

Welcome to the S4E Newsletter

Mini Keel boats

As has been said over and over, the early versions of our boats were designed and built while living in Singapore. The little 2.3 was originally intended as the perfect sailboat to introduce Asians to sailing. It had nothing to do with disability. This has evolved into a range of boats that are different. They are of Universal Design so anyone can handle them, they don't capsize so you don't have to go swimming, and they are intuitive so they do what you expect them to do. That looks like the formula for great little entry level sail boats for people of all abilities, particularly for school kids to show what a healthy and inclusive sport sailing can be.

A really positive development has been the recent acknowledgment by Australian Sailing that Hansa sailboats are indeed keelboats, and not dinghies after attempts to capsize them failed. Capsize is possible however in any sailboat as its related to sail area versus wind strength, its contingent on setting the appropriate sails, and so like all keelboats you reef your Hansa to maintain comfort, control and safety. We changed our name from Access Dinghy because our Class Rules stipulate the keel is always locked down when sailing, and they have a reefing system to control sail area which makes them keelboats. Moving body weight to enhance stability is optional.

This change in designation is important as training protocols for keelboats are different to dinghies where teaching capsize and righting drills, and tiller steering is mandatory. Dinghies freely capsize, meaning swimming in increasingly polluted waters to re-right the boat is a constant threat, and surely scares away as many newcomers as it attracts. In a world where sailing participation is declining, and OTB clubs are dying, why do the marina based clubs, which are full of keelboats, laboriously instruct children in boats like Optimist dinghies when these kids could be in full control of their own mini keelboat, racing around the buoys on day one of the course.

If you want to learn to sail in Australia there are Commercial Sailing Schools (CSS), traditional Yacht Club (YC) based programs often run as, or by a CSS, and more recently we have Discover Sailing Centres (DSC), which may be stand-alone or associated with a YC.

Our Patron

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General the
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Inclusion Index

GOLD—INCLUSIVE. Intentionally designed to be inclusive. Open to anyone/everyone using Universal Design equipment and governed by Universal rules which the vast majority can understand and comply with. The equipment levels the playing field which empowers people and encourages individuality. Ideal if there is provision for those who cannot participate independently to be chaperoned. Gold Inclusive sparkles most where everyone becomes a sailor with lessening emphasis on difference/disability.



LILAC—INTEGRATED. Open to everyone, but accommodates people with a disability with modified/adapted equipment. Examples are modified craft with sail area reduced for the safety of people with a disability, modified rules for people with a disability or additional seating to accommodate a disabled crew member on a yacht.



BLUE—EXCLUSIVE. Open to everyone, if you are good enough to gain entry. Includes elite mainstream competition like the Olympics. Conventional equipment may only be usable by able bodied people, so its therefore inadvertently discriminatory.



JADE—OPEN POSITIVE SEGREGATION. Supports individuality, supports competition, only people with a disability, but all disability can participate. Discriminates against not-yet disabled people.



GREEN—EXCLUSIVE POSITIVE SEGREGATION. Supports individuality. Includes elite disabled competition like the Paralympics and world championships dominated by supported national teams. Competitors require classification. In Paralympic sailing's case not all physical disability, or intellectual disability is accepted. Discriminates against able bodied people.



RED—BENEVOLENT POSITIVE SEGREGATION. Open only to people with a disability, maybe even those with a specific disability, Individuality is not encouraged, most participants are chaperoned. Examples are Special Olympics activities, the many benevolent Sailability programs which offer therapeutic sailing to clients, as against sailors. Also missionary approach.



Mini Keel boat

Recently Sailability NSW became a DSC, and the SNSW affiliated branches can be accredited as DSC's. Many branches have taken this on and so far seventeen SNSW sailors have been accredited as Keelboat instructors and will teach the keelboat syllabus. These instructors range from able bods to wheelchair users and demonstrates the possibilities and depth of what inclusion really means.

The next step is a Junior Mini Keelboat program at a mainstream club or Discover Sailing Centre, using our 2.3 or 303 to introduce mainstream school kids to sailing. That will of course be a fully inclusive program for all the kids, regardless of their difference. The standard keelboat syllabus is however slanted too far towards the adult crew of a full size keelboat, so we are revisiting our Access Beginners Certificate (ABC), giving it a new name, and eventually submitting it for approval as a syllabus for children sailing mini keelboats.

We will keep you informed of progress.

Meanwhile if anyone would like to use ABC, have ideas on its new name, or any other interest in this project, email chris@hansasailing.com



Chris Mitchell wins Maritime Medal

At a ceremony at the recent 50th International Sydney Boat Show, Hansa Sailing's Chris Mitchell was awarded the prestigious 2017 Maritime Medal.

He shared the medal — awarded for selfless, outstanding and sustained contributions to the sector — with Mike Jarvin who has spent decades selflessly promoting positive outcomes for the maritime community.

Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Roads, Maritime and Transport Kevin Anderson MP said for 20 years Chris Mitchell has been a key person in advancing disabled accessibility through vessel design, infrastructure and advocacy.

"Chris is an inspiration. He volunteers countless hours assisting disabled people to sail at various events and places around the Shoalhaven. His boat design for the disabled is used in 35 countries.

"His commitment to universal maritime design for the disabled is second to none. Because of Chris's work, people now have the ability to sail in a dignified manner and in vessels designed to meet their needs."

"Chris is a most worthy recipient of the Maritime Medal and I am proud to see he has been recognised today," Mr Anderson said.

Chris is founder of Hansa Sailing Systems. Almost 3000 Hansa sail craft have been sold in 35 countries. Hansa is an internationally recognised sailing class.

Speaking at the International Sydney Boat Show awards ceremony, Chris said: "Hansa boats are of Universal Design and therefore can be sailed by anyone. The ballast keel, seating facing forward, steering with a joystick, and the reefing system, make them very stable, safe, and easy to handle. They became the foundation of Sailability in Australia, and subsequently internationally.

Chris had opened his remarks by saying: "Thank you very much for this recognition, but we also need to acknowledge my partner Jackie Kay. She should be recognised as the mother of Sailability around the world."

You can read Chris' response in full—or see the video—via [this link](#).



Changing of the Guard

The IHCA now has a new hierarchy.

After twelve years in the Secretary's role, David Staley had elected not to stand for the position again at this year's AGM.

Following a world-wide hunt, Angela Herrera from Chile has put her hand up for the position of Executive Officer.

Angela, along with her partner Thomas Elton, are the cornerstones of the formation of the new Chilean Hansa Class Association and sail in Chile. They spent time in Australia earlier this year at the Hansa Sailing factory and attended the Asia Pacific Championships at Easter. (see [Ole Chile on page 7](#))

The IHCA owes a huge debt of gratitude to David for all his work on behalf of the Class Association over more than a decade.

David's experience and advice will not be lost to the inclusive sailing world. He will continue to be involved in our sport in his role as Vice Chairman of the Para World Sailing Committee.

Angela's first official outing was representing the IHCA at the World Sailing Conference in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico recently. (See page 6)

She can be contacted at angela@hansaclass.org

The 2018 Hansa Class Worlds

Organisers of the 2018 Hansa Class World Championships have revised their logo.

The new logo includes the iconic Hiroshima Peace Dome. This better reflects their wish that the regatta enforces the message of "Peace and Preciousness of life".



Planning is well advanced for the 2018 Worlds. Members of the OA have been visiting hotels and accommodation in the Hiroshima area, measuring and photographing accessible rooms, along with collecting information on everything from places of interest to car/van hire.

The Peace Cup this year was used as a Test Event for the Worlds. Boats were shipped over from Australia to test the customs & quarantine processes to ensure everything runs smoothly next year.

Hansa Sailing Sponsors Business Awards

Hansa Sailing were again one of the sponsors of the Shoalhaven Business Awards.

The company sponsored the Excellence in Inclusion award for 2017.

6 finalists were chosen from fields ranging from sporting organisations to accommodation and retailers within the Shoalhaven region. The Inclusion award is designed to recognise individuals or businesses that address the needs of a diverse community and workforce.

The winner for this year was Kimberlie & Co Cleaning. The company also won the Outstanding Home Based Business and was a finalist in the Excellence in Social Responsibility category.



Started by Kim Mulhearn—a single mother of 6 children—who believes that “everyone deserves a fair go” and underpins her business with the principles of honesty, integrity and mutual respect.

The Business chamber created a short video on the sponsors of the awards, describing Hansa Sailing’s and their inclusion policy. You can see the video on the Sailing 4 Everyone Facebook page—

<https://www.facebook.com/sailing4everyone/videos/735923569950336/>



Hiroshima Peace Cup and countdown to the Worlds

As mentioned on the previous page, the 10th Hiroshima Peace Cup held in October was used as a Test Event by the organisers of the 2018 Worlds.



pitality of their hosts.

The sailors were frustrated across the weekend with the light and shifty winds, however all divisions managed to get some racing in. Full results can be found on the [IHCA website](#).



Sailors from 5 other countries joined sailors from around Japan for the two day event in the Hansa 2.3, 303 singles and doubles and Liberties. International competitors had a chance to view the marina facilities, test the sailing area, accommodation and transport options, and enjoy the hos-

At a ceremony prior to the start of the Peace Cup, a countdown board was unveiled, celebrating the start of the 1 year countdown to the Worlds.

As part of the process of hosting the Worlds, the organisers have been obtaining details on accessible accommodation, transport and attractions.

An extensive list of accommodation options, including descriptions, photos and dimensions are available on the inclusive tourism website—www.itsheaven.org/hiroshima

Competitors planning to head to Hiroshima next year who require accessible accommodation options are encouraged to take advantage of all the information that is available on the Itsheaven website to ensure their particular needs will be met.

The organisers received great feedback from competitors following the Peace Cup. They are hoping to have the Notice of Race, Charter boat and shipping information available shortly, with the online entry to follow,

When released, information will be published on the IHCA website—www.hansaclass.org



2018 Para World Sailing Championships

Details of the 2018 Para World Sailing Championships have been announced.

The regatta will take place at Sheboygan in Wisconsin from September 16th to 22nd. Invited Hansa Classes are the Hansa 303 singles for men and women.

More details will be announced in coming months.

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European Para Youth Games

The European Para Youth Games featured sailing for the first time.

Held in Geona, Italy in October the event saw sailors aged from 12—23 competing in Hansa 303's doubles.

7 pairs of sailors representing 5 nations took part in the regatta. Several competitors went on to Meze, France for the European Hansa Class Championships.

More details are available [here](#).



World Sailing Conference

There were some very positive outcomes for the Para World Sailing Committee from the World Sailing 2017 Annual Conference in Mexico.

The Council approved the inclusion of a Para World Sailing representative into the Athletes' Commission, with voting by the sailors to select the representative.

From 2022 onwards, the Para World Championships will be held in conjunction with the Sailing World Championships every four years.

Council approved the Hansa class equipment and formats for the 2018 PWS calendar:

- Single Person Keelboat (Non-Technical) - Male - Hansa 303 - Short course fleet racing, supplied boat with a Medal Race
- Single Person Keelboat (Non-Technical) - Female - Hansa 303 - Short course fleet racing, supplied boat with a Medal Race

For the summaries of the meetings at the conference, go to their website www.sailing.org



NZ & Australian Championships dates announced

Dates for both the Australian and New Zealand Hansa Class Championships have recently been announced.

The 2018 NZ Hansa Class Championships and Kiwi Cup will be held from the 9th to 11th March at the Bay of Islands Yacht Club. Invited classes are the Hansa 303 single and two person, Liberty and SKUD18.



The Australian Hansa Class Championships will take place at Kogarah Bay Sailing Club in Sydney over Easter—30th March until 2nd April 2018. Invited classes are the Hansa 2.3, 30 single and two person, Liberty & SKUD18.

More details will be released about both regattas over coming months.

France hosts major week of sailing

The Yacht Club de Meze in France has hosted a full week of activities recently.



Prior to hosting the European Hansa Class Championships, a Paralympic Development Program and Disabled sailing conference was held.

Sailors at the PDP battled some strong winds—up to 30 knots—during their clinic.



Unfortunately, the winds did not stick around past the first day of the European Hansa Championships, with light winds causing postponements and lengthy delays for competitors.

133 sailors took part in the regatta across 5 days of sailing and enjoyed some wonderful French hospitality.

Read all about the regatta and see full results at www.hansaclass.org

Olé Chile

Inclusive Sailing in Chile was a pipe dream merely a year ago—but a lot can change in a year!

Since making contact with Chris Mitchell in 2016, Tom & Angela Herrera have travelled to Australia to meet Chris & Jackie and attended the Asia Pacific Championships (as interested spectators as well as competitors) where they took home the International Encouragement Award.

Along with their team, they have seen their first (2nd hand) 2.3 arrive in Chile — followed by a container of new hansa boats consisting of 6 x 303 wide's, 1 x 2.3 wide and a 2.3 single seat—formed Sailing 4 Everyone Chile, hosted their first inclusive sailing regatta and formed the Chilean Hansa Class Association!



They are working hard and getting a lot of support and publicity for their inclusive sailing program in Valparaíso and one of their sailors attended the Para Worlds in Kiel.

Recently they signed an agreement with the local municipality that will see 350 people from the nearby hills come and participate in their program.

They are also working to adapt a Hansa 2.3 so that a girl with no arms is able to steer with her feet and will run the first Chilean Hansa Class Championships on April 14 & 15.

If they can achieve all that in a year, then the sky is the limit in Chile!



Since our last newsletter

Here are a couple of stories that have featured on our website and Facebook page since the last edition of Telltales.

—oo0oo—

[Para World Sailing Championships in Kiel, Germany](#)

The Para World Sailing Championships were held in Kiel, Germany. Prior to the regatta, a Paralympic Development program was held, bring some new faces and countries into sailing for the first time.



[America's Cup sailors take the helm in NZ](#)

Sailors from the NZ America's Cup team—Emirates Team New Zealand—took time out to join sailors from Sailability Auckland and take some young sailors out for a sail.

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Catch up on these stories and more on the s4e [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

The entire back catalogue of Telltales—dating back to 1999 - are available to search and download from our website.

Upcoming Events



December 2017

Japanese Hansa Class Championships Yokohama, Japan. Dec 6th. www.jp-hansaclass.org

January 2018

Victorian Hansa Class Championships Shepparton Victoria January 20 & 21 www.ahca.yachting.org.au

February 2018

Queensland Hansa Class Championships Gold Coast February 24 & 25 www.ahca.yachting.org.au

ACT Hansa Class Championships Canberra February 24 & 25 www.ahca.yachting.org.au

March 2018

NZ Hansa Class Championships Bay of Islands March 9—11 www.hansaclass.org

Australian Hansa Championships Kogarah Bay, NSW March 30—April 2 www.ahca.yachting.org.au

April 2018

Chilean Hansa Class Championships Valparaiso, Chile April 14-15 www.hansaclass.org

May 2018

French Hansa Class Championships Maubuisson. May 18-20 www.hansaclass.org

June 2018

Dutch Hansa Class Championships Frisia, Grou June 8-10 www.hansaklasse.nl

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If you have a story that you would like to share—please send details to Shauna at media@s4e.org