

NEWPORT

God's country for salts

SAIL EXPO'S SECOND YEAR IN PITTWATER

Polly Simons

ROYAL Prince Alfred Yacht Club want you to know that you don't have to be a millionaire to go sailing. You don't even need your own boat.

On March 16-17, the club will host the second "Club Marine Pittwater Sail Expo", the only community boating exhibition of its kind. "We want people to have a 'touch and feel' of the boats and to get out on the water," said Expo committee chair, Maurice Gilet.

The free exhibition is expected to attract more than 2000 visitors and aims to give aspiring sailors a chance to check out the club, learn about training, racing, cruising and membership. "This is God's country when it comes to the water," said Mr Gilet.

"There will be everything from Optimist dingies to the maxi yacht Wild Oats X, open for inspection."



From left: Expo committee chair Maurice Gilet and RPYAC's Damian Devine preparing for the sail weekend in March.

Picture: MARTIN LANGE

For expert sailors, the Expo will feature stands from leading marine industry brands and charter services, inflatable boats, shipwrights, rigging, sail makers, marine paints, ropes and marine insurance.

For kids, Volunteer Marine Rescue will be running the sausage sizzle, and NSW Maritime and Water Police vessels will be on show.

Royal Prince Alfred is the biggest sailing club in NSW and counts several Olympians and Paralympians among its 1800 members.

Silver Olympic medallist Nina Curtis will give a presentation on Sunday afternoon. "You can go as far as she has in the club, or just have fun," said Mr Gilet.

A shuttle service will operate from local public carparks to the event.

AT A GLANCE:

WHAT: Pittwater Sail Expo
WHEN: March 16 and 17, 10am-4pm
WHERE: 16 Mitale St, Newport
DETAILS: 9998 3700

THE SPIT

Vet talks rules at next clinic

CARL Crafoord, veteran of 26 Sydney to Hobart races (winning four as navigator) and many Admiral and Kenwood Cups, will speak about the new racing rules at the next monthly sailing clinic at Middle Harbour Yacht Club on Wednesday, February 27 at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome. Cost: \$10 members, \$20 non-members. Lower Parrawi Rd, The Spit, Mosman. Bookings essential through reception on 9969 1244.

BAYVIEW

Keen young sailors wanted

CHILDREN aged 8-14 years should head to Bayview Yacht Racing Association for their next introduction to Sailing course on March 10. Designed to provide a safe and enjoyable introduction to dinghy sailing, it runs on four consecutive Saturday mornings from 8.15 to 10.50am. Cost: \$70 members/\$100 non-members, family discounts may apply. 1842 Pittwater Rd, Bayview. Bookings: 9969 2648.

BOAT MATE

- ▶ Big or Small
- ▶ Power or Sailing
- ▶ Slipway, Painting, Mechanical, Shipwright Repairs
- ▶ We can do it all!

YOUR Boat's Best Mate

sally@boatmate.com.au
www.boatmate.com.au
 Call us on 9997 1144 or 0400018297

View Now!

INTEGRITY
 MOTOR YACHTS THE NAME SAYS IT ALL

Your invitation...
 To view the all new
Integrity 380 Sedan

The Ultimate Getaway!

Tel: 02 9979 9755
 Gibson Marina, Pittwater Rd, Bayview

Performance Boating
 performanceboating.com.au