

SMYRC Risk Assessment



Club Name: Stirling Marblehead Yacht Racing Club

Location: Woorabinda Lake, Woorabinda Drive Stirling SA

Sailing at Woorabinda

The SMYRC races at Woorabinda on Wednesdays all year except for a three week break over Christmas and New Year. A Standard Notice of Race applies to all events at Woorabinda and is displayed on our results page of the club website (<http://www.stirling.saradioyachting.org.au/racing.htm>)

The last Wed of each month is a handicap event. One week in Dec is set aside as a Match Race. One Wed late in September is an Interclub event involving ARYA affiliated members from other SA clubs. All other days constitute club championship events.

Individual members may make specific arrangements to have practice sailing on other days. These days will be logged into our sailing calendar. Our sailing calendar is published on the Results page as well

Conditions at Woorabinda

The area by Woorabinda Lake forms part of a wider public area called the Stirling Linear Park. We use part of a wide path leading into the lake for seating, an area adjacent to the lake by a rock wall edging the lake as a rigging area. This area is away from the normal area used by the general public. We use the path also as a place to operate our radio-controlled yachts.

The area is controlled by the Adelaide Hills Council. We have a sound working relationship with the council and store some of our materials in their building. This building also contains a public unisex toilet. A shed near the water also stores our dinghy and other items.

The surface of the paths and rigging area are maintained by the council and we contact them if maintenance is needed.

The slope down from the path to the rigging area is covered with fallen pine needles and somewhat slippery. We regularly scrape this area clean though encourage our members to avoid the slope and use the path at each end to reduce the chance of accidents.

The path leading East from the main area is narrower and we take particular care that the public is given priority and request our members stand well to the front or rear of the path. The surface of this path is uneven in places and requires care.

Retrieving disabled yachts from the lake is achieved either by a small radio-controlled electric power boat or a club owned dinghy. The electric rescue boat poses no risk though care is taken to avoid interference to water birds who use the lake. The use of the dinghy is restricted to those members who are experienced in rowing and boating in general. All users are required to wear a PFD (personal flotation device). We have a flotation buoy and a throw rope to add to the safety of the user.

Access to the Lake area via Mabel St and Woorabinda Drive has no outlet other than retracing the same road out. In fire danger conditions in the Adelaide Hills this represents a significant risk. SMYRC has a policy whereby sailing is cancelled should the fire risk be at the extreme or catastrophic level. This is determined at 5:00 pm on the Tuesday on the CFS web site. There is a link to this site on the Weather page of our web site. (NB waiting for Adelaide Hills Council to give their recommendations because of change to Fire Risk levels Australia wide.)

The club also has a recommendation to NOT sail if the temperature predicted at Woorabinda is 37 degrees or more. The final decision currently rests with each member. The area we use is well shaded and often is a degree or two less than in Stirling.