

Callala Junior Sailing School (CJSS)

History of CJSS

CJSS has a proud history of teaching juniors to sail since the early 1990's. Below are recollections from Keith Horne and others about the history of CJSS.

In the early 1990's Callala Bay was a quiet little village where everyone knew everyone else. Keith was a keen sailor, and crewed for Col Ryan on 'SV Tales' in races run by the Jervis Bay Cruising Yacht Club. One day, the young nephew of one of the crew members, and some of his mates, raided the refrigerator of one of their parents, and consumed a few cans of beer. This led to them stealing some fishing gear from a neighbour's house and getting caught by the police. The neighbour, who recovered his equipment, did not want to press any charges against the youths. The Police constable involved suggested that, if the locals developed plan to keep the lads out of trouble, he would advise his superiors to drop any further action against them. As Keith and his mates were into sailing, they decided to get a small sailing dinghy and teach the boys to sail. This would give them something to do and keep them out of trouble.

This worked very well, but soon after, the group was swamped by parents wanting their kids to be taught to sail as well. Thus began the CJSS, with sailing classes held every Saturday morning in Summer. The fleet increased to about 8 vessels, which were initially stored in a garage 'on the cliffs' overlooking the boat ramp area.

CJSS increased in popularity, with 30-40 kids turning up each weekend. The time was ripe to look for a place to build a boat storage facility as close to the water as possible. The group approached Eric Ellis, the local member of State Parliament for help. Because of Eric's great support for the project, the group were given permission to use the current site for a boat storage shed. Wayne Smith, who replaced Eric as local member, helped locals to get a \$50,000 grant to construct the boat shed.

The group approached Nowra TAFE with the preliminary building concept plans. After inspecting the site, Bill Kleinmeulman agreed to take the boat shed on as a project for his students, as part of their apprenticeships. A local architect drew up the plans. Construction of the boat shed began in the late 1990's, and with the help of TAFE, the local community, and a willing army of keen volunteers, the shed was completed in December 2001. The rest, they say is history!

People involved in CJSS in the early days included: Frank Taylor, John Boney, Joe Maurice, Keith and Betty Horne, Ron Dunbar, John (Jack) Peel, Maurice King, Stafford Lester, Mike Kielly, Alice Lane, Paul Birkinhead, Bill Mather, Col Ikin, Jim Lay & others.

For the building - Project Manager: Faculty of Building and Construction Nowra TAFE;

Architect: Max Granger; **Engineer:** Westlake Consulting; **Certifying Authority:** Shoalhaven City Council; **Site Supervisor:** Ron Dunbar.

For more details see the website: <http://www.callalajuniorsailingschool.org/>