



WOMEN ON THE WATER

Skippers and crew, keep an eye out for *Women's Helm* boats this week. You'll be able to identify them as they proudly fly the new GFS Women burgee alongside their usual flags.

While some boats will be helmed by accomplished sailors, there will also be women learning to helm in a race for the first time; so please keep that in mind during Wednesday's race.

21 boats have entered the Women's Helm this year. This is a record number that shows strong support for the Club's mission to get more women involved in sailing and Club operations.

The Women's Helm takes place concurrently with the normal twilight race. Boats receive their usual point score, with a separate point score applying to the Women's Helm.

Participants:

Boat	Mentor	Helmswoman
Barubi	Mike Wise	Katherine Gardner
Force Four	Tim Kannegieter	Sally Basten
Kia Kaha	Jim Lelliot	Jane Bolster
Mistress	Ray Hand	Sally Potocki
Restless	Sue Tierney	Margie Powell
Zanda	Phil McGrath	Hami Amirshahi
Banjo	Nick Reed	Kathryn Wotherspoon
Joka	Cecil Williams	Anahita Olsen
Vitesse	tbc	Glenda Cameron Strange
Conquista	Alan Bull/Tim Fletcher	Lucy Windeyer
Hasta La Visa	John Veal	Ann Davey
Serendipity	Peter May	Charlie May
Tana	Pam Joy	Tracey Perkins
Carrera	Brett Odgers	Marianne Urth
French Connection	Mike Murphy/Nick Murphy	Beatriz Calvete
Minnow	Richard Grundy/Stephen Grundy	Deb Hill/Prue Clark
GWM Pennant Hills	Ian Creak	Charlotte Stapf
Meridian	Steve Bradley	Ros Bradley
Etesian	Bram Penberthy	Michelle Tannous
Incentive	Andrew Rickard	Helen Springer
Aetos III	Christian Charalambous	Holly Charalambous

Thank you to all Skippers who have entered the Series. It's no small thing to hand over the helm for several races and actively share your knowledge and skills that took many years of practice to acquire, not to mention the investment of time and money in buying and maintaining a boat. Your support is deeply appreciated.

Thanks are also due to the women who decided to take up this incredibly valuable opportunity to learn to helm. You will not only benefit personally from this program. You also serve as role models for other women interested in sailing.

We are very grateful to have Vanessa Dudley and Lachlan Gilbert – winners of many sailing championships – as volunteer coaches. They will join us when they can to offer additional coaching for our Women's Helm participants.

All participants in the series go into a draw to win champion sailor and renowned boat designer Julian Bethwaite to come out with them at a future twilight race (not necessarily a Women's Helm race) to offer tips and advice.

We now have our own *GFS Women* and *Women's Helm* logos. These were designed by Club member Aniss Adler – the time and effort Aniss put into this project are greatly appreciated.

The expanded Women's Helm is supported by a committee of former Commodores Pam Joy and John Veale, Membership Secretary Chris Gaskell, Twilight Captain Ken Gibson and myself as Vice Commodore.

The support our Commodore, Steve Bradley, has enabled the expanded Women's Helm program to get off the water this season.

Good luck to all participants. Read more about the Women's Helm here:
<https://gfs.org.au/yachts/gfs-women/> Questions, comments and feedback always welcome –
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Vice Commodore