

HOW DO WE GET STARTED?

There are 1000's of sailing clubs sprinkled throughout Australia. Most clubs that service dinghy racing are usually family orientated volunteer run, unlicensed venues, but there are much larger licensed Clubs with the same emphasis on family and participation. Most Clubs offer Introductory and Learn to Sail programs.

Clubs racing the Manly Junior (MJ) can be found on Pittwater, the Hawkesbury River, Sydney Harbour, Botany Bay, Port Hacking, Port Kembla, Coffs Harbour, Jervis Bay and even some inland NSW Clubs.

The sailing season typically starts in September and runs through until April. Clubs have their own Training and Racing Programs. Some clubs are able to provide Winter Training and after school lessons. A lot of clubs have Accredited Trainers and all Clubs are required to conduct their operations in accordance with the ISAF International Racing Rules of Sailing and the Yachting Australia (and State Bodies) Special Regulations in respect to safety.

THE COSTS

Initially, clubs that run Introductory or Learn to Sail classes will be equipped to supply a compulsory Personal Flotation Device (PFD) and boats on which to learn. Some clubs have 'club boats' which are available for on-going use with varying terms and conditions.

Membership of a club automatically entitles the member to a Yachting Australia Personal and Accident Insurance cover. Further costs depend on the road your family chooses to take. If a child has found a crew spot then arrangements are usually agreed on with the boat owner. Personal outgoings will include appropriate 'gear' - PFD's, wetsuits, rash-shirts for sun and wind protection, booties and gloves. If you choose to become a boat owner yourself then on-going costs will include shed rent (if available at your Club), compulsory \$10,000,000 public liability cover, and 'wear and tear'.

The MJ website has a good second hand boat sale list that normally has a range of prices from about \$1,000 to \$5,000. The price of a second hand MJ is not necessarily an indication of its racing ability. MJs are a 'one design' class. In the right hands and with the right rigging, an older boat can outperform a newer one; however, the primary differentiating factor is the weight of the hull, with some older boats tending to be a little heavier. The second hand list is healthiest towards and after the end of each season.



**Welcome to the
wonderful world
of the
Manly Junior
the best junior
training boat
since 1959**

www.mj.yachting.org.au

HISTORY

The first MJ was designed and built by Ralph Tobias in 1959 out of the Manly 14ft Skiff Club, now known as Manly Yacht Club. At the time there was a lack of a small class of boat, with three sails, the ability to plane and carry a crew of two.

In 1961 the Manly Junior Sailing Association of NSW was inaugurated and by 1967 over 1400 boats had been constructed and the first design change was implemented. By 1970 there were State Bodies in Western Australia, Tasmania and the ACT and the first National Championship was held at Manly Yacht Club. The 1980's saw the introduction of fibreglass boats and by the 1990's new hulls included a false floor to enable self-draining, making the boats considerably more adept at dispensing water after a capsize.

The MJ celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2009 and remains a very active class with over 100 boats registered with the State and National Associations. There are many legendary sailors who have often been quoted saying "the MJ is the best junior training boat of all time" and the reason for this is the original foresight in designing a junior boat for 2 children that is exciting to sail. MJ sailing is more than competition it is also an adventure!



HALL OF FAME

The 2012 Australian Sailing Team returned from the London Olympic and Paralympic Games with four gold and one silver medal collectively. Four of the twenty-one sailors representing our country started their sailing careers in a Manly Junior. There are many Olympic, World, and Americas Cup winning sailors whose names appear on the Honour Board of the Manly Junior Association.



LEARNING-PARTICIPATING-RACING

Like riding a bike once there is an understanding of the basic Points of Sail, those 'points' apply to almost every boat large or small. Sailing can be enjoyed recreationally or competitively, in enclosed or open waters.

Sailing is for the whole family and there are many Introductory or Learn to Sail classes for adults and children. So don't restrict the learning to the children, no-one is ever too old and as a fair warning junior sailing does not happen without the support and supervision of adults. Sailing is not a 'drop off – pick up' sport and it is a requirement of most Clubs that an adult be present at all times during any sailing activity.



Most children are tactile learners so giving them any opportunity to be on a boat is the best way for them to learn the basics in a fun and exciting way. When they are confident and keen to learn more, then further educating and training follows. Every Club will have their 'old salts' and 'young guns' who are able to foster and teach young sailors. MJ's are designed for children between 7 – 14 years, with 16 years being the age limit for Class events. However, if a child is particularly confident and competent then starting younger is not a class restriction but a decision for the adults. The recommended youngest age would be no less than 6 years.

The Manly Junior Sailing Associations of Australia and New South Wales are not-for-profit parent volunteer run organisations whose objectives are to promote and further the interest of Manly Junior Sailing. This is achieved by conducting three State Championship events per season and one National Title event. A component of the State Championships includes one weekend where a Rookie Fleet participates. The MJ teaches children independent decision making, team work, the fundamentals of sailing and the disciplines of racing. Thousands of children have learnt to sail in a Manly Junior. Visit the MJ website for more information.

