

# SARATOGA SAILING CLUB



[www.sarasail.org.au](http://www.sarasail.org.au)

## 2018 – 2021 Strategic Plan

Updated May 2019



## Executive Summary

Saratoga sailing club is a volunteer-run community club, established in 1972 by an inspired group of tradies wanting to race 12' skiffs. It is now the only community sailing club in the area and provides low-cost facilities for casual and competitive sailing, a venue for National and State, Hartley 16 racing and regattas, budget community hall hire for weddings and engagements, and hosting for dragon boat club racing and visiting clubs.

SSC sits within the under-developed sports precinct that includes Saratoga Oval and Tennis Courts, which with modest investment offers a unique opportunity to be developed into a premier community-based outdoor sports facility serving aquatic sports, tennis and cricket, combined with a family zone to include playground, safe beach and bathing, and barbecue facilities, plus walking and boardwalk to Saratoga Island Reserve (see below and next page).

Whether an integral part of, or in isolation of, a wider precinct vision, the development of SSC to improve access to the hall through a reception bay and lift, and access to the water through a boat ramp and jetty, would facilitate greater community participation in sailing club activities and hall hire events, by allowing less mobile people to access the club hall and continue sailing, and provide access to those with physical disabilities.

The club's mission is to be **an inclusive community club that brings the joy of sailing to as many people as possible.**



This strategic plan includes:

- Water access improvement via ramp/jetty (in progress, pending funding)
- Hall access improvement via lift (in progress, pending funding)
- Replacement start-safety boat (interim replacement in place)
- Kitchen upgrade (completed thanks to NSW Government Grant)
- Hall improvements
- Expansion of events to include sailing market (in planning)

A development committee comprising elected volunteers, has been established that includes:



Wayne Commodore   Steve Secretary   Debbie Treasurer   Robin Developments   Andrew President   Denise RSA   Alison Member

Enhancements to SSC facilities and improved access to the water would increase participation through improved access to fit-for-purpose facilities, which would support the Hartley 16TS regional and national sailing racing events. Combined with improvements to the surrounding sporting precinct this would increase the vibrancy and value of this special part of NSW Central Coast and significantly enhance the lives of people in the area.

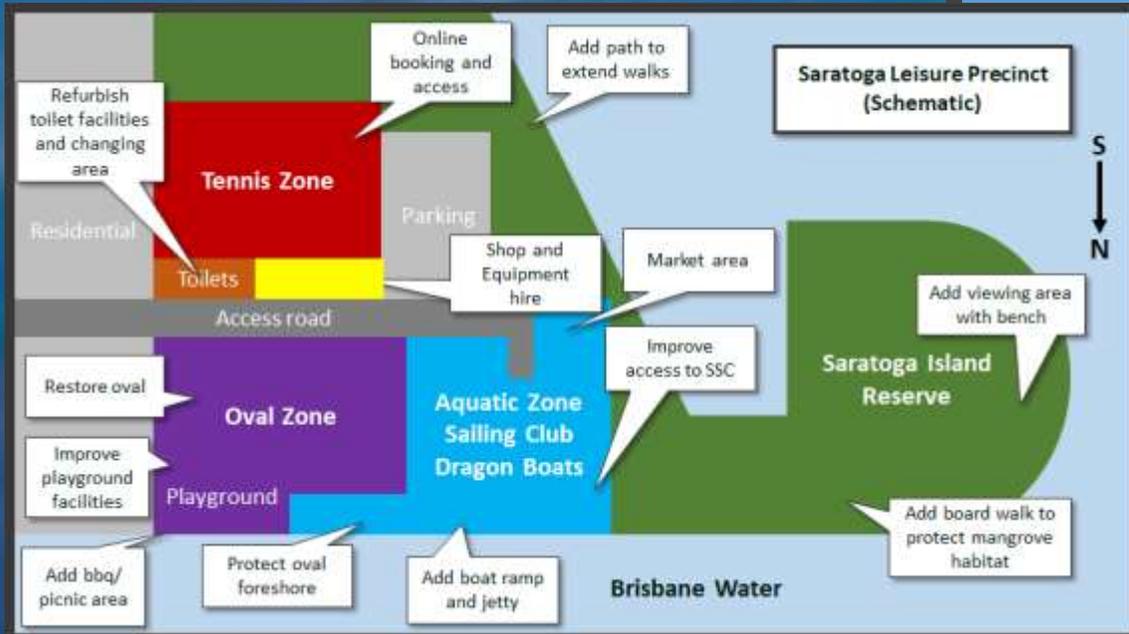
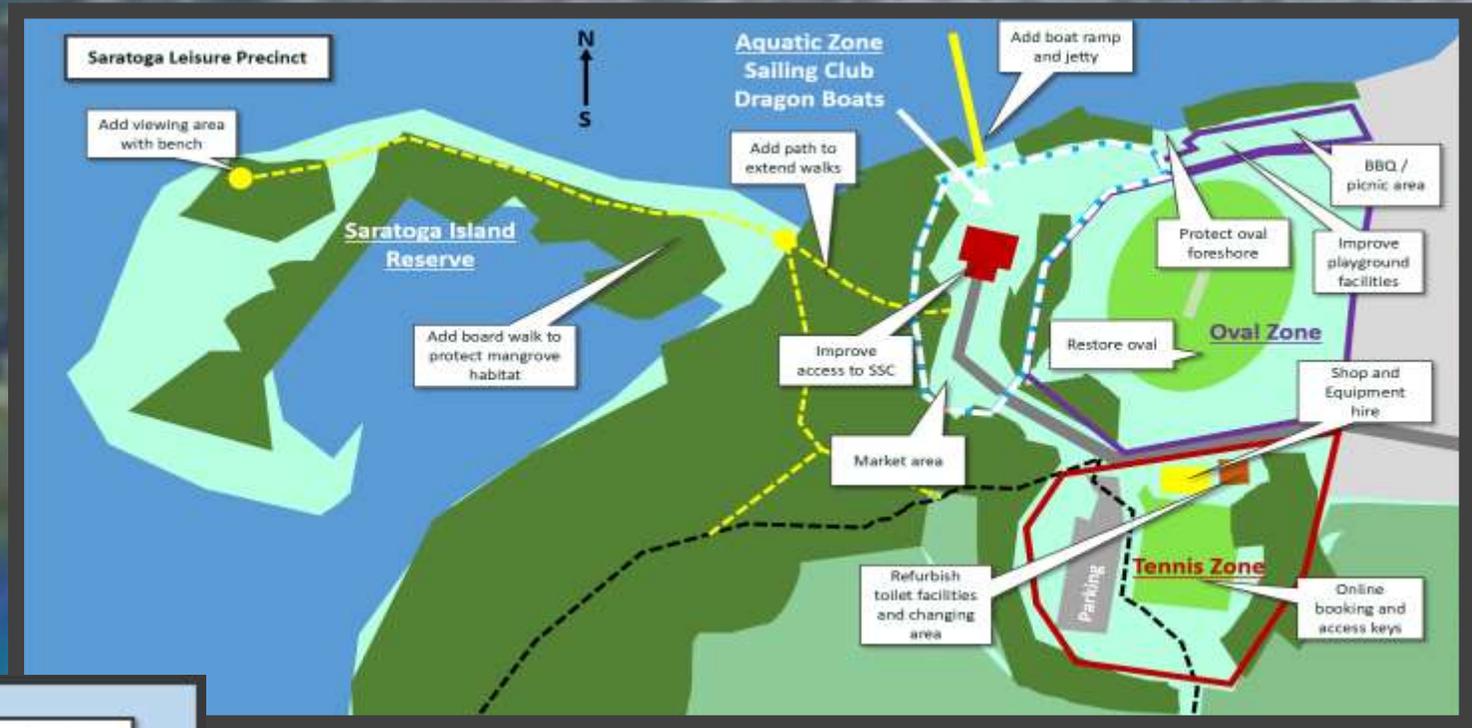
We welcome community and council support for this plan, and funding to support our mission. We would welcome interest the wider precinct vision and would activity support this if progressed.

Saratoga Sailing Club Committee  
October 2018



## A Vision for Saratoga Leisure Precinct

The proximity of the Sailing Club to Saratoga Island Reserve, Saratoga Oval and the tennis courts and associated facilities presents a unique opportunity to develop an integrated sporting / leisure precinct that would stand out in the Central Coast as a premier community outdoor leisure facility in the Central Coast.



Saratoga Leisure Precinct would improve the appeal of the area to people of all ages with a knock-on effect on real estate value and enhanced business opportunities.

Saratoga Sailing Club and Dragon Boats would form an aquatic zone making the best use of this protected area of Brisbane Water. The proposed boat ramp and jetty, combined with additional facilities such as a shop/coffee shop, improved family area with playground with barbeques and protected beach area, and boardwalks offering wheelchair access to the island reserve, would further enhance the site making it suitable for all ages and people of limited mobility.

Digital services would allow on-line booking and access to the tennis facilities to reduce the need for staffing.

This document is the 2018-2021 strategic plan for Saratoga Sailing Club, which could be part of, or independent from, a wider precinct vision.



# THE STORY SO FAR



## Early Years

The Saratoga Sailing Club (SSC) officially opened in 1972. The club original founders were a group of very enthusiastic 12 foot skiff sailors who were also involved in the early days with the Abbotsford sailing club. The club in its early days was made up of mainly hard working aussie "tradies" (Tradesman) or blue collar members who had the good fortune to pay the princely sum of just \$2.00 for membership.

Sailing was going on well before the sea wall was built in the late 70's in Wharf Road (Now Centennial Avenue) and the area had a sandy beach where boats were launched. The early races were started by the lowering of a suitable hanky off the Saratoga Public Wharf much to the delight of onlookers as the races were started close inshore along the beach front foreshore. Saratoga was a small village in those days and everyone was well known in the community so a little spruiking at the local school and everyone would come down and do some sailing.



# The Clubhouse

In the late 70's the SSC moved operations to the Saratoga Oval and leased from Gosford Council, storage shed adjacent to the existing tennis courts for some years. This acted as a canteen and storage area for the club Sabots. December 1972 to November 1975 brought a massive and highly stimulating Regional Employment And Development (RED) Scheme. It is under the program that funding was acquired and labour available to assist with building the existing club at its current location on Crown Land to the Saratoga point. A local shipwright supervised the building of the club at the location in the late 70's. Importantly the club was assisted after the May 1976 State election by the late Brian McGowan the former Labor member for Gosford and Gosford City Councillor. Brian donated a boat and is now remembered as you cross the bridge running to the large sports stadium (Graham Park or Central Coast Stadium, previously Bluetongue stadium) in Gosford. The main roads bridge is named the Brian McGowan Bridge, recognising his commitment to the local area. The stadium is home to the Central Coast Mariners association football club which competes in the A-League and adjacent to the proposed redevelopment of the Gosford waterfront.

The slab for the club was a community event with the Sabot kids wiring the reinforcing for the slab prior to concreting. In the first construction the club had a very high ceiling so that a second floor could be built at a later date so there was only a concrete bottom floor and a canteen. To help fund and build the second floor the club sold bricks at \$10.00 a brick.



# Incorporation

On the 8th November 1990 the Saratoga Sailing Club became incorporated as the Saratoga Sailing Club Inc. A set of rules governing the incorporated association was developed. At a later date a set of Duty Statements for each position was declared and detailed.



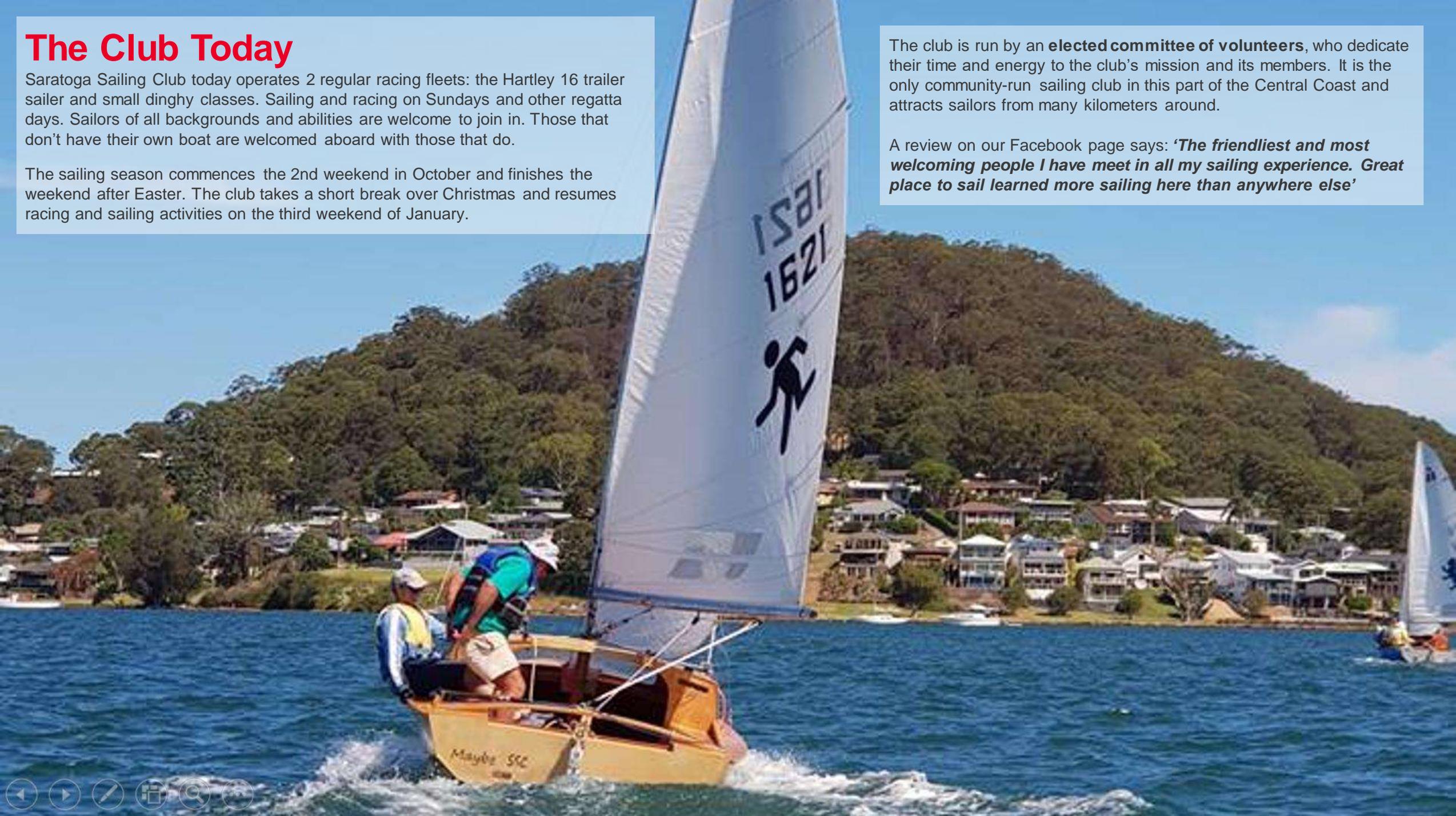
## The Club Today

Saratoga Sailing Club today operates 2 regular racing fleets: the Hartley 16 trailer sailer and small dinghy classes. Sailing and racing on Sundays and other regatta days. Sailors of all backgrounds and abilities are welcome to join in. Those that don't have their own boat are welcomed aboard with those that do.

The sailing season commences the 2nd weekend in October and finishes the weekend after Easter. The club takes a short break over Christmas and resumes racing and sailing activities on the third weekend of January.

The club is run by an **elected committee of volunteers**, who dedicate their time and energy to the club's mission and its members. It is the only community-run sailing club in this part of the Central Coast and attracts sailors from many kilometers around.

A review on our Facebook page says: *'The friendliest and most welcoming people I have meet in all my sailing experience. Great place to sail learned more sailing here than anywhere else'*





Whether racing around marks in glorious weather or pottering up and down on a sunny day, Saratoga Sailing Club can provide an opportunity to sail and enjoy fine camaraderie with like-minded people of all ages. Away sailing events are also a feature for the clubs Hartley TS 16 trailer boats.

After the sailing finishes the club operates after race functions on the deck overlooking the Brisbane Waterway which has views across to Gosford and beyond. The deck view is a fabulous spot to bring relatives and friends. Everyone is always made welcome.



The first floor of Saratoga Sailing Club's club house comprises a large hall, kitchen and toilet facilities, which can be hired for weddings, engagement parties and other special events. The hire fee, which includes crockery for 100 and seating for up to 70 represents excellent value for money for those who want to celebrate in style in a lovely secluded location, but can't afford more exclusive venues. The hall is hired approximately once per month.



**WHAT SETS US APART**

## Community Spirit

First and foremost, Saratoga Sailing Club is defined by our members, who represent a broad spectrum of our society and are friendly and welcoming to all, regardless of background or ability.

The Club is run and cared for by a number of committed volunteers who together look after the grounds and the hall, organise and support events, manage hall bookings and finances, maintain the website, apply for community grants, look after members as well as help maintain boats and provide advice.





## Location

Saratoga Sailing Club is positioned in a stunning north facing location adjacent to Saratoga Island on Brisbane Water. The magnificent vista encompasses Koolewong, Point Clare, Gosford, Point Frederick, Peeks Point, Green Point and the expanse of Brisbane Water.

Brisbane Water itself is a broad inland expanse of sea water, protected from the ocean swell offering safe sailing. Different wind speeds and directions, together with the popularity of Brisbane Water for casual sailing and racing, create diverse and interesting sailing challenges.



## Hartley 16 Nationals

Saratoga regularly races the Hartley 6 Trailer Sailer Class on Sunday and is part of a rotation to host the nationals. The Hartley 16 is a fast boat for 2 people which is relatively cheap to buy and run, and easy for beginners to sail, making it suitable for everyone. It also offers challenges for those with more experience.



## Mixed Fleet

Saratoga Sailing Club operates a handicap points system which allows for a mixed fleet because it equalizes boats of different type and performance. This makes sailing more accessible to those with a small budget and is more inclusive.



## Proximity to the Oval

The Saratoga Oval provides one of two routes to access the water, but is also used for rigging boats prior to sailing. The oval also has a small playground with a swing.

## Social events

Saratoga Sailing Club House is ideal for social events, day or night. The hall and deck area are large enough for 100+ people in comfort and the recently renovated kitchen is more than adequate for catering and the bar license is welcome for an after race drink. There are bathroom facilities upstairs and additional facilities with showers in the boat house.





**Weddings and Engagements**  
Saratoga Sailing Club is stunning location for weddings and other celebratory events, but is currently under-used for these purposes.

## Other club events

Saratoga Sailing Club regularly welcomes other clubs, and is now the home of the Deepwater Dragon Boat Club.





## Dragon Boats

Deepwater Dragon Boat Club has made Saratoga Sailing Club its own and attracts a wide range of non-sailors to water-sports.

# Windsurfers

A fleet of windsurfers has recently joined our mixed fleet. When the winds pick up these go out with foils, making them a real spectacle for any observers.





**OUR ASPIRATIONS**

# Our Mission

An ~~exclusive~~<sup>inclusive</sup> community club that aims to bring the joy of sailing to as many people as possible.



A photograph of a sailboat with two crew members sailing on the water. The boat is white with a wooden deck and cabin. The crew members are wearing life jackets and are actively managing the boat. The background shows a blue sky with white clouds and a distant shoreline.

## Sailing Excellence

We will provide a venue that offers a safe and exciting sailing experience for all sailors, regardless of ability. We will offer friendly advice to anyone interested in improving their skills and demonstrate our success through increased participation, membership and racing success.

The Hartley TS16 is a fast, affordable trailer sailer, designed in New Zealand. It has been a part of Australian Sailing Heritage since the early 1970s.





Race days can be calm or windy, sunny or overcast, but is a rare day that a race is called off due to unfavourable conditions. Sometimes Saratoga Sailing Club is the only club on Brisbane Water.

We will continue to expand our mixed fleet and open this to other classes to make sailing more enjoyable for everyone. Recently we have been joined by a fleet of windsurfers.



We will attract and showcase different sailing classes and this will be accessible to the local community.



# Community Participation

We will provide a focal point for local communities to experience Brisbane Water, with a focus on Saratoga, Green Point, Davistown, Empire Bay and Woy Woy,



We will host events and markets with a nautical theme to complement those already in place in Avoca and Ettalong. We will use these to showcase different boat classes and provide opportunities to try out sailing or get tips.





**WHAT'S HOLDING US BACK**

## Our start boat

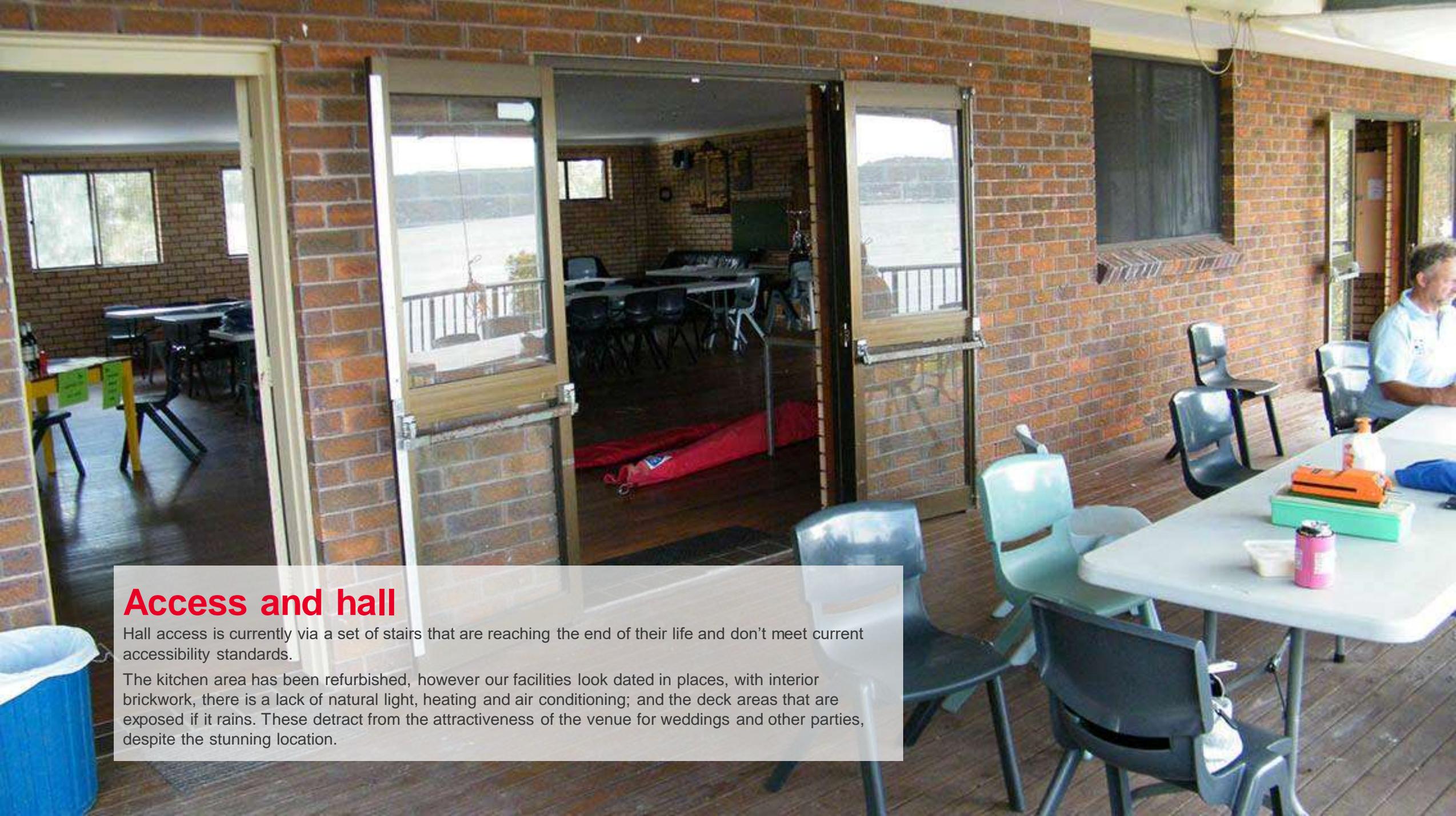
Our start boat is also our rescue boat. The one pictured here has been sold and a temporary replacement found, but we still need a more substantial start vessel to allow for spectators, and with an expanding fleet, and separate rescue boat would be idea.





## Access to the water

Access to the water can be problematic at low tide, when the water can be 100m away across thick mud. This is restricted for those who are less mobile and limits our ability to attract everyone who wants to sail.



## Access and hall

Hall access is currently via a set of stairs that are reaching the end of their life and don't meet current accessibility standards.

The kitchen area has been refurbished, however our facilities look dated in places, with interior brickwork, there is a lack of natural light, heating and air conditioning; and the deck areas that are exposed if it rains. These detract from the attractiveness of the venue for weddings and other parties, despite the stunning location.



## Storage space

Our boat shed has served us well for many years but is full and many of our members tow their boats in for racing. Lack of storage has prevented some from joining as they don't have secure space at home to store their boats.

## Our Fleet

We have a limited number of boats that have been donated, however these are old and this restricts our goal to be inclusive of those who cannot afford their own.



# HOW WE WILL GET THERE



OUTDATED

### **Operations ongoing**

Business will continue as usual with Sunday races, regattas, events, hall hire and fundraising.

### **Safety Improvements started**

Start boat replacement and new rescue boat

### **Access Improvements funding needed**

New ramp +/- jetty, hall extension and improvements to stairs

### **Storage Improvements started**

New under deck storage area, storage for Dragonboats

### **Hall Improvements started**

Cover over deck and interior bar and refurbishment

### **Community Events started**

Annual open day and sailing fair

2018/19

2019/20

2020/21

### **Beyond 2021**

Ideas are already being formed for future improvements that are beyond the scope of this plan but could be incorporated with adequate funding and support. These include upgrading the front of the building to incorporate a reception area, lift and stair access, and a facelift.

## Progress - Temporary New Start-Safety Boat

A temporary new start-safety boat has been acquired, which is more sea-worthy than the old wooden one being made of glass fibre and a newer diesel engine. However this is still not optimal as it is not as large and powerful as would be optimal.

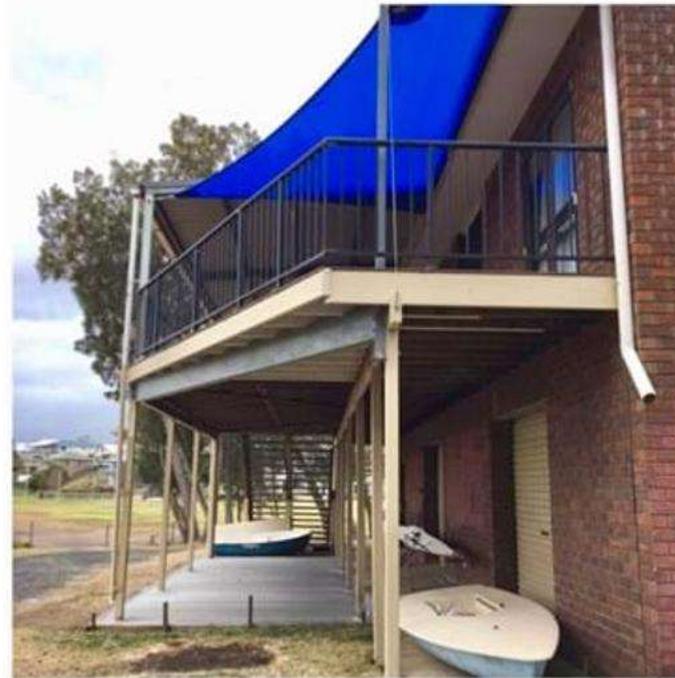


## Progress - New Sail Shade

An exposed area of deck has been protected from the sun with a bright new sail shade. This means the whole deck can be used during hot summer days allowing spectators to sit in the sea breezes protected from heat and sun exposure.

## Progress - Under-deck Storage

A concrete base has been poured under the deck and has been enclosed to provide secure storage for boats. Racks will be installed for lasers and other small boats in this area so that more Hartley TS16s can be stored inside the building.





## Progress - Kitchen Refurbishment

Saratoga Sailing Club was delighted to be supported by NSW Government by providing a grant to refurbish its ageing kitchen facilities. The new facilities can cater for up to 100 people, which is the maximum hall capacity. This makes it fit for purpose for weddings and engagement parties on a budget. The facilities are also suitable for club regattas and other events.

Supported by





### Progress – Grants received!

Adam Crouch MP visited the Club to hand over a grant towards reverse cycle air-conditioning and the start-rescue boat, which have made a huge difference to hall appeal and racing respectively. He started the race and spent the day on the water watching the race from the new start boat.

## Progress – Open Day Event

In combination with Deepwater Dragon Boats we held a very successful open day with sausage sizzle. People were enthused by the opportunity to try their hand at sailing and dragon boat racing, and we signed up some new members on the day. Plans are afoot to repeat the event every year.



# CENTRAL COAST SAILING AT ITS BEST

*Get me sailing! Hire the hall! Sign me up! Check the weather!*

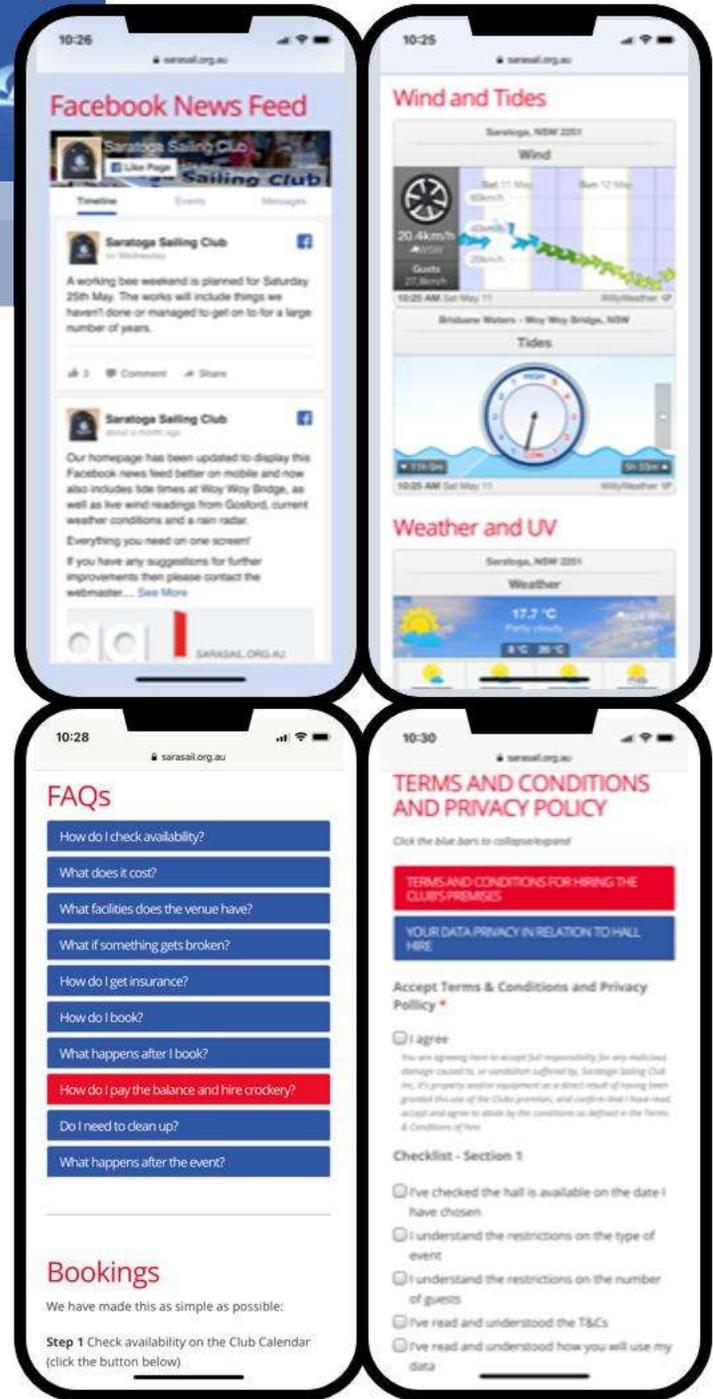
Home of the Hartley 16 Trailer Sailer, small dinghy classes and windsurfing, with sailing and racing on Sundays and other regatta days. Hire our wonderful club facilities with unobstructed water and bay views: ideal for any engagement or function. Click on the menu above or quick links below to navigate, or jump straight to race results, weather forecasts, merchandise or upcoming events. Existing members can sign in here. Saratoga Sailing Club is grateful to our members and sponsors for their support.

Interested in Dragon Boats? Check out Deepwater Dragon Boat Club, which is co-located with us in Saratoga, NSW.

## Progress – Website updates

The sarasail.org.au website has been updated to be more mobile friendly and show news and live wind, weather, UV and tide information from the home page. The hall hire process has been simplified and a number of other enhancements to make finding out about us and contacting us easier.

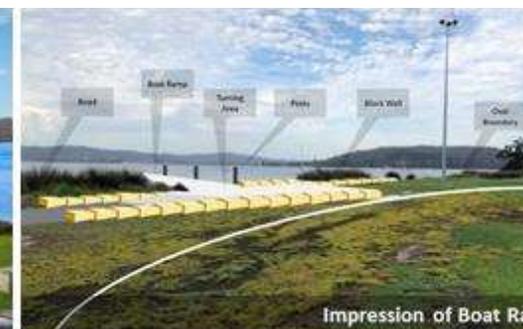
The website has also had its search engine criteria improved so we are easier to locate and the hall hire is more obvious to potential hirers. Photos of club and hall have been added to Google maps.





## Progress - Plans for New Jetty and Boat Ramp

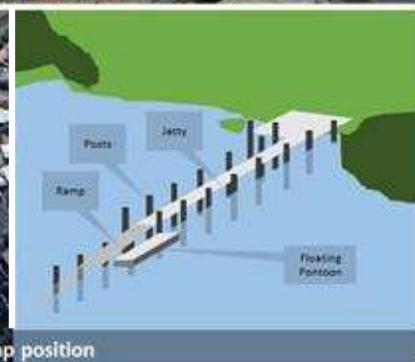
A proposal has been drawn up for new launching facilities to improve access to boats at low tides. This will allow our older less mobile members to use their boats more often and provide easier access for the Dragon Boats, which are becoming increasingly popular with the Central Coast community.



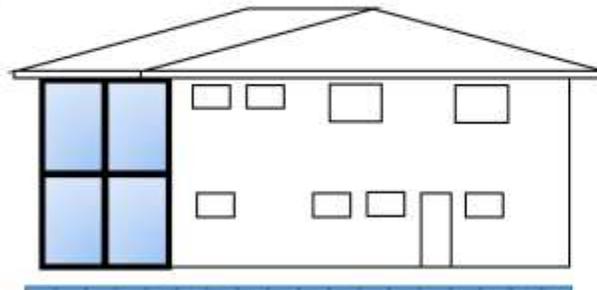
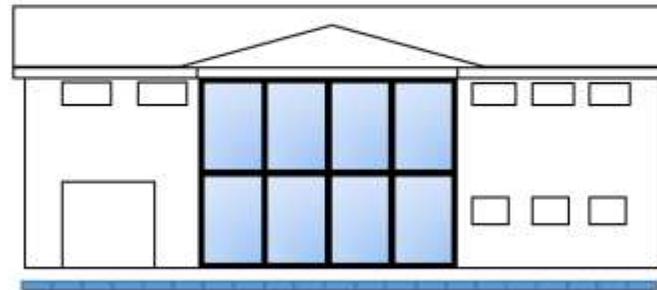
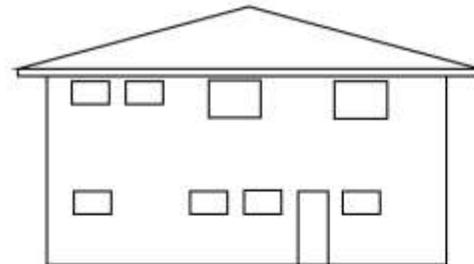
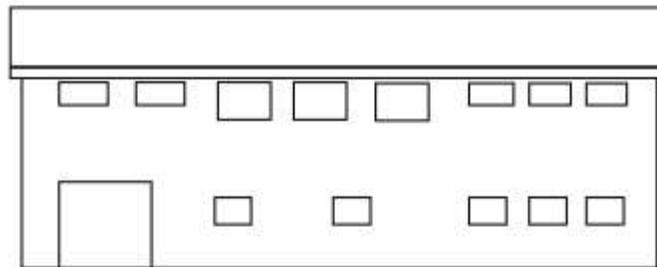
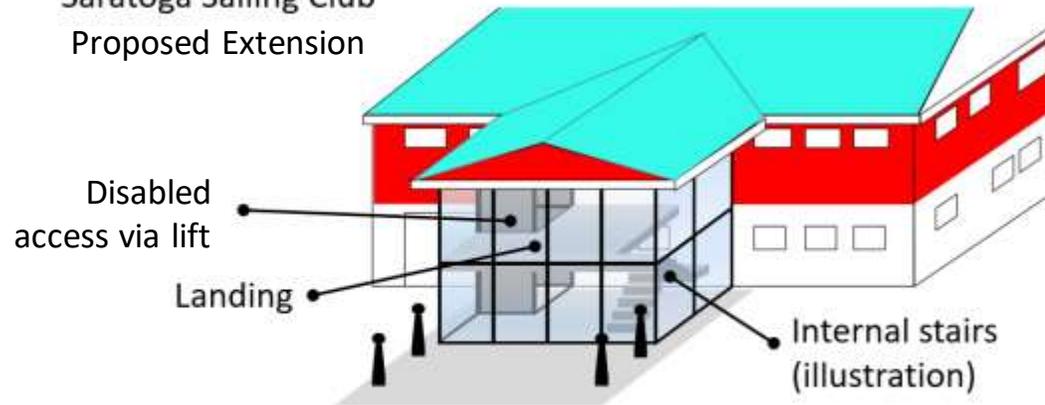
Impression of Boat Ramp construction



Impression of Boat Ramp position



## Saratoga Sailing Club Proposed Extension



## Progress – Plans for an extension

Rough plans have been drawn up for an extension to the front of the club house that incorporates disabled access via a lift and a stairway that provides access to the first floor. This will extend the scope of use of the hall making it more attractive to prospective hirers. It will also make the hall more suitable for community events.



## Governance

The management committee will oversee operations and developments, meeting on a monthly basis.

A development committee will oversee the improvements, with specific members responsible for different projects:

1. Rescue boat replacement and refurbishment
2. Under-deck secure storage and stairs
3. Ramp+/-Jetty
4. Deck sail cover
5. Interior refurbishment and bar area
6. Open day and sailing fair