



2021 is going to be a special year for sailing in South Africa

It has already started, with Peter Sherlock attending his first meeting as Councillor representing the interests of the Cruisers in our community. The Ocean Sailing Association of South Africa (OSASA) is now officially a discipline of South African Sailing, and this association is going to transform the way in which we view our sailing community. The association with OSASA will give SA Sailing new relevance, and OSASA will now be able to achieve its goals with the backing that comes with the



credentials of being part of a fully fledged national federation. I hope that the association will allow the cruising community to feel more at home in the SA Sailing fold – and help achieve a better understanding of what SA Sailing has tried to achieve in their interests over the years.

I plan to maintain the profile of the cruising community as part of the pathway in sailing. My recent interactions with Cruisers, has revealed that many of them have their sailing origins in small (and not so small) inland clubs, where they learned their skills in club racing and honed their skills in regional and sometimes national championships. I suspect that the realisation that their component of our sport is fed and supported by competitive sailing may bring about a different view as to the relevance of SA Sailing to the current Cruisers – but I am absolutely convinced that showcasing the activities of the Cruising community as part of a desirable and accessible pathway for a club sailor will attract many more adherents to Cruising. If sailing is going to grow by us being the people that others want to mix with, then the Cruisers' way of doing things needs to be highlighted.

So, later in this newsletter, there are reports of what happened in the (Covid-truncated but still worthwhile) West Coast Cruise, and in a great initiative styled the East Coast Cruise. I hope every middle-of-the-fleet club sailor will read these reports, and see where they could fit in in the future. I hope too, that there will be young families reading these reports and understanding how much value there is to a family spending time together just messing about in boats.

We should never underestimate the impact of government on our sport. Municipal, provincial and national government all play a part in matters as diverse as access to the water, tenure and leases, water safety and even dredging. In my experience, whenever communication was proper, relationships have been cordial and favourable. That communication is key – especially when our sport is often far removed from the personal experience of officials. The Department of Transport is pursuing the CMTP - Comprehensive Maritime Transport Policy. SA Sailing Councillor Lindani Mchunu has been representing the interests of the sailing community, and in the process of doing so, has established a very positive relationship with officials of the Department of Transport. The CMTP holds huge potential advantages for sailing. We need to understand the CMTP and work out how we can become an active part of the team – and in so doing, cement our position in the maritime structures and protect our interests accordingly. Please read the article on the CMTP below, and start talking to Lindani about the role that you, your club or your discipline could play.

We dare not be myopic in 2021 – there is just so much happening out there. Last year we announced the fantastic achievement of Philip Baum being elected as Vice President of World Sailing. Now it is my pleasure to reveal that a number of our nominations for committees and commissions of World Sailing have been successful. Our congratulations to Heidi Burger, Phillips Daniels and Hilton Hale. We are in a fortunate position having such quality representation at World Sailing. Read more in the World Sailing report below.

And, what's on my agenda for the year to come?

Well, for a recent Council meeting, I enumerated a few aims for the first six months of the year, and set a few goals I would like to achieve in that time. Let me share them with you.

1. Establishing and promoting the concept of a united and interdependent sailing community.

6 month goals - Visit every club in the country for informal discussions with decision makers and influential members. Establish challenges facing the clubs and learn of (and promote) their successes. Make contact with driving forces behind various disciplines especially Sailboard and Kiteboard communities and establish lines of communication.

Establish each Kite Board Brand as a “club”. Offer to make their brand teams members of SA Sailing and allow them access to our back to sport system.

2. Establish an open, easy dialogue with major clubs. They need to be an integral part of SA Sailing.

6 month goals - A regular call to identify/address issues of common interest and concern. Contribute to the resolution of interclub issues. Establish the concept of smaller clubs – especially inland clubs – being feeders for membership of major clubs and finding ways to benefit the concept. (Global SA Sailing “reciprocity” as a promotion).

3. Assess our transformation progress and plot a way forward.

6 month goals - Talk to as many interested individuals as I can. Investigate the deficiencies in retention of individuals into the mainstream. Review strategies and (if needed) plan a new approach.

4. Access and tenure certainty.

- 6 month goals - Consolidate the relationship with Water Affairs and Dept of Transport.
Introduce government to SA Sailing initiatives.
Include inland clubs/waters (as feeders to Coastal Clubs) in initiatives.
Consolidate relationships between SA Sailing and the Dept of Water and Sanitation Land Affairs division
Assist with lease negotiations at identified inland clubs.
Maintain a watching brief on coastal clubs tenure issues – RCYC, ZYC, Buffalo Yacht Club.
Initiate discussions regarding Mossel Bay moorings.

5. Ensure sensible succession in SA Sailing structures

- 6 months goals - Identify areas where succession strategy is important.
- Encourage councillors to seek individuals that they can mentor into their positions.

That is what I will be doing. If there is anything that you think I should be paying attention to, just call me, or send an email. If you think of any way in which you would like to assist, please let me know.

And give some thought to the role you could play in my succession strategy.

Have a great sailing year!

Thank you.

Michael.