

Gary Bunyard
Etchells 747 - Zephyr

How did you get into sailing?

I grew up in Hobart within a short distance of Bellerive Beach and Bellerive Yacht Club. All my friends sailed but I never did. Then many years later, when I lived in Melbourne, my father-in-law Arthur Woodland needed crew for his Jubilee and said “you’ll do”. After five years he said “time for you to get your own boat” – so I did, and sailed a Jubilee for over 20 years..

Why did you choose to sail Etchells?

The Jubilee Class no longer had the fleet numbers at RBYC. In 2011 I saw an ad on the notice board advertising an Etchells for sale. When I walked around the corner, there was Niesje, the owner, who had bought a newer boat from Peter Coleman. I bought the boat from her and renamed it Zephyr (after undergoing a suitable renaming ceremony of course).

What is a highlight of your time in Etchells so far?

The people I’ve met, who are always happy to share their knowledge and provide advice. It’s very hard to do well in the fleet but there is so much to learn and I enjoy the challenge.

What are your plans for the season?

I’m hoping to rebuild a regular crew so that I can do the club racing and the Vic State Titles, which are at RBYC in March 2023