

## Wednesday Wonders Summer Series 2014-15 Race 14 It Had to Happen Sometime

14 Jan 2015

The last time it happened (a Wednesday race abandoned) was race 24 held on 17 Sept 2014 during the winter series. On that occasion the forecast for Port Philip included a strong wind warning and a forecast of "south-westerly" 20 to 30 knots around the middle of the day. Squalls around 40 knots possible this afternoon." Observations recorded at Fawkner Beacon indicated the breeze for the race averaged about 20 knots – much less than expected. *Windward Buoy*

For this report there is a change in the order of things. Windward Buoy's Report and his interesting statistics on wind strength follows Mark's questions.

### Question ONE

#### How far in advance should races be abandoned?

1. Ten minutes, or just before the first yacht is closing in on the start line, so it gives something for those still in the bar to watch.
2. At least 45mins before the first yacht is to start. That would be at 12.45 so no yachts have to leave their pens.
3. At 12.00pm so sailors can have a leisurely lunch and maybe an extra drink.
4. At 11.00am so skippers can notify their crew in advance not to leave home and drive a long distance to SYC.
5. At 10.00 so my wife/husband has time to arrange all the jobs for me to do as I will be at home for the day.
6. At 9.00 so I can reorganize my day before my husband/wife finds jobs for me to do.
7. At 8.00am so I can go back to bed and sleep in.
8. About 20 hours in advance (with a strong or gale warnings) so I can organize to play golf.

Please respond to Mark Windward with your preference [Mark Windward](#)

### Question TWO

#### Should start time for Wednesday Wonders Summer Races be changed back to 14.00?

Windward Buoy has included in his stats a summary of the wind at various times during WW summer races for this season.

This has prompted Mark to look more closely at the starting time for summer races. Just a few facts to consider.

Current positions in the series are

First ten yachts to start average placing - 41.3

First 22 yachts average placing - 33

Last ten yachts to start average placing -10.4

From the winter season we do know that the handicapping generally worked well.

We know that in summer the sea breeze comes in late afternoon.

In race 12 it was not the sea breeze but lack of wind that destroyed the handicaps even before many yachts had crossed the start line. Average starting time for the first 10 yachts to cross the line was 7.08 mins late. The last ten yachts start time average was just 0.44 seconds.

It is only in recent times that the start time has been moved forward to 13.30 and not 14.00.

In the last 15 years there has never been a postponed start for a race on Wednesday.

This maybe due to the lack of skippers not knowing what an AP flag looks like, or failure in mathematical ability to adjust their yacht's starting time by adding 30 or 60 mins.

Mark would like you to send your comments [Mark Windward](#)

## RACE 14 Sailing Report

As only Sm303 ventured out beyond the breakwater this is the only yacht to report on.

The sequence of events in this non-race was as follows:

All crew arrived and ready to sail.

Around 13.00 radio confirmation was given that the race was definitely going ahead.

With some difficulty Pippa departed from the pen with other yachts in A wing preparing to sail.

About 1.10 Course 13 was announced.

Pippa heads out with reefed main and number 3 jib.

Tacks towards the start line with speeds of 6~7 knts. With just 0.47 nm to the line, Pippa was ready and set up to win start of the day.

At 1:22:15 Race 14 is abandoned.

Pippa's GPS recorded an Ascent 3.00mts Descent 3.9mts.

What was the circumstance that caused the late decision to abandon the race?

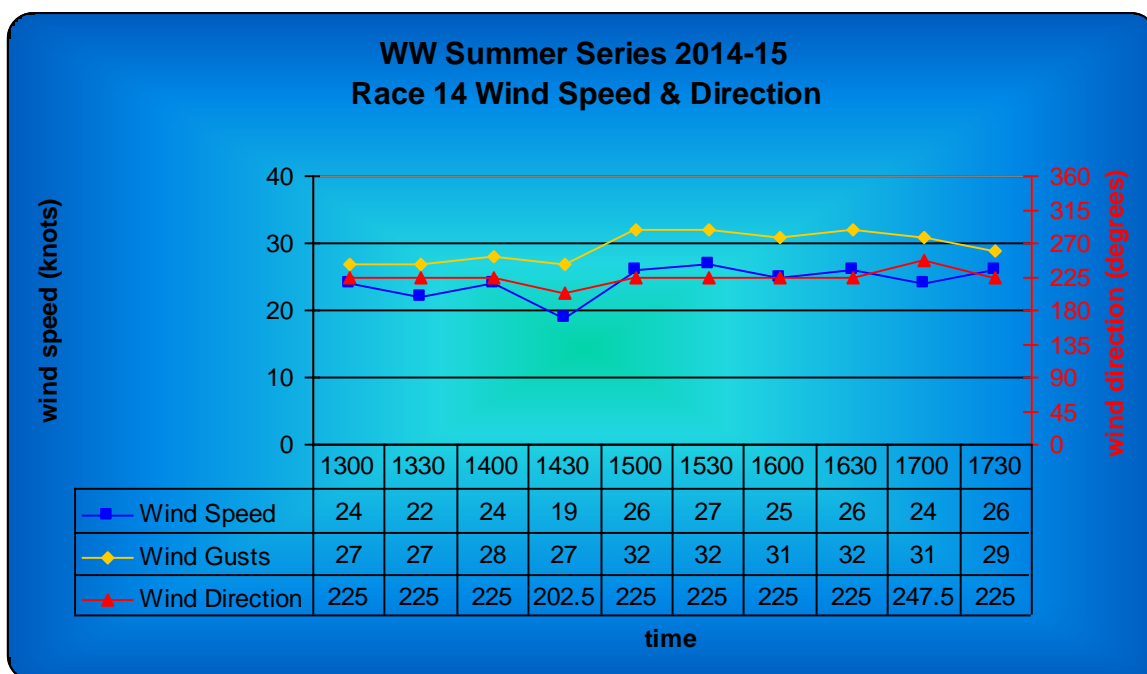
The strong wind warning was in place at the start of the day.

If a race is to be abandoned surely the decision should be made prior to a time when the first yachts would be leaving the pen.

## Video for the week

Just in case you were not watching last Wednesday's race, this footage might substitute your wave watching [CLICK HERE](#)

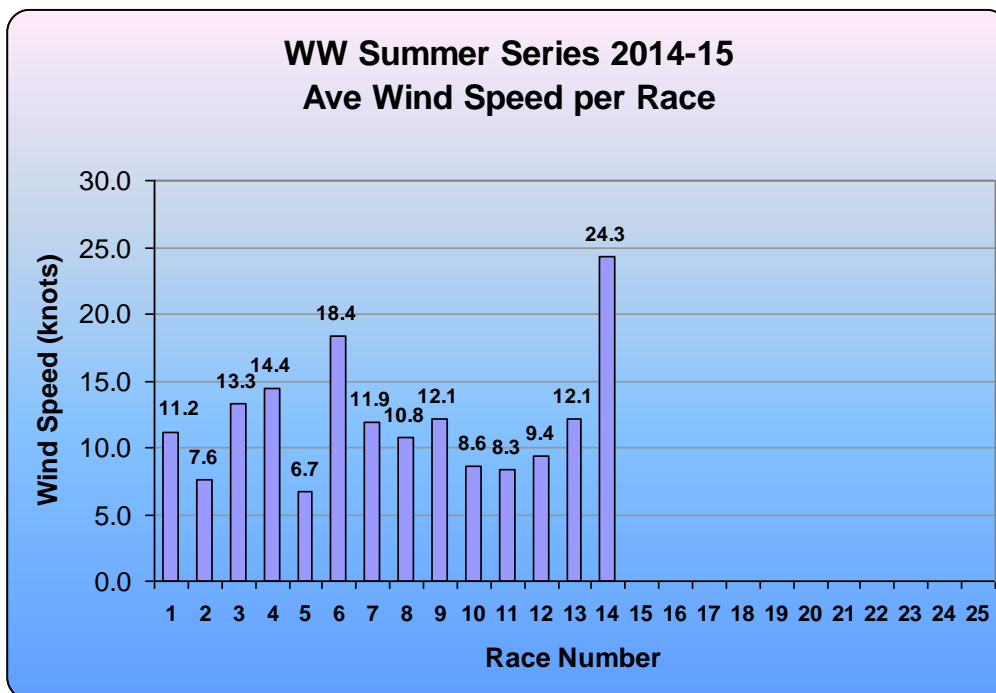
## Back To Windward Buoy's report...



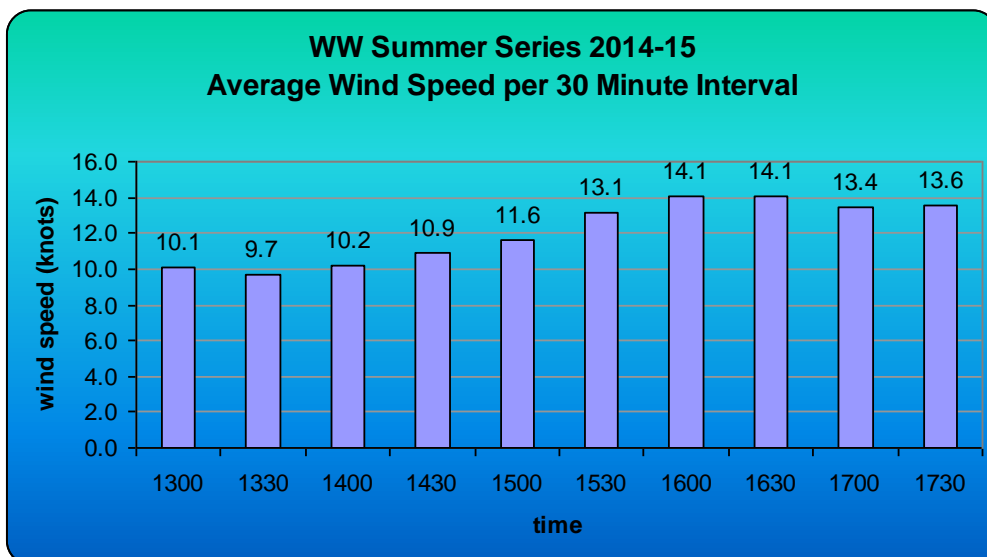
For race 14 the forecast for Port Philip again included a strong wind warning with a forecast of "Westerly 15 to 20 knots turning southwesterly 20 to 30 knots early in the morning."

As the graph indicates, observations from Fawkner Beacon were almost in line with the forecast. The average wind speed for the afternoon was 24 knots with average gusts around 29 knots. Following a run of 13 races this became the first race of the summer series to be abandoned.

Compared to previous Wednesday's this series, the breeze for race 14 was about 24 knots - approximately double the average of 12.08 knots with 5 of the races recording an average of less than 10 knots.



The development of the breeze as the afternoon progresses is shown in the graph below. It is interesting to note that there is a reduction in wind speed between 1200 and 1330 before an increase that continues until about 1630. This general trend is likely to be the impact of the afternoon sea breeze.



*Windward Buoys*

On average a start at 14.00 instead of 13.30 would be sailed in an extra 0.5knt.  
 On average 60mins later shows an increase in the breeze by 1.2knts.  
 It is clear many of the races this season have been sailed in light breezes. Races 2,5,10,11 and 12 had an average of 8.1knts of wind.

## Answer to Race 13 Questions

As Prof A replied the ship was the [CSS Shenandoah](#)

The ship is the US Confederate Navy ship USS Shenandoah “ which skipped port without paying.”

Capt. Tom also was correct. “Mark - where do you get these things from??? I believe the Mystery Ship is the famous Confederate Commerce Raider -- CSS SHENANDOAH -- launched as SEA KING in the Clyde in 1863. She and her Captain certainly made an impression when they visited Melbourne. Cheers –Tom”

If you looked carefully you might have noticed the Confederate flag flying.

See [www.seaworks.com.au](http://www.seaworks.com.au) with information about the Shenandoah and the display over Australia Day weekend at Seaworks. More info [Click](#).

The poster for the Seaworks Maritime Festival 2015 features a large image of the CSS Shenandoah. At the top, there are two logos for the C.S.S. SHENANDOAH 150 YEARS anniversary. The main title reads "When the AMERICAN CIVIL WAR CAME TO AUSTRALIA". Below this, it says "Part of the SEAWORKS MARITIME FESTIVAL JANUARY 24-26 2015 | 10.00AM - 6.00PM". A list of activities includes: HISTORIC SHIPS • AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MEMORABILIA AND RE-ENACTMENTS • CANON FIRING • EXHIBITIONS • MUSIC • FOOD • SHIP MODELS • WATER ACTIVITIES. The right side of the poster contains the festival details: SEAWORKS MARITIME FESTIVAL, A big weekend of maritime events, and a list of special events and exhibitions including ship models, re-enactments, and music. It also provides dates, entry fees, and contact information for tickets and updates.

**When the AMERICAN CIVIL WAR CAME TO AUSTRALIA**

*Part of the*  
**SEAWORKS MARITIME FESTIVAL**  
**JANUARY 24-26 2015 | 10.00AM - 6.00PM**

HISTORIC SHIPS • AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MEMORABILIA AND RE-ENACTMENTS  
CANON FIRING • EXHIBITIONS • MUSIC • FOOD • SHIP MODELS • WATER ACTIVITIES

**SEAWORKS MARITIME FESTIVAL**  
*A big weekend of maritime events*

The Confederate raider CSS Shenandoah's visit to Port Phillip in January, 1865, is one of the greatest stories of early colonial Melbourne and Australia's only significant link to the American Civil War. The ship arrived unannounced in Hobsons Bay on its way to the north Pacific Ocean to destroy the Union whaling fleet. While docked in Melbourne, she illegally recruited 42 British subjects. She went on to capture or sink 39 commercial Yankee ships by June, 1865. But as the civil war had ended in April that year, the Shenandoah's crew risked being captured by the Yankees and hung as pirates.

January 25, 2015, marks the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the ship into Melbourne. Seaworks in Williamstown will commemorate the event over the Australia Day long weekend as part of the Seaworks Maritime Festival.

**Special events and exhibitions:**

- The Shenandoah Exhibition incl. the largest collection of American Civil War memorabilia in Australia
- Re-enactments
- Canon firing
- Wooden boats
- Ship models
- Deep sea diver show
- Maritime exhibits
- Roving performers
- Music every day
- Amusements for kids

**Dates:** Saturday Jan 24, Sun January 25 and Mon January 26, 10am to 6pm  
**Special Shenandoah commemoration:** Sunday, January 25, at 11.30am  
**Entry fee:** \$15 adults, \$2 children, \$25 a family, concession \$5  
**Avoid queues at the gate, buy a ticket through [www.seaworks.com.au](http://www.seaworks.com.au)**  
**Visit [www.seaworks.com.au](http://www.seaworks.com.au) or follow us on Facebook & Twitter for updates**

Avoid the traffic, come to Williamstown by train!  
Note: no dogs, bicycles, skateboards allowed on site.

**WWW.SEAWORKS.COM.AU** 82 NELSON PLACE WILLIAMSTOWN

On October 8 1864, *Shenandoah* sailed from London as the *Sea King*, ostensibly for [Bombay](#), India, on a trading voyage.

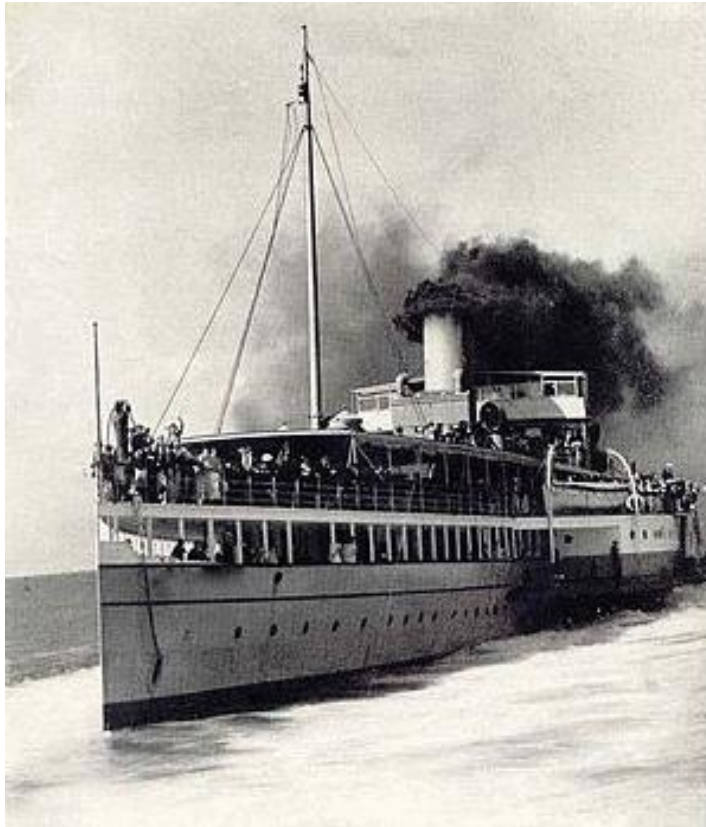
The Confederate cruiser was commissioned on October 19, with her name now officially the *Shenandoah*. Captain Waddell then sailed her around the [Cape of Good Hope](#) of Africa and headed across the [Indian Ocean for Australia](#). He captured one prize in the Indian Ocean, then took on additional men and supplies in **January 1865 at Melbourne, Victoria**.

During her year-long service as a commerce raider, *Shenandoah* caused disorder and devastation around the globe for Union merchant shipping. In an important development in international law, the U.S. Government pursued claims (collectively called the [Alabama Claims](#)) against the British Government, and, following a court of arbitration, won heavy damages. *Shenandoah* remained at sea for 12 months and 17 days, traversed 58,000 miles and sank or captured 38 ships, mostly whalers. Waddell took close to one thousand prisoners, without a single war casualty among his crew; two men died of disease. The vessel was never involved in conflict against any Union Naval vessel. She captured and sunk United States merchant vessels. In 1866 the US, having taken possession of *Shenandoah*, sold her to the [first Sultan of Zanzibar](#). On April 15, 1872, a hurricane hit Zanzibar. *Shenandoah (El Majidi)* was one of 6 ships owned by Seyed Burgash which were blown on shore and seriously damaged.

## Race 14 Questions WHAT WAS

The name of this ship? Her first & normal route? The trade was she purposely built for?

*I was built in Glasgow in 1910 by AS Inglis. My weight was 1412 tons, and I was 310 feet 6 inches long. I could carry up to 1,900 passengers. I was purchased by the US Navy and operated in Papua & New Guinea for a while. When the US Navy had finished with me I was in very poor condition. I was towed to Sydney Harbour and was finally scrapped in 1951. Your parents might remember me.*



Send your answer to [Mark Windward](#) Looking forward to your feedback, responses and contributions. Thanks to Windward Buoy for the good & bad wind...nothing personal. Next week a coloured yacht has said he might declare his true colours!

Why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?