

MEET THE MEMBERS Q & A

BRIEN HENNESSY



How long have you been at PDSC?

Since January 2001

What does being a member of PDSC mean to you?

My Perth family.

What are three words you would use to describe PDSC?

Family, community, resilient

What do you wish other people knew about PDSC?

That it's a community full of great people from all walks of life, and not just a dinghy shed.

Do you have any other hobbies apart from sailing?

No- sailing is my hobby.

What is your day job?

Anaesthetist

Which four individuals in the world, living or dead, would you like to have dinner with the most?

My nuclear family: Mandy, Sean, Genevieve and Rosalie.

My siblings: Tony, Jack and Jill.

Others might include:

Socrates, William Butler Yeats, Brian Schmidt (Australian astrophysicist, Nobel Laureate), Akshay Venkatesh (Australian Mathematician, Field's Medalist).

First memory at PDSC?

Sailing an old plywood Javelin, crewing for Steve Watts. Although we swapped roles after the 25th capsized on the second weekend. On the third week, the rudder blade broke off at the waterline on a tight reach near Addison, but we managed to sail the boat back to PDSC without it.

On the fourth week, we sustained a high-speed T-bone by a keelboat in the bay. Wattsy nearly drowned whilst being dragged underwater, and the boat sank as the keelboat sailed off and finished its race at RPYC. It was amazing that we ever came back after that!

Favourite memory at PDSC?

Bringing our small children to the club to be looked after by the "ladies", whilst Mandy was working so I could continue to sail on Saturday afternoons: watching them grow up at the club.

Funniest memory at PDSC?

Teaching Wattsy to sail the Javelin rudderless upwind in 20 knots to get back to the club from Addison. The look on his face when I told him that was what we had to do to get home was priceless. As usual, he just got on with the mission.

What is your sailing history?

My father was a racing car driver for Ford Australia in the 1960's but my mother (who had four children under 5) made him give that up after his co-driver suffered a severe brain injury in a racing accident. The family took up sailing instead when a friend gave us a dinghy he no longer used.

I learned to sail as a small child in Melbourne and sailed Sabots, Cadet dinghies, Sabres, 420s, Corsairs, OK dinghies, Sharpies, Seaway 25s, various keelboats including 1/4 tonners, J24s, Etchells, Solings and Dragons before moving to Perth.

I joined PDSC because I worked with Wattsy who had a Javelin at NYC and I convinced him to sail it where the other Javelins sailed instead. Over the last 19 years I have continued to sail Javelins, although Andrew Hackett has replaced Steve as crew. I also sailed Herons for six years when the kids were smaller and they sequentially sailed with me. At PDSC they also have sailed Mudlarks, O'pen Bics and 29ers.

For the last six years, I have also sailed a keelboat- Aida from RPYC that I am in partnership with the McGregors and Moores.

What do you think the future of PDSC is?

Authentic communities like PDSC that foster well-being as a social transaction will be even more valuable into the future as humans have evolved craving this. I believe that financial transaction boat storage "clubs" will struggle during the rise of the millennials over the next quarter century who will value worth differently.

Having said that, we need to make the process of going sailing easier than it currently is which will mean the availability of undercover mast up (and sails up) storage immediately next to the water.

Do you have any advice for new members of PDSC?

Get involved, it's your people.