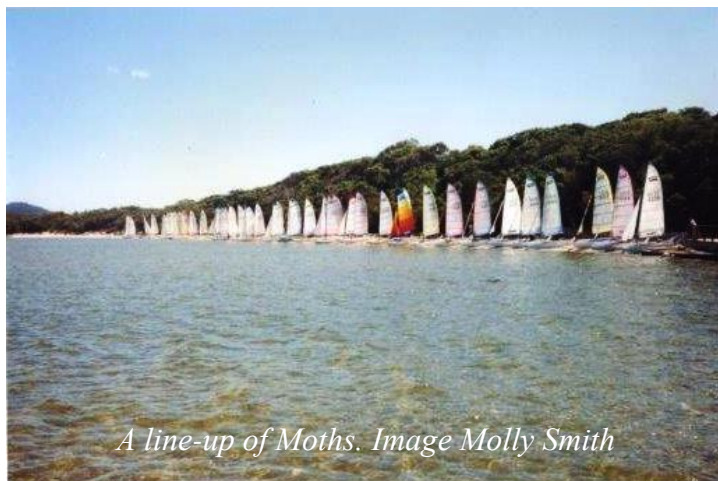
It proved to be a rather frightening and hair-raising experience for all, as there was a strong easterly blowing. Interest quickly spread as more VJs appeared in the district and old lifejackets were obtained. One enterprising sailor even made a spinnaker out of an old parachute.

For a time, sailing was confined to Swan Bay until they felt confident to conquer the waters of the Normalup Inlet! Various district people were enticed on to the boats as crew and the story is that for some time, sailors and crew spent more time upside-down in the water than actually sailing!

A shed was built to house the boats and the club was formed around 1957/58 with Terry Swarbrick as Commodore, Claude Cooper as Vice Commodore, Harley Swarbrick as Rear Commodore and Don Hadfield as Secretary/Treasurer.

The first small regatta was staged in Swan Bay in 1958 and this was the forerunner of many successful competitions. There is a good deal to tell about those early days.

(Article compiled from 'My version of the history of the Walpole Yacht Club' by Frank Cooper).



A line-up of Moths. Image Molly Smith



walpole pharmacy

THANK YOU to everyone who came to our CHRISTMAS CUSTOMER night and helped to make it a FANTASTIC event!

The door prize was won by Lorraine Cooper and the Ethical Nutrients Christmas Bug was won by Kelly Burton.

We've still got plenty of Giftware available and any Toy or Gift Purchase gains an entry in our SHOP LOCAL & WIN Competition for a chance to WIN a \$200

WALPOLE PHARMACY Gift Voucher!

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from the Committee, Staff & Volunteers of the Walpole Community Resource Centre

Christmas Closure:

Closed from 4pm Thursday December 24th 2015 & re-opening 9am Tuesday January 5th 2016

Closure affects: Walpole Community Resource Centre, Walpole Weekly, Walpole Bendigo Bank Ltd Agency and Department of Human Services Booth.