

The History of

**OCEAN REEF SEA
SPORTS CLUB**

Ian Younghusband
Jill Younghusband

CLUB TIMELINE

---○ BEFORE 1972

Before 1972 the clubs roots extend further back than the formation of the club.

The beach shacks at Hillarys and Whitfords were settled by families some of which went on to become personalities within the club. The shacks were built around 1933 and the land on which they stood was sold in 1968 with the shacks being demolished in 1972. A list of the family names of shack holders is in the first 10 years edition.

[RIGHT] A view looking north to the shacks on the north side of Pinnaroo Point



---○ 1972

In 1972 the Whitfords area was opened for residential purposes and in 1972 concerned community members quickly became aware of the need for boating facilities, and there were fears that the beach between Sorrento Beach and Mullaloo Beach would become inaccessible to the public.

[RIGHT] A view looking north with Pinnaroo Point top left and Sorrento Beach residential area middle and bottom left as it all was before West Coast Drive was constructed



---○ 1973

In December 1973 the first club magazine was produced.

With oral support from the Wanneroo Shire Council and the Whitfords Progress Association a steering committee was formed and named the Whitfords Sea Sports Club on the 18th July 1973 after the Whitfords Bay on which it was founded.

The clubs first fishing competition was held to gauge the community interest at 7.00am on 29th July 1973 at Pinnaroo Point (now Mullaloo Point).

On the 9th August 1973 the first general meeting of the club was held at the Springfield School Kallaroo and attracted 90 people from which a steering committee was formed.

The first club cabaret was held on the 4th December 1973 at the Mullaloo Surf Club.

The first club surf cat sailing event was held in December 1973 and had 60-70 boats taking part.

---○ 1974

Regular club events took part off the beach at Pinnaroo Point with power boating and fishing holding monthly events throughout the year, with sailing holding weekly events throughout the year.

Diving's first event was in February 1974

1975

The efforts by the Whitfords Sea Sports Club along with others prevented development on the west side of West Coast Drive in the area known as the Nodes.

The Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group was formed by the club in July 1975.

1976

The construction of two short groynes at Ocean Reef for the Beenyup Sewage Treatment Plant outfall pipe signaled the start of pressure by the club to extend the wall for a marina, launching facility and clubhouse at Ocean Reef.

1977

On the 12th January 1977 the State Government advised that a boat launching facility would be built on Perth's northern coastline.

The Wanneroo Shire approved concept plans for the Whitfords Sea Sports Club clubhouse in July 1977.

1978

In March 1978 the Ocean Reef Boat Launching Facility environment review programme was advertised.

On the 25th November 1978 at 11.30 am the State Government signed the go ahead for the Ocean Reef Boat Harbour.

1979

On the 22nd January 1979 construction of the Ocean Reef Boat Harbour was commenced following many months of frustrating delays. Temporary launching was permitted from the harbour beach during the construction period.

On the 2nd December 1979 the Ocean Reef Boat Harbour was opened by the Premier of Western Australia Sir Charles Court with an address from the Wanneroo Shire President Charles Searson. A speech of thanks by Bob Mason the immediate past commodore of the Whitfords Sea Sports Club concluded the opening formalities.

The cost of the boat harbour was approximately \$1.8 million.

The first club field day at Ocean Reef was prior to the official opening. On the 6th May 1979 600 members took part with a total of 160 sailing, fishing and power boats.

1980

The current clubrooms were commenced in January 1980 and finished in July 1980. The clubhouse was built by Howe and Cruickshank with building costing \$180,000.

Two major Club busy bees provided the power and the bore water supply to the club and the landscaping was completed just prior to the opening.

The official opening of the Clubhouse was 19th July 1980 coinciding with the Clubs 7th birthday.

The first club employees were hired and Kevin and Vivian Gillespie took up residence on the club grounds as the clubs Bosun and Caretaker.

1981

The concept plans drawn by Ian Younghusband for the club's mooring rail inside the Ocean Reef Boat Harbour on the northern breakwater was approved.

1982

Maintenance work on the harbour walls was undertaken by the State Government. Office staff were first employed in the club office in 1982.

1983

A club manager Patrick Cordier was employed by the club.

The northern breakwater mooring rail was built and financed by the club.

The club carried out additions and added to the club office and roofed the service yard.

An acoustic ceiling was added to the hall.

1984

The Ocean Reef Boat Harbour was dredged in May 1984 by the State Government.

A public telephone was installed at the boat harbour as a result of lobbying by the club.

Plans to enlarge the Ocean Reef Boat Harbour for the Americas Cup were announced by the Wanneroo Shire but did not go ahead in favour of the development at Hillarys.

The clubs galley area was modified to cater for a wider range of meals .

In December the hard standing was introduced for boat storage with 11 bays being fenced.

The club's full liquor license was approved November 1984.

1985

In 1985 the first galley staff were employed. Prior to 1985 the galley was run using volunteer club labour.

Oil heating within the clubrooms was changed to gas heating.

1986

The galley equipment was upgraded with more equipment being added.

1987

Paid bar staff were introduced. Prior to 1987 the bar was operated by volunteers.

The Sea Rescue moved from the club building to their new operations and training centre and the Sea Rescue room became the events start box and control room.

The main road to the clubhouse was bituminized in December and the plans were finalized and approved for the additions to the lounge area.

1988

The lounge additions were built and opened on the 7th February 1988.

The Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue building was officially opened 23rd October 1988.

1989

The Club's car park was bituminized.

The external lighting was improved and a path to the northern groyne constructed.

The galley was extended and upgraded.

The start box access from the main hall was enclosed.

Pool tables were first installed.

1990

The Ocean Reef Boat Harbour was dredged taking 6 weeks to complete.

The junior dinghy shed was built in January 1990 to house the mirror dinghies.

1991

Darts were added to the Club's social activities.

The Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group purchased its first dedicated rescue boat.

In September 1991 the main hall was declared a smoke free zone.

1992

The club mooring rail inside the northern breakwater was demolished in November 1992 due to harbour silting making it unusable.

1993

The works jetty in the harbour extending inside the western breakwater was demolished in May 1993.

The club celebrated its 20th birthday and produced a special edition of the club magazine to commemorate the occasion.

Harold Martin our foundation Commodore passed away on 22nd August 1993.

Application was made to the council for a new hard standing boat storage area on the east side of the access road.

New equipment was installed in the galley and the bar area was upgraded.

A no smoking policy was introduced to the club and a restricted area for smoking was introduced.

In the last year of Commodore Darryl Retallack's term of office the club became debt free in regards to the building alterations and as a result the clubs growth plans were reviewed.

A "Planning for the Future" committee was formed and chaired by Ron Cutten.

1994

A survey was done within the club membership regarding the clubs growth and improvements. The idea of more boat storage hard standing was discussed and negotiations were begun for more land to expand this facility.

1995

The Western Australian Government's Marine and Harbours Department undertook to dredge the Ocean Reef Boat Harbour.

The new boat storage and hard standing area was approved by the City of Wanneroo on 27th March 1995 and was ratified by full council on the 5th April 1995.

Carl Mckenzie was appointed on 2nd October as the bar and function manager.

The club elected 3 life members — Ian Younghusband, Tony Sheehan and Maurie Ramsay in recognition of their service to the club.

Rob Gillespie started the earth works on the new boat storage and hard standing area.

1996

The boat storage and hard standing work continues. The club applied for a grant of \$10,000 from the Ministry of Sport and Recreation and as part of this initiative the scout group was formed.

1997

The Whitfords Sea Sports Club Scout group was formed on the 22nd May with the first meeting on 16th June.

1998

Drawings were submitted for approval to the City of Wanneroo for additions to the clubhouse entry foyer and contracts for the construction were signed.

Life membership was awarded to John Ware.

1999

The existing hall windows were replaced with doors and the club modified to cater for the disabled with the provision of disabled toilets and ramps for the disabled were added.

The entry foyer was completed in January 1999.

The galley operations were subcontracted to a private caterer and in September replaced with the previous volunteer system.

2000

The Whitfords Sea Sports Clubs original lease for the land on which the clubhouse stands expired on the 31st December 2000.

The club applied for an extension to the lease of the land from the City of Joondalup.

The galley operations returned to club management with paid staff being employed in September.

2001

A coastal cycle path was built by the City of Joondalup along the edge of the road past the front of the club grounds.

A no smoking policy introduced in the clubhouse on the 1st June 2001.

2002

A revised constitution was accepted at the clubs annual general meeting in August 2002.

Finally scheme water was connected to the clubhouse some 22 years after the clubhouse was completed to replace the original bore water system. On the 28th February a meeting was held by the City of Joondalup and the State Government at the Whitfords Sea Sports Club to discuss the future development of the Ocean Reef Boat Harbour.

PATRON

Mick Nanovich has been the patron of the Whitfords Sea Sports Club since the founding of the club in 1973-74.

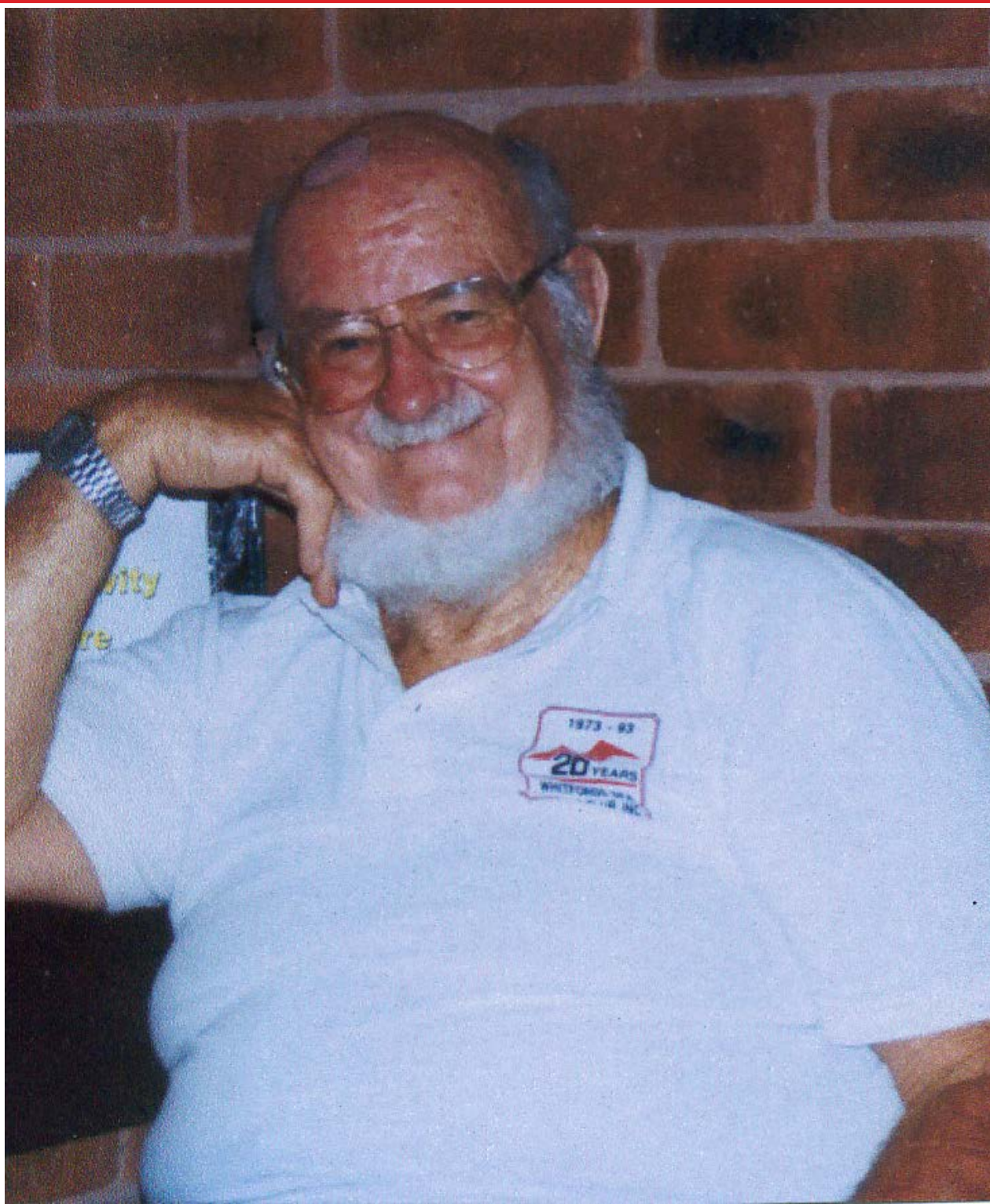
During that time Mick was the MLA for Whitfords and his support during the years contributed greatly to the clubs development.

Mick opened the Clubhouse on 19th July 1980 and a plaque in the entry commemorates the occasion.



BOSUN

Kevin Gillespie and his wife Viv joined the Club as Bosun in 1979 and took up residence in the club grounds and have been looking after the club's assets ever since then.



MRS AND JOHN AYRES

A Memorial Plaque near the entrance to the club acknowledges his contribution prior to the club moving to Ocean Reef.

John passed away on 31st December 1985.



ROBYN AND BOB MASON

Mason's Bar was named in 1980 in recognition of service given by the Mason family and was unveiled by Bob & Robyn Mason at the opening of the Clubhouse in 1980.

Picture taken at the time of the boat harbour opening.



JILL AND IAN YOUNGHUSBAND

The Younghusband Family plaque in the lounge commemorates the opening of the lounge additions on 7th February 1988 and was unveiled by Ian & Jill Younghusband on that occasion. The plaque recognizes the continuing involvement of that family since the founding of the club.



BILL TURTON

Bill Turton was recognized for his contribution to angling.

There was a Bill Turton Field Day to acknowledge and remember his involvement.

Bill passed away in July 1982.

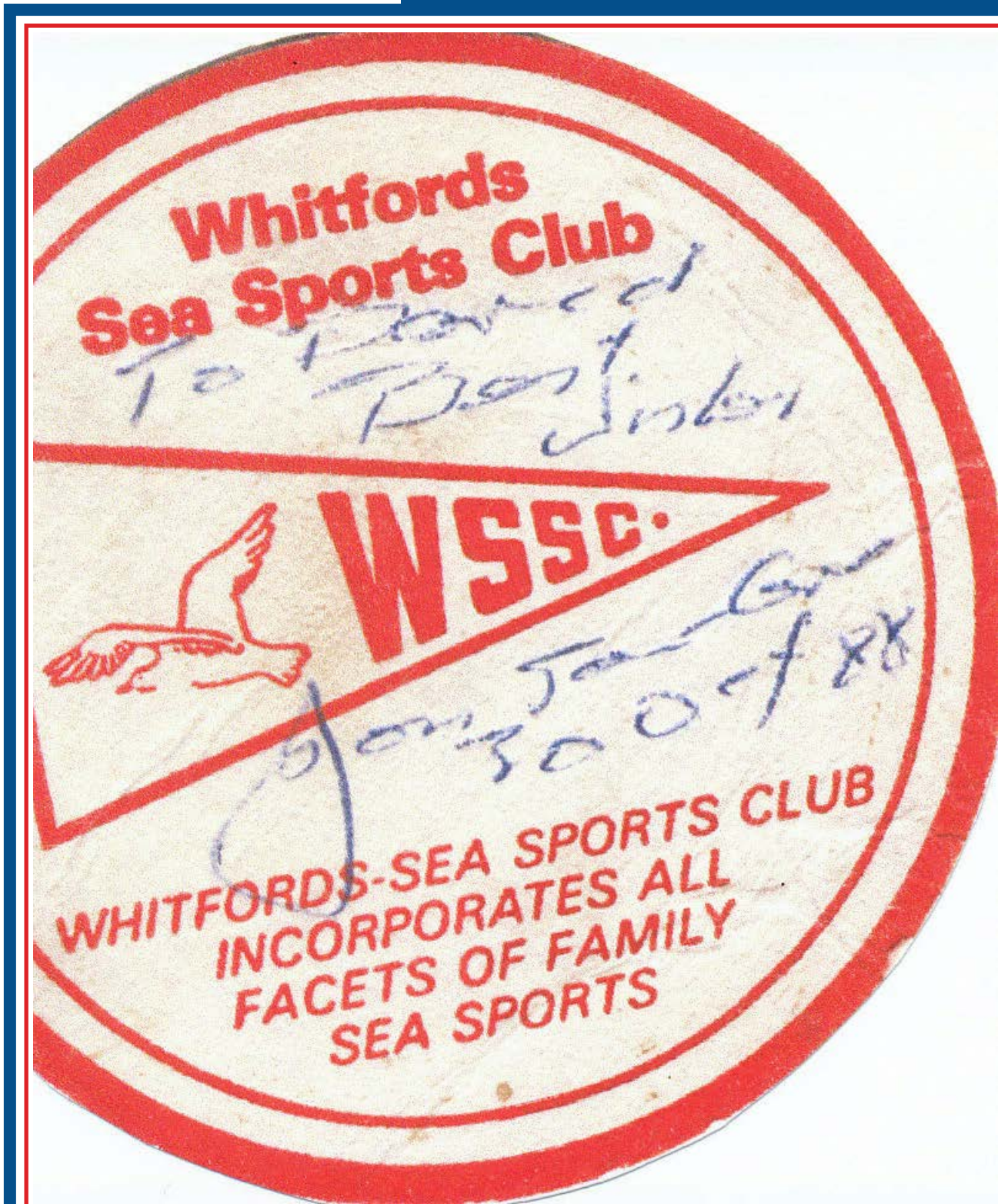
JUNIOR PLAQUE

A plaque commemorating the opening of the junior room (previously the volunteer sea rescue operations centre) was unveiled on the 30th October 1988 by John Sanders.

John Sanders sailed:

- A double solo circumnavigation of the world in 1981-82
- A triple solo circumnavigation in 1986-1988

[BELOW] Bar coaster signed by John Sanders on the 30th October 1988



THE PIONEER ROCK

The Pioneer Rock near the entrance acknowledges the achievement of all members prior to 1980.



CLUBHOUSE

The original clubhouse was started in January 1980 and funded by the club with club funds, a member's loans scheme and a loan from the Commercial Bank of Australia which was guaranteed by the Wanneroo Shire.

---○ 1980

Clubhouse under construction — View looking at the north west corner of the galley showing the brickwork started and the corner of the steelwork to the events control room.



---○ 1980

Clubhouse under construction — View taken from the hall looking back towards the bar area showing the steel roof beams and the roof cover still to be done.

The club since the opening of the clubhouse in July 1980 provided drinks, food and entertainment for members.



---○ 1982

Virginia Sheppard was employed in 1982 to run the club office and is still employed by the club in 2003.

---○ 1983 - 1984

The Clubhouse was extended in 1983-84 year with additions to the office to form the committee room and an acoustic ceiling was installed in the hall.

The galley was extended in 1984.

The club obtained its full liquor license in November 1984.

1987

The main road to the clubhouse was sealed in December 1987.

Paid bar staff were introduced in April 1987 but was short lived.

1988

The additions to the lounge and Masons Bar were carried out and opened on 7th February 1988.

The staffing of the bar returned to a volunteer system in 1988 till 1993.

1989

In 1989 the link between the hall and galley to the start box completed.

1990

In 1990 following the purchase of the junior sailing dinghies the boat shed was built.

In 1990 the original loan guaranteed by the City of Wanneroo on the clubhouse was paid off.

Internally the hall was equipped with gas heaters in July 1990, and for the first time the club records were placed on computer.

1993 - 1994

The club's growth plans were reviewed in the 1993-94 year and the "Planning for the Future Committee" was formed and chaired by Ron Cutten, with the original members of that committee being Kerry Barnett, Barbara Burrows, Colin Burns, Ted Johnson, Peter Otway and Mike Thompson.

1994

In the Tide Magazine of April and May 1994 members were asked for their input in the planning process. This input was the basis for the next four years development.

1995

A comprehensive management plan for the future was adopted at the August 1995 Annual General Meeting.

The main areas of discussion was the survey of membership retention, changes to the clubs management structure and constitution, improvement of club facilities, building additions and alterations.

---○ 1996

The power supply was upgraded in August 1996.

Alternative building plans were drawn up and presented to members at the 1996 Annual General Meeting and rejected.

A refurbishment committee was formed with Colin Burns, Peter Henson, Carl McKenzie, Maurie Ramsay, Keith Russell, Jenny Tabor, Paul Walsh, John Ware and Helen Wooding with Marilyn Cutten as Chairperson.

---○ 1998

The refurbishment committee presented their recommendations in January 1998 and they were adopted without change.

An application was made with the recommendation of the City of Wanneroo to the Community Sporting Recreation Facility Fund and an amount of \$50,000 from them was approved.

On the 19th May 1998 a loan of \$62,000 was approved by the Challenge Bank and \$50,000 was provided by the City of Wanneroo.

Club volunteers demolished the store on the western verandah and prepared the footings for a new shed on the northern side of the club grounds.

The following work was carried out:

- Hall enhancement involving new doors, recovering the dining area chairs, new dining chairs, new curtains.
- The internal window between the lounge and the hall was filled in.
- The dance floor was relocated and new carpet was laid.
- A new entrance was built and the external toilets added.
- A new shed was built.
- The refurbishment of the north west external area was upgraded.
- The interior of the clubhouse was repainted.
- The relocation of the female toilet door to inside.
- The hall lighting was upgraded.

The total cost was \$156,999.



SAILING

The history of the sailing section had its origin in 1973 when surf cats were the basis of the clubs fleet.

Special events in the early years attracted 60 to 70 boats and while some of these boats were not from the club they were responsible for the birth of regular sailing in the Whitfords Bay area.

Regular racing of surf cats started off Sorrento Beach in 1973 with the inaugural event at Pinnaroo Point held on 29th September 1974 with 10 surf cats.

Surfcats were originally raced off Sorrento Beach

The surfcat was originally designed to surf and have fun at the beach.

In the early days of the club the surfcats ventured offshore to the reef area adjacent to Little Island west of Pinnaroo Point.

The inaugural Whitfords to Yanchep race was held on 17th November with 22 surf cats taking part in 1974 and 83 boats in the following year.

The maximum number of surfcats to take part in the Whitfords to Yanchep race was 144 boats in 14 classes.

The fastest time for a surf cat from Pinnaroo Point Whitfords to Yanchep Two Rocks Marina was 1 hour 51 minutes and 20 seconds and was recorded by a Hobie 16.

It was not until 1996 that Slakatak, a trimaran came close to this time with a time of 1 hour 38 minutes and 47 seconds from the Yanchep Two Rocks Marina back to the Ocean Reef Boat Harbour.

Regular surf cat and trailer sailer racing started at Ocean Reef in 1980.

In February 1980 the first return race from Yanchep Two Rock Marina back to the Ocean Reef Boat Harbour was held. Previously the race to Yanchep Two Rock Marina was one way.

The first Centaur race was held in December 1980 and in 2003 still being contested

In 1979 club sail numbers were introduced.

In 1982 the last Whitfords Sea Sports Club yacht racing was held at Pinnaroo Point when the off the beach catamarans joined the trailer sailers at Ocean Reef.

It was in May 1982 when for the first time sailing was consolidated at The Ocean Reef Boat Harbour.

In January 1979 and March 1980 the club hosted the Hawke Surfcat National Titles off the beach at Pinnaroo Point.

In January 1983 the club hosted the state titles for the Spacesailer 20 class Championships from Ocean Reef Boat Harbour.

In 1990 Frank Balding took over the organization of junior sailing in October 1994. The inaugural Fremantle to Ocean Reef yacht race held in December 1982 and the first multihull fleet took part in that race in 1993

Off the beach catamarans sailed at the club launching inside the Ocean Reef Boat Harbour regularly from May 1982 until 1987. The majority for cat sailer in 1987 moved into trailer sailers and there were insufficient cats to continue competition.

It was in the 1987-1988 year that the Whitfords Sea Rescue Group vacated the original radio room and the radio room was renovated for the use of juniors and for the use as an events control area and start finish box.

The first junior sailing programmed was held in 1979 and struggled spasmodically until the purchase of 3 boats in 1988-1989 with financial assistance from the Yachting Association of Western Australia. The junior sailing programme was revitalized and continued through to 1999 with numbers varying between 8 and 14 juniors using 4 club mirror dinghies. Frank Balding retired from organized junior sail training in 2000.

In 2000 a group of club junior competed in the Foundation 36 Youth Cup on the Swan River.

The clubs trailer sailers have had great success over the years and won the Rolly Tasker series from 1988 to 1993 and 1995 to 2001. From 2002 the series was renamed as the State Trailable and Sports Boat Series.

The wettest race was the first winter race in June 1993 when 112 mm of rain fell on race day.

The first race to the Alkimos wreck and return was held in 1989 and has been held every year to 2003.

Since 1980 an active cruising group of trailer sailers have visited Rottne Island, Albany, Augusta, Walpole, Dunsborough, Busselton, Bunbury, Mandurah, Safety Bay, Cockburn Sound, Garden Island, Sharks Bay, Onslow and Dampier.

The club introduced a 3 series a year racing programme for the 1990-1991 season. This format continues in 2003. Previous to 1990 sailing was conducted as a winter and summer series.

As a result of a sailing membership survey a number of alterations to the sailing programme were made. A jib and main fleet was started in the summer of 2001 and ran for a year but was discontinued because of the lack of numbers. Some new course were added and a new harbour buoy was added to form a new course. Morning starts for A series were introduced in 2001

The Fremantle to Ocean Reef Race was cancelled for the first time in 1996 due to bad weather, however the return journey back from Ocean Reef to Fremantle was able to be sailed by 13 yachts the next day.

1997 saw the introduction of the Fremantle Harbour Race which was organized by the club within the Fremantle Harbour as part of the Boat Show. This event was held again in 1999.

The 1997 Fremantle to Ocean Reef and return race attracted 34 yachts and in 1998 a fleet of 37 yachts took part.

Since 1974 when the club started, club officials have been necessary.

Jill Younghusband was the first starter in 1974 and continued with the help of others until 2000 with only a 2 year break

Others who have been involved are Maria Retallack, Larni Retallack, Kaye Centa, Debbie Gardener, Moira Thompson, and Max Albury.



ANGLING

The club has continuously over the last 30 years history organized angling events with both beach and boat fishing being conducted. The formation of the club was virtually the start of the angling section.

The first fishing competition was held on the 29th July 1973.

In January 1975 the club provided rubber matting cross the beach at Pinnaroo Point to assist in launching boats.

The club year 1978-1979 saw the end of club boat fishing being held at Pinnaroo Point and the commencement of fishing competitions starting from Ocean Reef on the 6th May.

From 1973 to the end of the club year 1978-1979 boat and beach fishing were separate sections of the club and combined after the 1978-1979 season to form the angling section.

1974 The club was represented in the State Boat Fishing Championships and was second outright.

1976 the club competed in the State Fishing Championships and came second.

1978-1979 the club competed in the State Fishing Championships and came third.

In 1981 the club hosted the State Boat Fishing Championships coming second.

In 1985 the club competed in the State Boat Angling Championships with the mens, ladies and veteran teams all taking second place.

In March 1990 the club hosted The State Boat Fishing Championships with 340 entrants taking part.

In 1992 the club held the inaugural Species Classic.

In May 1993 the first Moore River Bream Classic was held.

1993 was a successful year with Sharon Osborne winning the Australian Anglers Association ladies champion angler award and Sally Parkinson, Wendy Small and Heather Osborne becoming the Australian Anglers Association champion dry casting team and the club runner-up Australian Anglers Association champion club.

1993 the club held the second Species Classic with 135 fisherman taking part.

1994 the club won the beach fishing competition against the Northern Districts Club held at Hill River for the 3rd consecutive year.

1994 discussions were held to change boat fishing competitions to Saturdays.

1994 Nathan Gillespie won the junior Australian Anglers Association State Estuary Championships.

In 1995 the club won the Hill River competition against the Northern District Club for the 4th time.

On the 25th October 1995 the club introduced the first mid week fishing competition which has continued until 2003.

In 1996 the club won the fishing competition against Northern Districts Club for the 5th time.

On the 26th February 1996 the angling section unveiled the angling awards board.

In March 1996 the club hosted the Australian Anglers Association State Boat Fishing Championships

In 1996 at the State Beach and Rock Fishing Championships the clubs team did well with the men's team 1st, ladies 1st, veterans 2nd and juniors 1st.

In 1997 the club hosted the State Estuary Fishing Championships.

In 1997 still further debate on Saturday or Sunday fishing competition days with Sunday being approved.

In 1998 the club hosted the Australian Anglers Association Boat Fishing Championships on the 29th of March and it was the first time that it was held as a species competition. 212 anglers taking part representing 11 clubs.

In 1999 Ted Hayman won the Australian Anglers Association National Accuracy Dry casting Championships.

In 2000 the club won all categories as well as the champion club at the State Estuary Fishing Championships.

In 2001 The club does well at the State Boat Fishing Championships.

In 2002 Georgina Grimmet wins the State Ladies Boat Fishing Championships.



BOAT FISHING

In March 1980 the club held its first trolling competition.

The July competition was named the Bill Turton Memorial Day in recognition of Bills services to the club. This event was held up to 1994.

In 1984 Ray Cockman weighed in the Marlin that is now mounted in the club hall. The marlin was caught from Rays boat Jenny Lee 11 and weighed 198.4 kg and later in the same year a 43kg Samson fish was caught by Bill Liddell.

The club adopted the concept of Species Competitions on 2nd August 1987.

The first junior fishing competition was held in 1987 with 48 juniors taking part.

The junior fishing competition held in 1988 attracted 75 junior anglers.

In 1988 the first 3 way fishing competition was held between the Whitfords Sea Sports Club, Cockburn Power Boat Club and the Hillarys Yacht Club. Subsequent events were held in 1989 and 1990 and were all won by Whitfords. The 3 way competition has not been contested since.



BEACH FISHING

Over the years the beach fishing enthusiasts fished at North Mole, Burns Beach, White Hills, Miami, Quinns Rocks, Swan River, Moore River, Tims Thicket, Margaret River, Jurien Bay, Lancelin, Port Gregory and Esperance.

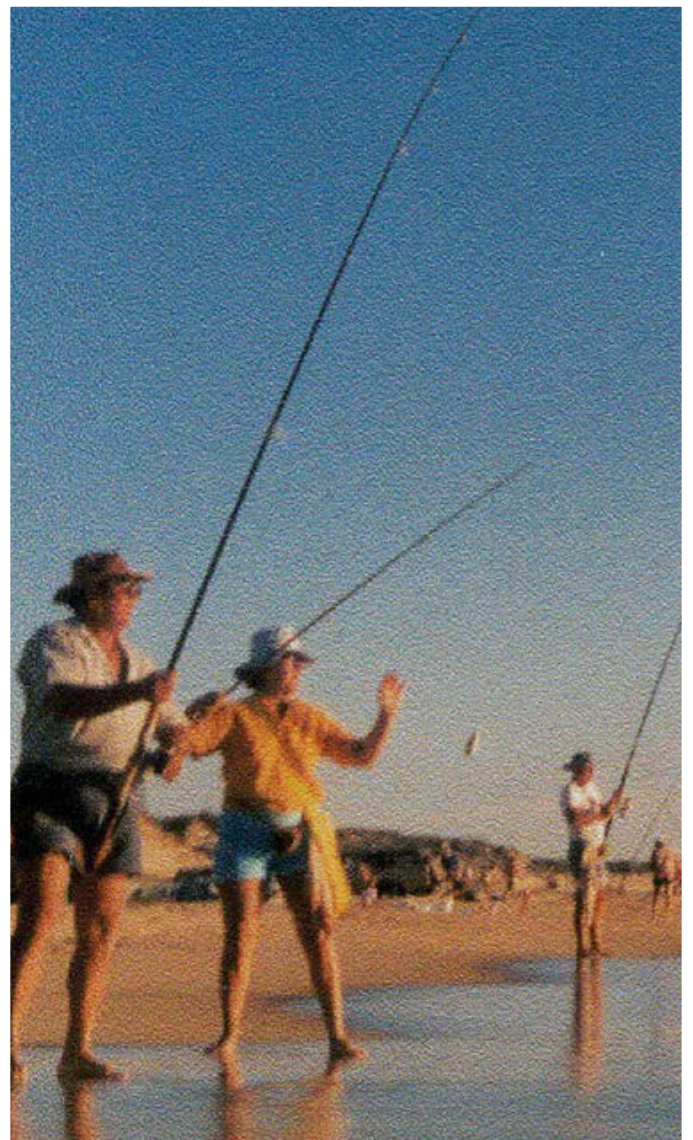
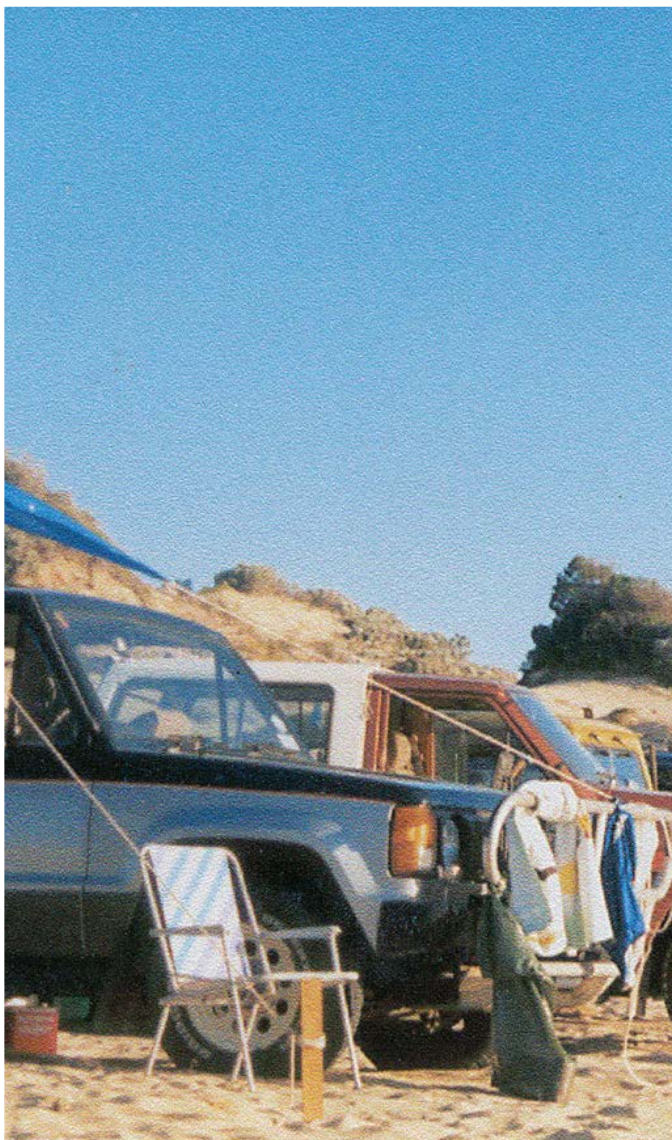
In the 1980's the competition with the Northern Districts Club was the highlight of the club beach fishing calendar.

The year of 1989 would definitely belong to the beach fisherman. For ten years members of the club traveled to White Hills to compete against the Northern Districts Club unsuccessfully. Triumph finally came in the 11th year on the 18th February 1989 and again in 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994.

In 1990 the club participated in the State Estuary Competition and also the State Beach and Rock Fishing Championships after a break of many years.

In 1991 and 1992 the angling section participated in Drycasting events with Sharon Osborne being the Ladies State Champion and in 1993 the Whitfords Sea Sports Club ladies team won the ladies completion with the men's team finishing third.

After 30 years the Whitfords Sea Sports Club angling section continues to thrive with regular monthly events being held with enthusiasm and with the club spirit as high as ever.



DIVING

The Diving section within the club has been active since the clubs inception in 1974 with the first event in February that year. The first event was coordinated by Don and D.J. Baum.

In early years the section was active and 4 members made a trip to the Weebubbie Nullabor caves.

Up to 1975 competition was on a fish capture basis.

The dive section changed in 1976 towards education and participation fell gradually until 1980.

In 1981 there was a renewed interest and participation grew to 30 active diving members.

Over the years the divers have assisted Sea Rescue and other sections within the club and at times helped maintain the sailing racing marks.

In the second 10 years of the club the dive section saw a moderate turnover of members coming and going and there are still a few staunch members participating, however in the latter part of the 1980's it was difficult to find leadership amongst the divers to fill committee positions.

It was not till the 1990's that the section started to flourish and grow to a section of 55 active divers.

Trips away were regular and included the Abrolhos Islands and to a camp at Stokes Inlet as well as local dives and trips to Rottnest.

A trip to Dampier organized by Ron Cutten was a memorable event where members stayed on a house boat in Flying Foam Passage while exploring the Dampier Archipelego.

Dive trips to Indonesia have also been undertaken.

The dive section has grown into a major and important section within the club. It enjoys a high profile thanks to Ron Cutten's efforts in lifting the profile of the club with authorities with submissions to Fishwest and Marine Parks and input into safety and dive rescue organizations such as DANS.



POWER BOATS

General boating or power boating has been represented since the Clubs inception and caters for power boat members various needs.

The section has provided a mix of time trialing, cruising, visiting outport clubs, wine cruises and local events and has in the past incorporated water skiing.

During the last 10 years, 1993 to 2003 the aim of the Power Boat Section has been to have fun and learn about boat safety along our coastline and the Swan and Murray rivers.

Some members have some form of formal boating qualification and local knowledge. This knowledge is passed onto new members.

The range of boats within the club varies from small trailable runabouts, cabin cruisers to launches moored in the Hillarys Marina.

The Section at the start of each club year forms a yearly calendar to co-ordinate the forthcoming events.

Memorable trips have been made to Rottnest, Two Rocks, Fremantle, Cockburn Sound, Mandurah, the Swan River and Swan Valley as well as visits to other clubs.

Many of the events are over weekends and summer holidays and have involved families and educate the juniors about safe boating.



JUNIORS

The club has continuously over the 30 years promoted and supported junior events in angling, sailing, sea scouts and many other clubhouse events like junior discos and theme days.

When the Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group vacated their control room on the western end of the club in 1988 the room was used as a junior's room. The room also doubled as the water based event control room and start box.

The room was equipped with toys and games for the junior but due to the lack of supervision by parents the equipment quickly became unusable and the room ceased to be used by juniors in 1990.

Since 1990 external play equipment has been maintained and in house activities have been centered on theme days such as fancy dress, discos, Harry Potter theme, Father Christmas day, sand castle days, kite flying days and wizard days.

The sporting side of the junior activities has been covered by the sporting sections with junior fishing days, junior sailing and junior angling being held.

The junior sailing programme was run using the clubs Mirror dinghy fleet.

Of the juniors who have been 'The Club Junior of the Year' the following juniors have maintained continuous membership of the club since winning the award.

- David Youngusband (1985)
- Larni Retallack (1989)
- Daniel Bell (1996) (2003)
- Cory Saxon (1998)
- Kenny Ireland (2000)
- Amy Elliot (2001)



SOCIAL

The club continuously over its 30 year history has organized social events with all sections taking part, and enjoying the club and the longstanding friendships it provided.

The formation of the club was the start of the social section.

The first club social event was held at the Mullaloo Surf Club on the 14th December 1973 and regular dances and socials have been held ever since.

The Annual dinner and prize night in the early years were total club events including all sections.

In latter years the sections have held individual prize nights to honour the achievements in each sport.

The Annual Dinner and Prize Nights in recent years have been held to celebrate and honour the overall club achievers.

The first Annual Dinner and Prize Night was held at the Wanneroo Shire hall in September 1974 with successive dinners held at Onslow Lodge and the Ascot Race Course and then at the clubhouse from 1980.

Father Christmas day has been a highlight and an important social event every year with the first being held on the beach at Pinnaroo Point in 1975.

Many events have incorporated car trials, boat trials, 4 wheel drive picnics, railway trips and bus trips.

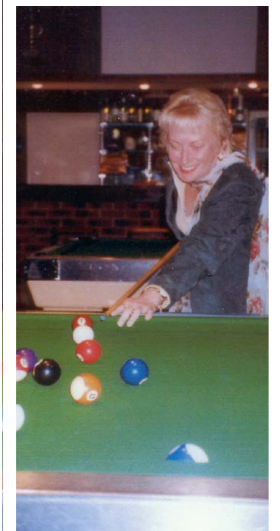
The club has used a variety of venues over the years for meetings prior to the clubhouse being built. The main ones being the Springfield Primary School, Sorrento Hall, The Sorrento Recreation Centre, Warwick Hotel and the Greenwood Hotel.

Since the building of the clubrooms additional club activities have been possible with Pool, Darts and Cribbage being introduced in 1991.

The first pool tables were installed in the club in 1989-1990 year and darts have been part of the club scene since 1987-1988 with regular club and interclub and championship events being held.

In house activities saw Bingo and Wine and Cheese nights introduced since 1984 along with theme events such as Poms Night, Melbourne Cup Day, Hungi Nights, Roaring Forty Night and Stage shows incorporating club members.

A series of Show Times productions gave all the club members a solid diet of humour and enjoyment under the leadership of Terry Burrows who was instrumental in the success of this popular event.



BOAT STORAGE AND HARD STANDING

The first bays were allocated in 1985.

The following years saw the waiting time for a bay extend to more than 2 years.

In 1991 the members applied pressure to increase the available storage area to cater for more boats.

In 1993 the club wrote to the Wanneroo Shire Council requesting a lease to establish a hard standing area on the east side of the access road. A meeting was held with the Council's town planners and on advice from them a submission was prepared for a hard standing area on the reserve 20561. This submission was lodged with the council on the 20th May 1994 and subsequently refused.

As a result a revised submission and formal plans for hard standing was made for a lease on lot 1029 on 25th November 1994 and a two year lease was eventually approved by the City of Wanneroo in May 1995 followed by approval of the Western Australian Planning Commission.

In September 1995 the license for the hard standing area from the City of Wanneroo was signed and approval to start earthworks was given.

At the Whitfords Sea Sports Club management meeting in October 1995 it was reported that club member Rob Gillespie had provided nearly all the sand fill required and had done the earthworks at no cost to the club.

In September 1995 the earthworks were nearly completed and the security fence was erected with \$5447 being allocated for the job.

Power and water reticulation was done and completed at a busy bee on the 12th December 1995 with a sum of \$1500 being authorized for that part of the project.

Progress was delayed on the hard standing until April when the limestone base was laid. As a result of many well attended busy bees the services were finished and the area ready for surfacing.

Stabilized limestone was finally laid in June 1996 taking 4 days on a voluntary basis.

In August 1996 kerbing was complete and on the 12th August 1996 there were 20 boats on the waiting list and together with the 20 already in the old hard standing area. This resulted in the new hard standing area being more than 50% full before it was completed.

The new hard standing area was opened in August 1996 and by November of that year 50 bays were allocated.

The \$20,000 loan taken out for the project was paid back in full within 18 months and the hard standing area continues to be full and a waiting list still exists.

By the end of 1999 the new and the old hard standing areas were fully allocated and have remained so continually.

Special thanks must go to all the club members and volunteers who attended the busy bees and in particular to the following:

- Ron Cutten for pursuing the City of Wanneroo relentlessly
- Ian Younghusband for the presentation and drafting of plans
- Rob Gillespie for single handedly providing all the earthworks and machinery
- Bruce Barnett for providing the limestone road base
- John Howe for providing the machinery and labour to lay the stabilized limestone
- Rob Height who provided the equipment to lay the kerbing
- Bernie Forrestal who obtained the electrical equipment
- Frank Centa who provided the storm water soak well lids
- Tony Sheehan for the revegitation of the surrounding area
- The club management team and club members
- Mike Thompson for the ongoing management of the hard standing area



SEA RESCUE

Prior to 1987 the Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue group occupied the Whitfords Sea Sports Club's premises.

In 1987 the Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue moved to their own premises adjacent to the club on the club's northern boundary. The early years up to 1993 are recorded in the 10th and 20th year editions of the club history.

1996 saw the group finally take ownership of "Green 1" which was a dedicated custom built sea rescue vessel.

Green 1 was christened on the 14th of April 1996 at the Ocean Reef Boat Harbour by Mrs Jean Hall.

The Sea Rescue group has since purchased another dedicated rescue vessel "Green 4". Six private vessels still make up the Green Squad and these are used for major searches and training exercises.

Robbie Young the sea rescue commander of the day took the opportunity to recognize Jean Hall and her daughter Annette Hall for their 20 plus years of dedicated service to the sea rescue group.

On the same day Green 1 was christened both ladies were made life members of the Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group.

Jean, Annette and Henry Hall together run the alternative base station from their house in Marmion.

In 1996 Mr Paul Filling JP was made Patron of the Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group and was still the patron and a great supporter in 2003.

The group runs the following courses from their clubrooms with volunteer members.

- The small craft safety course (TL3)
- Basic Navigation courses
- Restricted third class radio operators course
- Basic radio course

The significant drop in numbers of overdue and "call out searches" strengthens the argument for education on the water.

An average of 300 rescues are still carried out each year with boats being towed back in getting bigger requiring the need for larger and more powerful rescue vessels.

The introduction and affordability of the GPS has had a significant impact on the time and fuel spent searching for vessels.

The Sea rescue Group initially came under the umbrella of the Western Australian Water Police but now comes under the control of the Fire and Emergency Services of Western Australia (FESA) and still continues in 2003 to work with the Water Police and the Dept of Fisheries and the Dept of Transport.

In 1998 the Group made changes to its constitution which removed the requirement that the Commander be a member of the Whitfords Sea Sports Club and form part of the clubs management. This allowed Sea Rescue members who were not members of the Whitfords Sea Sports Club to fulfill roles on the sea rescue committee.

The Whitfords Sea Rescue group still remains very closely affiliated with the Whitfords Sea Sports Club.

In 2003 the Whitfords Sea Rescue Group remains the biggest sea rescue group in Western Australia and with 4 base stations and the headquarters at the Ocean Reef Boat Harbour provides assistance to the boating community 24 hours a day 7 days a week 365 days of the year.



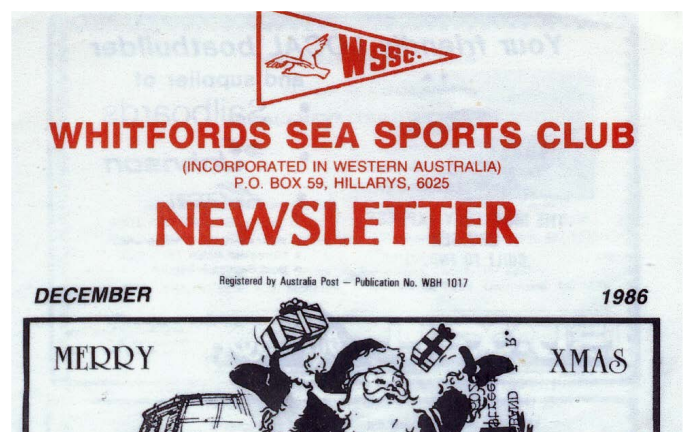
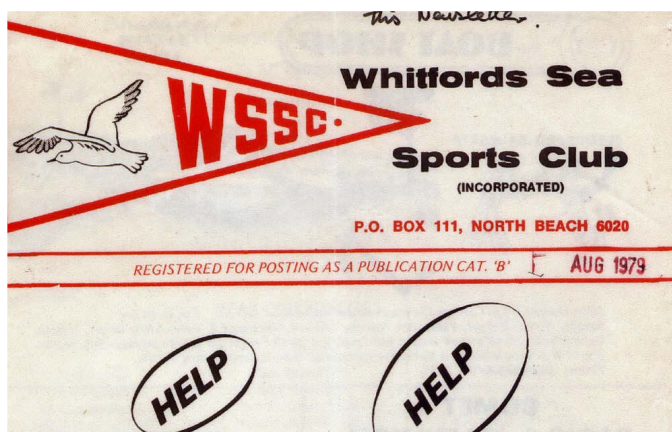
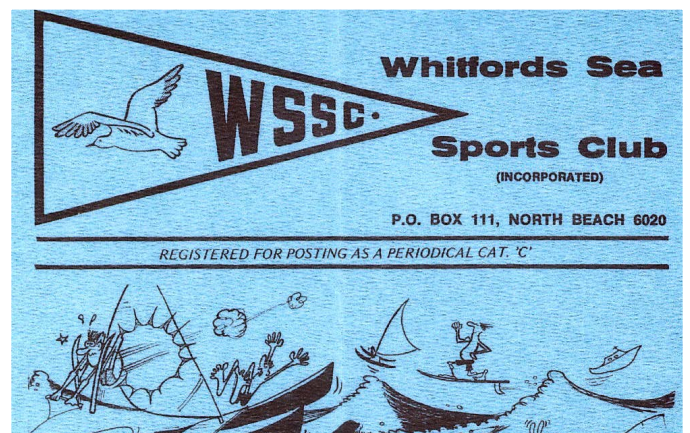
NEWSLETTER

The Club has always had a newsletter with the first edition being produced in December 1993 and consisting of 4 pages.

Its production, style and name has varied over the years depending upon the resources of the Club.

- The "NEWSLETTER" from 1973 to August 1976.
- No name from September 1976 to February 1981.
- The "NEWSLETTER" from March 1981 to December 1986.
- The club magazine was named the "TIDE" in January 1987 and that name has been used since then, except for one issue when the tide went out for the July 2002 issue when the club magazine was called the "BULLETIN".

The "TIDE" quickly came back and the name has survived till now. (September 2003)



MEMBERSHIP

The membership has varied over the years and has been influenced by a number of external factors.

During the early years the clubs membership grew along with and in parallel to the population of the district and the enthusiasm and expectations of the new clubhouse and launching facilities.

Since the peak of membership of 1000 from 1978 to 1980 when the club house was built, the club's membership steadily decline to a little over 400 in 2001 reflecting the economic situation and different club initiatives and policies. Since 2001 the membership has gradually increased.

The following members from 1973-1974 that have maintained a continuous membership of the club for 30 years club.

- Eve and Bob Wiltshire
- John Ware
- Ian and Jill Younghusband
- David Younghusband

The following are the members who have held continuous membership of the club for at least 20 years up to 2003

- Frank Balding
- Rolly and Rose Buegge
- Pat and Shirley Buttle
- Charles Chisholm
- Tom Fury
- Phillip Gallagher
- Lance Giles
- Kevin and Viv Gillespie
- Chris and Georgina Grimmet
- Ian Harris
- Alan Hill
- Gary Hollis
- Ted and Margaret Johnson
- Bill and Angela Kellet
- Jim Price
- Maurie and Betty Ramsay
- Darryll , Maria and Larni Retallack
- Barrie and Carol Scholes
- Tony and Jan Sheehan
- David Stevens
- Alec and Anita Sunderland
- Bill Thompson
- Geof Whittaker
- Robin Woods
- Robbie Young

