



## Boating Report 2022-2023

*Nathan Morrissey*

### Boating Activities

This year saw slower activity on the boat than a normal year. Unfortunately, the 22-23 summer season was met with a moderate El Nina weather system, which, not bad enough to stop a day at the beach or your standard shore dive, did stop several boating outings due to last minute change in forecast and increased risk. Other contributing factors were; not having access to Coobowie and it's offshore sites, a Port Victoria trip falling victim to a last minute change in weather as well as many other successful trips that saw the boat staying here in Adelaide. The 23-24 summer is currently predicted to be hotter and drier than the last, so here's for a more successful boating year for the remainder of 2023.

### Boating Safety Session

The club this year, held a Boating Safety Session, which encouraged current and prospecting boat handlers and sitters to come along and familiarise and refresh themselves with the features, equipment and procedures while on board Vitamin Sea. The session was held by myself and several experienced members, it received very positive feedback, and is planned to be held yearly. The session was meant to be followed up with an afternoon session on the water performing safety drills, such as man over board and diver in distress, however again, a last minute weather change meant the drills had to be cancelled.

### Boat Maintenance

Vitamin Sea had a major service this year of 200 hours, replacing several major components of the engine. We also had several minor fibreglass chips in the hull repaired then acid washed, wheel bearings replaced, trailer lights inspected and a condensation issue in the radio addressed. The current state of the boat is in good condition with a few notable items that have been raised in early 2023, including but not limited to; trailer lights are having issues again and the committee has permitted the replacement of the entire wiring harness and the fixtures of the tank rack need attention and may require removing and remounting.

## Safety Equipment

As per Vitamin Sea's yearly safety check, a number of critical items were purchased or replaced:

- Flares
- 10L water jerry
- Fire extinguisher
- Navigational Compass
- Signage for key safety items on board

On top of the purchase of new equipment, the remaining equipment is in fine condition, life jackets, anchor and line, first aid kit (kindly checked and replenished by Steve). Checks have been complete to ensure the boat is compliant for any and all offshore expeditions AUSC has to offer. No outstanding notable items to address with regards to on board safety equipment.

It is unfortunate that I will not be continuing my position as boating officer past tonight, as several exciting life events require more and more of my time, most notably, my recent engagement and preparations for a wedding. I wish the committee, current and continuing all the best, and I would love to be welcomed back in the future.

Finally, I'd just like to say a warm thankyou to all our boat towers, handlers and sitters who volunteer their extra contributions towards the club. The committee works hard to make sure this club has everything it needs to operate, but without you, the club wouldn't be able to offer up many of the key experiences that we provide. Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

So long, and thanks for all the fish.