

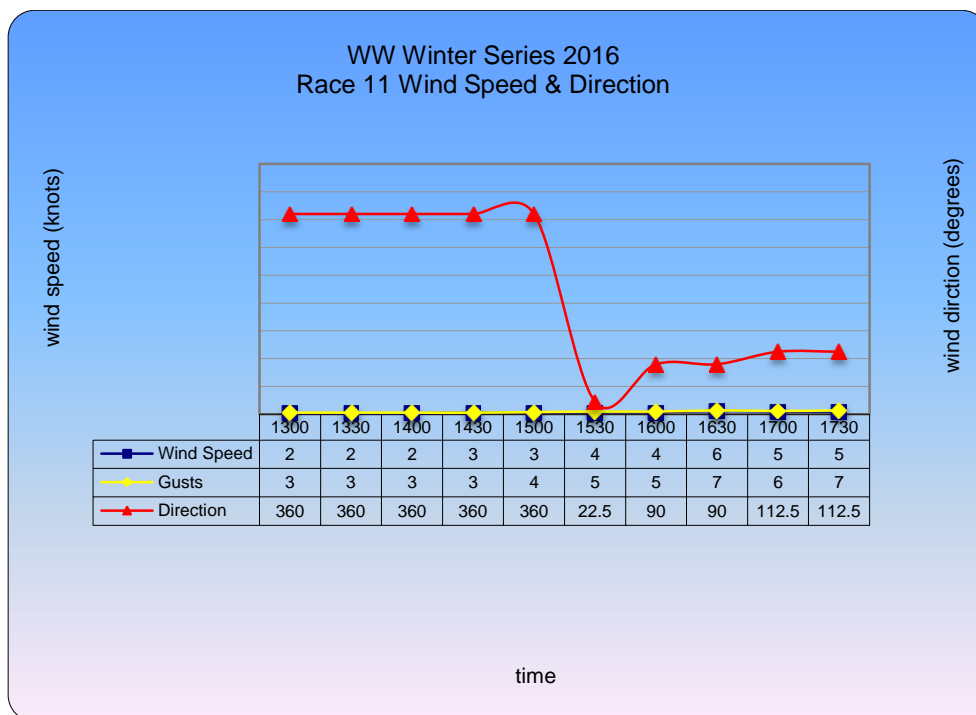
The Flag Says It All

Wednesday Wonders Winter Series 2016 Race 11

15 June 2016



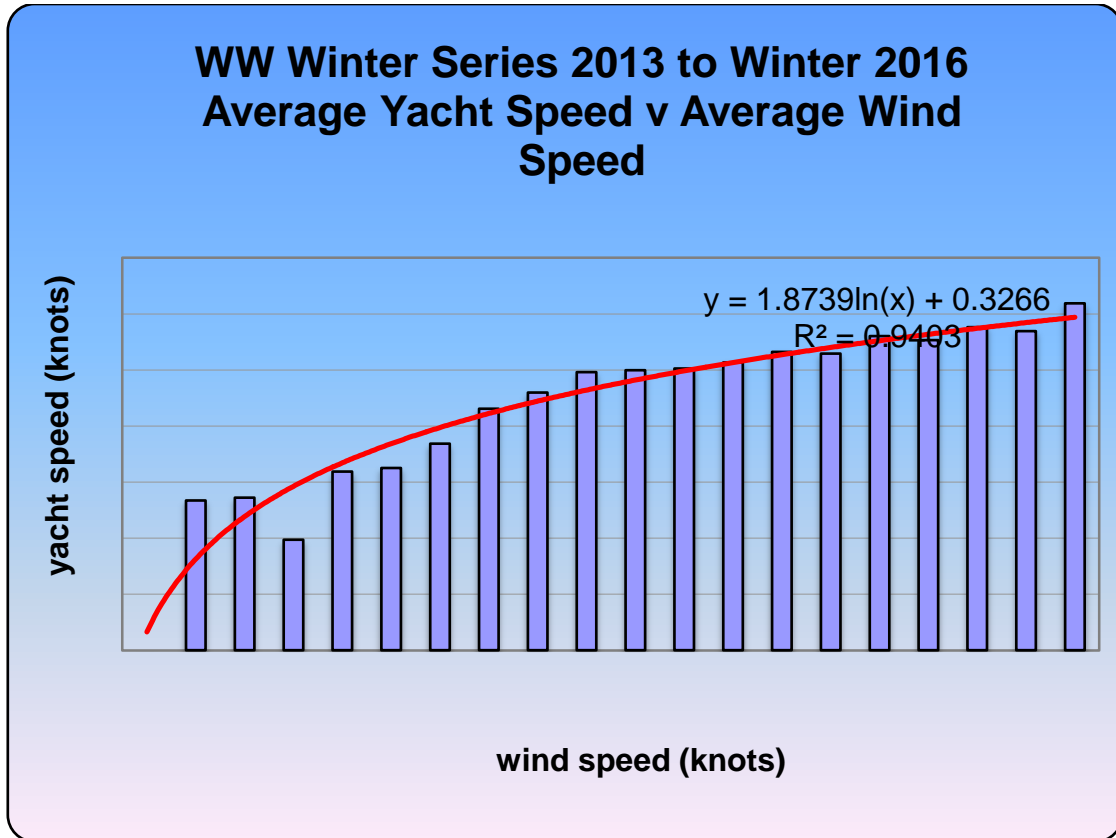
There has only been one completed WW race since the 18th May 2016 and that was in a gentle breeze around a shortened course. Since then, 2 races have been abandoned due to strong winds with this race abandoned due to a lack of breeze. At about 1300 the AP flag was raised and that said it all. It was a sad sight as the flag drooped motionless at 90 degrees to the pole pointing to the roof of the tower. Not only did it signify that the race was postponed but it also showed there was very little breeze – 2 knots at Fawkner Beacon. BOM had forecast 10 to 15 knots for this race but by 1500 the most recorded at Fawkner Beacon for the afternoon was 3 knots ‘gusting’ to 4. However it increased later in the afternoon and by 1630 it was ‘blowing’ 6 knots and ‘gusting’ 7.



What the day lacked in breeze was made up for by plenty of sunshine. There was enough to tempt some yachts out of the marina for a sail. Apparently three yachts found sufficient wind to have something of a race out to number 1 and back. Back in the marina those who choose to remain on yachts and resolve the problems of the world were entertained by the moan of a drone as it flew back and forth as well as up and down between the yachts.

There are 26 races scheduled for this series of which 10 must be completed to constitute a series. There are still 15 scheduled races to go and another 4 is all that is needed to make this into a series.

The following chart is made up from the average wind speed and the average yacht speed from all completed races in the seven WW series from winter 2013 until winter 2016. Throughout that period there were only 3 races that were completed in a breeze of less than 5 knots. The red trend line indicates how yacht speed increases with wind speed which is more consistent as the wind speed increases above 10 knots. There is a marked decline in yacht speed as the breeze falls below 5 knots.



Windward Buoys

Who said there was not enough wind?
Out to No 1 and back at the great speed of
1.6knts. 2.3nm in 1: 27 mins.

However it was a very pleasant temperature
and sailing on flat water is always a great way
to travel.

Race 11 must be a record for a cancelled race
due to light wind, without a start being
attempted, and a postponed start.
This has not happened for at least 14 years.
Brighton YC raced but with a shortened course
around 1530.

Mark Windward Winter Trivia Quiz

The Answers. In Blue

The Winner to be announced next Wednesday (weather permitting)

Question One Who made the recommendation that the Yarra River's course be altered and therefore shortened, by cutting a new canal below the Yarra's natural junction with the Saltwater River?

From 1879 the Lower Yarra's course was significantly changed in order to alleviate floods. The rock bar was blasted and the river was widened and straightened. The original wide loop in the river, west of today's Docklands was removed in 1886 through the construction of the 1.5 km Coode Canal at Fisherman's Bend. This was designed by British engineer **Sir John Coode**. It took 20 years to construct and not only shortened travel time up the river for boats, but also created Victoria Harbour and Victoria Dock. At it's biggest capacity it could accommodate 21 berths (pre Docklands)

Question Two Where do you think this is, and what is the name of this dock? (Photo in 1927)

It is Victoria Dock. It was constructed between 1887 and 1892, under the supervision of Melbourne Harbour Trust engineer Joseph Brady, to modify designs of British engineer Sir John Coode. It is the oldest and largest surviving single dock in the World according to [Wikipedia](#)



Question Three What ship is this? I was first called Berwick and built at the cost of £6,152.11s.4d. I sailed to Australia but ran aground on a reef just off land while landing supplies to a British colony where I still remain.

It is the **HMS Sirius** was the flagship of the First Fleet, which set out from Portsmouth, England, in 1787 to establish the first European colony in New South Wales, Australia. In 1790, the ship was wrecked on the reef, south east of Kingston Pier, in Slaughter Bay, Norfolk Island.

Question Four Before the Quarantine Station was built at Point Nepean what was the name of the ship that arrived with 300 passengers ill with fever and 100 who had died on the way to Melbourne?

The Ticonderoga 1852

The discovery of gold in Victoria was a mixed blessing to the settlement at The Heads. Increasing numbers of ships, with their great numbers of passengers, provided more trade for the supply of fresh meat and vegetables. However the unsanitary and overcrowded conditions not only on board ship, but also in the homes, boarding houses and points of embarkation, aggravated the incidence of disease, and increasing numbers of infected persons were entering the colony.

The full impact of this latter condition was felt when the "Ticonderoga" from Liverpool, with 795 passengers and 48 crew on board at sailing time, anchored off The Heads on the 3rd of November 1852, carrying scores of fever stricken passengers. Word of their plight reached Melbourne on the same day through a report from the skipper of a brig, which had overtaken the "Ticonderoga".

Every effort was made to prevent the spread of the epidemic and the worst cases were placed aboard the "Lysander". However, there were 70 deaths while the 'Ticonderoga' was in quarantine, the victims being interred in an improvised cemetery near the foreshore. Later some remains were re-interred in the New Cemetery about a mile away towards Point Nepean. Here also are buried many of the first settlers, including Ford and Edward Skelton as well as sailors from the ships "Tornado" (1868) and "Cheviot" (1887), which were wrecked at The Heads. Local residents used it until the new General Cemetery at Sorrento was opened to the public in 1890.

Question Five

Which of the following uses of the Quarantine Station is not correct?

- Officer Cadet School of the Australian Army
- A Tuberculosis Colony
- A psychiatric hospital
- A leper Colony
- Quarantine station for incoming ships.

It was not used as a Psychiatric Hospital. The Army used it for an Officer Cadet School and the Army School of Health from 1950 to 1998. The Nepean Historical Society notes that: There are accommodations for refugees. The station was handed over 1998.

Question Six

Which of these was not a Bay Steamer? Ozone, Weeroona, Sandridge, Hygeia

The Sandridge was not a Bay Steamer. The most prominent early resident of the area now known as Port Melbourne, was Captain Wilbraham Frederick Evelyn Liardet, who arrived in 1839, and established a hotel, jetty, and mail service. Liardet later stated that before his arrival the surveyor William Wedge Darke and his family had camped on the beach in their two roomed, carpeted wooden caravan known as 'Darke's Ark'. Liardet credited Wedge with cutting the first track to the beach through the tea tree scrub and hoisting a barrel on a pole, on a high section of ground, to point the way back to the Melbourne settlement. From this signpost its first official name, 'Sandridge', was said to have originated.^[4] The area also became commonly known as 'Liardet's Beach' but Liardet himself was said to have preferred 'Brighton'. It became Port Melbourne in 1884.

For more of the history of Paddle Steamers & photos [CLICK](#). You will **not** find the Sandridge listed.

Question Seven

This photo was taken in 1926. What is the name of the central pier being constructed?

It is Station Pier



Aerial View of Port Melbourne Piers circa 1926 when Station Pier (centre) was under construction. *Public Record Office Victoria, VPRS 12800 P1, H1239.*

Station Pier was known as Railway Pier and was opened in September 1894. The first significant railway line in Australia ran from the pier to Melbourne and was opened at the same time. With arrivals increasing due to the gold rush the pier was extended to 661mts. With new steamships arriving at the start of the 20th Century the current pier was built (1922-1930) and is the largest timber piled wharf in Australia. It had, when built, five rail tracks along each wharf face. It catered for the Bay Steamer Excursions with an extension on the southern side. It now has four berths operating. On the east for the Tasmanian Ferry 220mts, and a cruise berth 223mts. On the West a Royal Navy / Cruise berth 185, plus another cruise berth 305mts. Each berth has a maximum draft of 10.3 meters

Question Eight

The Port of Melbourne currently consists of several major man made docks. How many can you name?

The 11 listed docks by the Port of Melbourne are: Webb Dock West, Webb Dock East, Appleton Dock, Swanston Dock, Victoria Dock, South Wharf, Gellibrand Pier and Holden Dock, No1 Maribyrnong, Yarraville, and Station Pier.

For a map to check locations [CLICK](#) see Port of Melbourne, Economic Impact document page 4

Question Nine

What is the name of the oldest building in Melbourne, built in 1840 and demolished in 1950's? It was built in William's Town of blue stone. Its roof was originally thatched but then replaced with iron. It was intended as a wool store but was also used as a prison, a barracks and a brewery. It was also the place where the body of John Price was strung up for safekeeping after a prison work gang attacked him. John Price came from Norfolk Island and ruled the prison brutally.

Situated in the midst of a busy industrial suburb, about four miles, as the crow flies, from the heart of Melbourne, is an old bluestone building known as the **Williamstown Stockade**. It was built in the year 1840, and was Melbourne's oldest building until it was demolished in the 1950's.

Question Ten

What navigational aid was erected in Australia in 1852 that may have been the first of its kind in Australia? It was built of Blue stone and replaced a timber building that served the same purpose. It served its purpose from 1858 until 1926 and was dismantled in 1932. This was when the operator died. It now still operates after being restored as it did when it was first built.

The Navigational Aid is the Williamstown Timeball operated from 1858 until 1926. Now thanks to the Williamstown Historical Society in 1989 it has been restored. To read more [CLICK](#). Only 4 other working time balls exist in the world. The story I like most about the Timeball is:

By the 1920s time signals by radio had increasingly taken over the visual signal from time balls. In 1926 Able Seaman Richard Vaughan, whose job it was to look after the time ball, became ill and died. The Time Ball failed to operate. There were few, if any complaints. It seemed no-one was aware that it was not operating. After a few months passed the operation of the Time ball was discontinued. An ugly circular tower was built on top of the tower and it became a lighthouse once again.

Thanks to those who entered Mark's Trivia quiz. The winner will be announced next Wednesday. See you on the water then, weather permitting. I hope you learnt a little bit more about our local marine history from reading these questions and the answers.

The days will be getting longer so the weather might improve.

Updates: SHANTI left Mooloolaba doing 5.3knts towards Noosa Heads

BLUE FLYER is at Rushcutters Bay, Avg. Speed 6.1 knts

Any stories, comments, news and advice please send to [MARK WINDWARD](#)