

Plug 'N Play, Victorian Speed Sailing Team, Gybe Clinic

14th April

Who would be silly enough to run an event on a forecasted 5 – 10 kt day? Who would be silly enough to turn up on a 5 kt forecast to join in a Plug 'n Play Day and Gybing Clinic?

Well 30 club members were silly enough and we all had a buzz. I love the attitude of our members as no matter what the wind conditions "Let's get out on the water and have fun."



Thanks to Martin Love from KA Sails and Justin Lord from Windsurfing Religion we had a fantastic range of gear to play with. Martin and Justin all talked about the design and function of the gear which was really informative. Justin talked us through the range of Patrick boards, Avanti Sails and C-Tech masts. Interesting to find out the masts are Australian made. The gear was set up for all to use and I gave the 2013 KA 7.5 mtr Konzept sail on my 120 ltr board. Whilst I did not have enough wind to really test it out I found it very responsive to even the slightest puff of wind. The graphics on the Patrick boards looked very sweet and it was great to see a large range. A few members took the Formula board out and Pete got a 15 kts out of it – not bad in probably an 8 kts gust. The 135 ltr wide style looked like it would really go. I think Joel Worner's favourite was a 92 ltr wave board that we could not prise off him. A number of members tried the Avanti Sails – especially the 10 mtr and commented how light they were compared to their own gear. A big thank you to KA And Windsurfing Religion.



Well because there was little or no wind the gybing clinic did not really get under way but thanks to Simmo's big effort during the week we got to try a few manoeuvres out on the "SIMMOLATOR". A lot of theory was discussed in the car park with Kato demonstrating with his hands what we could all do with our feet..... hmmm made sense to me!! Daffy was caught doing the chicken dance to demonstrate his theory on how it all worked and the Western brothers ... well we will not go there – we know what Jacques and Red get up to when they are away from home!

There was another purpose of this day. A time to introduce the Victorian Speed Sailing (VSS) Team's Assault on Luderitz 2013. Andrew Daff, Jacques Kint and Craig Spottiswood. The Club has decided to assist these boys in their quest to compete on the Luderitz speed strip in Namibia, South Africa during October this year. These guys have shown over the past 3 years that they have the speeds to match it with the world's best and will give it a red hot go to put Australian speed sailing on the map once again. Mick Green did a great job of interviewing them and it was enthralling to listen to where these guys had come from and their drive to get them to compete at an elite level. I loved Jacques comment that he was getting fit so his body could better cope with the crashes. Could not imagine hitting the water at 50kts and sliding into the bank. We opened the fund raising for the campaign and it was great to see \$3430 donated on the day. The official website of the VSS will be launched soon were further donations can be made. One of the fund raising ideas we have is to run an online auction. We have already had donated goods of sails, hand crafted furniture and skateboard gear to add to the auction. If you have anything you believe will be suitable (not just



windsurf gear), please email me so we can add it to the growing list of donations. All donors will be recognised on the official VSS website so we can all ride the Luderitz channel with the boys as they hit 50 kts plus. Roy Worner is offering his services as a photographer, free of charge, to take a number of action shots of you on the water. Your cost is just the photograph printing costs plus a donation to the VSS and for a bit extra we will have the Team autograph it. Please email me if you are interested. Have a think about what you can do to assist the boys with the Aussie Assault on Luderitz 2013.

Big thanks to all committee that helped out set up and pull down and Tash for doing a great job behind the BBQ.