John Cameron was one of the original members of Sorrento Sailing Club joining in 1948.

His early days sailing were spent on a 12’ Cadet Dinghy called *Royal.*

Later, in 1951, John and his younger brother Neil, purchased *Manana,* a wooden Jubilee J37, becoming stalwarts of the Sorrento Jubilee fleet.

The keenness shown by the early members of the club was no better illustrated than by the efforts he and Neil took to sail. They were farmers based near Meredith, between Geelong and Ballarat. Each year they would sail their Jubilee, *Manana*, from Geelong where they mainly sailed to Sorrento. This was to compete over the Christmas period, then sail back to Geelong during January. They would then repeat the exercise at Easter.

He sailed on *Manana*, mainly as skipper, for many years participating in numerous Huntingfield Cups (National Championships), State Championships & Rudder Shields. While never winning any title he was considered a formidable competitor who used his local knowledge and ability to pick windshifts to advantage.

He also sailed to Mornington to participate in the annual regatta held on the Australia Day Long Weekend. The Sorrento Jubilee fleet would race to Mornington to compete the next day against the Royal Brighton Jubilees that had raced from Brighton. They would then race back to Sorrento on the Monday. Given the distance and time taken the sailing conditions were known to vary immensely. A pleasant sail could turn into a battle to survive. One year the conditions deteriorated to such an extent that the Jubilees were sailing under bare poles. All the sails had been removed and the boats were still sailing. Conversely the fleet departed in pleasant sailing conditions but the wind would drop out. Languishing the boats would anchor waiting for the sea breeze to develop. John excelled in these conditions having an uncanny knack of sensing when and where to sail.

His family inherited his love of sailing and were active sailors in their youth. His daughters Darg and Din (Margaret and Helen) mainly sailed the family Mirror *Reflection* while sons Peter and Andy competed in their Gwen 12 *Flyaway*. All this sailing was ably supported by his wife Bev who stayed ashore.

*Manana* would later be washed off its moorings and wrecked to the extent that it was considered a write off. The decision was made to purchase J103 a fiberglass boat that was renamed *Manana II.* Later on the original *Manana* was restored.

The club’s Quest training craft bought with funds donated by the Sorrento Jubilee fleet were named *Manana* & *Manana II* in honour of the contribution that John and his brother Neil had made to Jubilee sailing at the club for nearly 70 years of membership.

In more recent times much of his sailing has been on Lake Wendouree in Ballarat, the new home for many Jubilees that had previously been sailed at Sorrento by many well known members. Here he was active sailing into his nineties.

Purchasing a residence on Magnetic Island the cold winters were avoided for many years by spending winters in the tropical warmth. It was on Magnetic Island where he passed away.

John is survived by his 4 children and their families, along with his younger brother Neil and his family. His wife Bev passed away a few years ago.

