

YEAR BOOK



2024



ROYAL YACHT CLUB OF VICTORIA

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FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST COMMODORE



**TIM
OLDING**

Dear Members,

This marks my final report as Commodore. Serving the Club in this capacity has been a true privilege, and it has certainly provided an enriching learning experience. After two years in this role, I have gained a profound understanding of what it takes to maintain a Club like ours and the steps necessary to keep it healthy, strong, and relevant for our Members.

Royals is a multifaceted operation; at its core, it is a community of over a thousand Members, many of whom have dedicated significant portions of their lives and resources to enjoying the Club and the sailing experiences it offers. Some Members joined as children and now witness their grandchildren learning to sail, benefiting from the life skills that our

sport fosters. Others are pioneers in their families, embarking on their sailing journey and becoming ambassadors for both our sport and our Club. We must always remember that our primary purpose is sailing and our love for the sea, while continuously ensuring future generations can experience the same joys.

Additionally, the Club serves as a workplace, employing more than 20 full-time, part-time, and casual staff who provide the services our Members expect. It's essential to create a safe working environment and equip them with the necessary skills and training to excel in their roles.

The Club also represents a significant worksite with both fixed and moving assets that require ongoing maintenance and eventual renewal. Many of these assets have a long lifespan, so planning for their replacement should begin decades in advance to ensure a strategy and funding are in place.

Finally, Royals is a business that must continue to evolve. We are approaching an annual turnover of nearly \$3.8 million, and this year, we anticipate reporting a healthy profit for the first time in several years. Much of this profit has resulted from growth in our food and beverage services and yard operations, both of which have more than doubled their contributions to the Club's financial health. We hope this trend continues, allowing us to reinvest those profits back into the Club.

The responsibility of the General Committee is to balance all these factors. We must provide an exceptional membership experience while planning for the future. Over the past year, we have devoted considerable time to examining the Club's finances

and determining how to support the necessary reinvestments for the years ahead. One small step we have taken is to implement an annual infrastructure levy across all membership categories, allowing us to start accumulating funds for future projects. The funds raised will only be used for major initiatives following a vote by all eligible Members, ensuring they cannot be diverted for general operational expenses or minor capital works.

As previously mentioned, we are fundamentally a yacht club that aims to promote the sport of sailing in all its forms. To encourage Members to sail and engage more with our Club, we have removed race fees for all regular Club races. We look forward to witnessing larger fleets and increased patronage in food and beverage as a result.

The wake and wash issues affecting our marina and waterfront remain a significant challenge. We have invested considerable time in communicating the extent of the safety risks and property damage we face. While the process is understandably slow, we believe we are making headway. We want to express our gratitude to our local Member for Williamstown in the Victorian Parliament and Minister for Ports and Freight, The Hon. Melissa Horne MP, for her invaluable assistance in facilitating meetings with various government agencies.

Health and Safety have also been a priority for the Club. We now have an effective health and safety management platform that allows us to monitor risks and outstanding issues to ensure they are resolved.

This system has also proven helpful in tracking and reporting the readiness of Club vessels, resulting in significantly shorter times between identifying issues or defects and completing repairs.

Replacing the travel lift and piers continues to pose challenges. The Property and Facilities Sub-Committee, along with Club Treasurer Warwick Norman and Club Member Andrew Osbourne, have been diligently exploring the most cost-effective solutions, but a clear path forward has yet to emerge. In the meantime, we are carrying out necessary repairs to the travel lift deck and secondary steelwork to restore the lifting capacity to 20 tonnes.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the Committee Members and staff who have supported me over the past two years, and I wish the next Committee great success in furthering the interests of the Club.

Tim Olding
Immediate Past Commodore

FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST REAR COMMODORE SAILING



**CATH
BEAUFORT OAM**

Sailing Committee

- Rear Commodore Sailing – Cath Beaufort
- Off the Beach Club Captain –Owen Church/Claire Fazakerley
- SheSails – Liesl Petterd
- Ocean Racing – Matt Fahey
- Club Equipment Auditors – Duncan Rae, Ian Fox, Andy Warner
- Sailing Manager – Andy Warner
- Sailing Administration – Owen Church
- Handicapper – Gary Fell
- Training and Development – Ian Fox
- Cruising – vacant (part of 23/24, Lynda Christophersen)

Rather than concluding my report with a thank you to the Sailing Committee, I want to begin with a heartfelt thank you! This year has been incredibly busy, and we've witnessed numerous positive changes to our sailing program and our operations. I truly appreciate all the effort, especially from the Sailing Committee.

We've successfully organised a variety of regattas, including the Lipton Cup, Classics Regatta, Cadet State Championships, and Adams 10 State Championships. These events excelled thanks to our dedicated volunteers who supported us both on and off the water. Thank you!

We've been exploring ways to encourage more people to volunteer, ensuring it doesn't always fall on the same individuals, and providing support for training when needed. Last summer, we implemented a race management roster. Though we encountered a few challenges, we greatly valued how everyone embraced the system and volunteered to help run races throughout the season. We'll be rolling this out again next summer, so stay tuned!

Our collaboration with northern kindred clubs has been fruitful, allowing us to share resources and occasionally combine fleets. We've merged courses, created a new course book, and are considering synchronizing our calendars to streamline our efforts since we're all sailing in the same waters. We've also eliminated race entry fees for our Club racing and local competitions to lower barriers to participation.

We've received feedback from Members regarding various racing formats, such as a single-handed series, and are considering adding these to our calendar. Thank you to everyone who has sent in suggestions.

The Sailing Committee aims to represent a wide range of interests within the sailing program, but we always welcome more input. If anyone is interested in joining the Sailing Committee, please let me know, as we are eager to welcome new Members.

It's always a pleasure to recognise standout Members, and Presentation Night was a wonderful celebration.

Annual Awards:

- Sailor of the Year – Gavin Gourley
- Cruising Sailor of the Year – Lisa Garnsworthy
- Club Member of the Year – Owen Church
- Crew Member of the Year – David McKenzie
- Intermediate Sailor of the Year – Maddie Scambary-Speller
- Junior Sailor of the Year – Leo Church and Arjay Layton
- George Low Trophy for Best Performing Boat – Will Sheers (EXECUTIVE DECISION)

In Off the Beach results, we were thrilled to see seven teams participate in the National Cadet Championships in Hobart last December. Even more exciting, two of our teams were selected for the Cadet Worlds in the UK this July: CHILL - Arjay Layton and Matthew Cross, and PEPSEA - Leo Church and Ross Tolcher will be heading to Plymouth. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and represented RYCV and Australia excellently!

We've also enjoyed some outstanding keelboat racing this year, with several notable results:

- McCutcheon Cup won by Patrick Clarke (YOLLA)
- Awinya Cup won by PC Andrew Munro (GODZILLA)
- Palliser Trophy won by Catherine North (DUXELLE)
- Black Bottle Trophy won by Craig Black on DRAMBUIE
- Phoenix Trophy won by Doug Hem on TAMESIS

Congratulations to James Permezel, Gavin Gourley, and Craig Black, owners of MAGGIE ISLAND BREWERY, for winning the Challenge 12 Trophy, Division 1 Aggregate Tui Hall Memorial Trophy, Vice Commodore's Trophy AMS Division 1 Season Aggregate, E O Digby Trophy, Commodore in Chief's Trophy, and the Harold Ward Trophy.

Peter McFarlane on LOCH SLOIDH 2 won the Jeffrey Gray Memorial Trophy, Division 2 Aggregate, Rear Commodore's Trophy AMS Division 2 Season Aggregate, Lord Brassey Trophy, and Geoffrey Evans Trophy. Congratulations!

The Sonia Trophy, awarded to the PHS winner of the passage race to Geelong in the Festival of Sails, had two winners this year: Matt Fahey on FASTER FORWARD and PC Ray Borrett on LAURELLE. LAURELLE also won the Elwood Huon Trophy and the Livingston Trophy.

Congratulations to Peter Layton on G'NET for winning the Bill Hales Trophy.

The 2023 Australian Women's Keelboat Regatta took place over the King's birthday weekend, featuring 30 boats from across Australia. Representing our Club were Clare Olding (VERTIGO), LIBERATOR, TOM CAT, Catherine North (DUXELLE), and my crew (UP 'N GO). All our boats achieved placings in one or more races – great job! Special congratulations to Clare Olding and VERTIGO for finishing second overall in EHC and AMS, and to UP N GO for securing third in EHC (Division 2) and S80s. I was fortunate to win the owner/skipper award.

The Steak and Mushrooms Trophy was awarded to Peter Dusting on VALIANT 9, while John Robb on FOOTLOOSE won the Tripe and Onions Trophy. VALIANT 9 also took home the Laura Gloria Trophy.

The Andrew Bell Trophy was claimed by Dan Morrow on AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, and David Burton on COROMANDEL 6 won the Essendon Cup. Tim Campbell on PRIVATE EQUITY secured the Lord Forster Trophy.

Congratulations to Murray James on X&Y for winning the 150th Jubilee Trophy.

The Lipton Cup was captured by the team of Dan Morrow (AFFIRMATIVE ACTION), Bruce McCracken (IKON), and Monica Jones (JUNGLE JUICE).

Here are some notable ORCV results for RYCV boats:

- Congratulations to Justin Brenan (ALIEN) for his impressive results in the Melbourne to Hobart – 2nd in PHS, 1st in AMS, and 3rd in ORC, along with 2nd in AMS, 2nd in ORC, and PHS in the Coastal Sprint series.
- Robert Hick launched a brand-new TOECUTTER late in 2023 and finished 1st in Division 2 PHS in the Melbourne to Devonport race, as well as 1st in Division 2 AMS and PHS in the King Island Race.
- Well done to Commodore Tim Olding on VERTIGO for securing 2nd in Division 2 AMS and PHS in the Melbourne to Devonport, along with 4th in AMS and 6th in PHS in the Coastal Sprint Series.

A big thank you once again to the members of the Sailing Committee who have generously volunteered their time.

Thanks to Liesl Petterd, our SheSails representative.

A huge thanks to Owen Church, our former Off the Beach Club Captain, who has transitioned to a sailing administration role within the Club. We're lucky to have Claire Fazakerley stepping in as OTB Club Captain.

Thanks to Duncan Rae for conducting safety audits on boats.

Thanks to Matt Fahey for representing the Ocean Racers.

Thanks to Lynda Christophersen, our former Cruising representative, who has now stepped down to enjoy some cruising in Queensland.

Thanks to Andy Warner, our Sailing Manager, for overseeing many of our Club races and handling most of our sailing administration.

Thanks to Ian Fox for his tireless efforts in running our training and development program.

Last but not least, a heartfelt thank you to Melissa, Camilla, and Michael for all their hard work in supporting our sailing endeavours and our wonderful Club!

Cath Beaufort OAM
Immediate Past Commodore Sailing



2023/2024 CLUB RESULTS

TROPHY	BOAT NAME	SKIPPER
LIVINGSTON TROPHY	LAURELLE	RAY BORRETT
LIPTON CUP	AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, IKON, JUNGLE JUICE	DAN MORROW, BRUCE MCCRACKEN, MONICA JONES
CHALLENGE 12 TROPHY	MAGGIE ISLAND BREWERY	CRAIG BLACK/GAVIN GOURLEY/JAMES PERMEZEL
DIVISION 1 AGGREGATE TUI HALL MEMORIAL TROPHY	MAGGIE ISLAND BREWERY	CRAIG BLACK/GAVIN GOURLEY/JAMES PERMEZEL
VICE COMMODORE'S TROPHY AMS DIV 1 SEASON AGGREGATE	MAGGIE ISLAND BREWERY	CRAIG BLACK/GAVIN GOURLEY/JAMES PERMEZEL
DIVISION 2 AGGREGATE	LOCH SLOIDH 2	PETER MCFARLANE
REAR COMMODORE'S TROPHY AMS DIV 2 SEASON AGGREGATE	LOCH SLOIDH 2	PETER MCFARLANE
DIVISION 3 AGGREGATE	NOT AWARDED	
REAR COMMODORE'S AMS DIV 3 SEASON AGGREGATE	NOT AWARDED	
THE JEFFREY GRAY MEMORIAL TROPHY	LOCH SLOIDH 2	PETER MCFARLANE
McCUTCHEON CUP	YOLLA	PATRICK CLARKE
E O DIGBY TROPHY	MAGGIE ISLAND BREWERY	CRAIG BLACK/GAVIN GOURLEY/JAMES PERMEZEL
LORD BRASSEY TROPHY	LOCH SLOIDH 2	PETER MCFARLANE
LORD FORSTER TROPHY	PRIVATE EQUITY	TIM CAMPBELL
COMMODORE IN CHIEF'S TROPHY	MAGGIE ISLAND BREWERY	CRAIG BLACK/GAVIN GOURLEY/JAMES PERMEZEL
COMMODORE'S TROPHY	AILERON	LEO CANTWELL
ELWOOD HUON TROPHY	LAURELLE	RAY BORRETT
PALLISER TROPHY	DUXELLE	CATHERINE NORTH
HAROLD WARD TROPHY	MAGGIE ISLAND BREWERY	CRAIG BLACK/GAVIN GOURLEY/JAMES PERMEZEL
AWINYA CUP	GODZILLA	ANDREW MUNRO
GEOFFREY EVANS TROPHY	LOCH SLOIDH 2	PETER MCFARLANE
PHOENIX TROPHY	TAMESIS	DOUG HEM
PHOENIX TROPHY WOODEN SPOON	G'NET	PETER LAYTON
BLACK BOTTLE TROPHY	DRAMBUIE	CRAIG BLACK
150th JUBILEE TROPHY	X & Y	MURRAY JAMES
VAL HODGE TROPHY	SUNSHINE	TATUM MACKEY
SONIA TROPHY	FASTER FORWARD Start Line 1	MATT FAHEY
SONIA TROPHY	LAURELLE Start Line 2	RAY BORRETT
SUN THEATRE	NOT AWARDED	NOT AWARDED
TRIPE AND ONIONS SERIES	FOOTLOOSE	JOHN ROBB
STEAK & MUSHROOMS TROPHY	VALIANT 9	PETER DUSTING
BILL HALES TROPHY	G'NET	PETER LAYTON
ANDREW BELL TROPHY	AFFIRMATIVE ACTION	DAN MORROW
ESSENDON CUP	COROMANDEL 6	DAVID BURTON
ESSENDON SERIES AMS WINNER	SKIPJACK	BILL FEORE
ALWYN HILL TROPHY	NOT AWARDED 2024	NOT AWARDED 2024
LAURA GLORIA TROPHY	VALIANT 9	PETER DUSTING
RIVERS CUP	ONYX	STEPHEN CHENEY

FROM REAR COMMODORE CLUB



**GUY
SCHOFIELD**

We are eager to welcome new Members to the committee; if you're interested in joining our team, please reach out to me.

Annual Working Bee

The first event of the year for Property and Facilities is our annual working bee. What a fantastic day it was! We had a large turnout, with many people engaged in various activities throughout the Club.

- Gardening
- Rebuilding garden beds
- Polishing brass fixtures and trophies
- Cleaning and tagging the shed and tackle
- Tidying the OTB area
- Washing the windows in the clubhouse
- Cleaning the deck
- Sprucing up the yard

A big thank you to everyone who helped on that day, as well as during the activity-specific working bees we've had this year, including the refuelling dock, access ramp handrail replacement, travel lift maintenance, and more.

Yard Personnel and Operations

The yard and marina continue to operate under the skilled management of Max Leonard and his team.

Steve Standen, Commodore Tim Olding, and I have been working on the travel lift motor; I'm happy to report that it is now operating reliably and quietly.

Hardstand and Waterfront

Andrew Osborne and Treasurer Warwick have conducted a detailed economic analysis of five options for replacing the travel lift. Their analysis initially recommended reusing the refuelling berth with a width-adjustable travel lift. We have since engaged the travel lift manufacturers and they have recommended against this option. Their travel lifts will not service our requirements using the refuelling berth.

We have now reviewed the remaining options and agreed to replace the concrete and steel of the travel lift fingers. This work can be undertaken reasonably quickly and will restore the lifting capacity to at least 20 tons. Tender documentation is currently being prepared.

Marina

Marina occupancy remains strong; however, we've encountered significant surge issues this year. This

problem has worsened since Port Philip Ferries was permitted to increase its speed in the channel. We are collaborating with government officials to find a solution. Initially, we are requesting that the ferry reduce its speed.

Lucas Brown has been diligently replacing sections of marina planking and bearers several days a week throughout the year. The outcome looks promising, and the marina now feels much sturdier and safer.

Capital Works Planning

This year, we have accomplished the following:

- Re-purposing of the ship lift hole and upgrading our refuelling station
- Marina repairs, including the replacement of 26 piles and re-planking of walkways
- Establishing a new waste management area to enhance our recycling efforts and minimize our environmental impact
- Upgrading contractor workshops
- Repowering Royals 3
- Installing an access ramp and veranda deck in the OTB Clubrooms.
- Repair and enhance the deck and adjacent glazing

The Club faces numerous demands on its funds to maintain and enhance its facilities. From this report, it's clear that we continue to prioritise investments and address immediate maintenance issues to ensure all our essential facilities remain operational while planning for the future. Based on our current understanding, our priority order is as

follows:

- Install a new floating pontoon under the western crane
- Replace the deck steel and concrete of the travel lift fingers
- Install whaling under the western crane
- Upgrade bar facilities
- Explore wave attenuation options for the existing marina
- Continue investigating options for replacing the current marina

In summary, we have made significant progress over the past year in tackling some of the major infrastructure challenges facing the Club. Our efforts will persist, and we hope you can see the results of this work and benefit from them.

The staff and volunteers on the Property and Facilities Committee wish all our Members a wonderful 2024/25 season and hope you continue to enjoy everything our amazing Club has to offer.

Guy Schofield
Rear Commodore Club



OTB WRAP UP

In July, two of our Off the Beach boats set sail for Plymouth, UK, to compete in the 2024 International Cadet World Championships. PEPSEA, helmed by Leo Church with Ross Tolcher as crew, and CHILL, led by Arjay Layton with Matthew Cross, joined over 100 boats from around the globe as part of a ten-boat Australian team.

Qualifying for the Australian team is a significant accomplishment, and it's been quite some time since an RYCV crew made the Worlds team. Even more impressive is that RYCV has two boats on the Australian team this year. The successes of PEPSEA and CHILL have inspired the rest of the RYCV Cadet fleet, with several younger skippers now aspiring to secure spots on future Australian teams.

The 2023–24 season focused on revitalizing our Off the Beach fleet, particularly in the International Cadet category, following a decline in numbers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our current group of parents and sailors fosters an inclusive and supportive community, both on and off the water. Our goal is to nurture our Junior Members into skilled sailors, creating lasting memories and possibly setting the stage for future sailing endeavours.

This year, the RYCV Senior fleet has been less active, with only a few invitation days featuring Wasp's and International 14s. We are eager to support and engage more with senior OTB sailors, and we have Lasers available that could see more action.

We welcomed several new Cadet skippers and crews to Off the Beach this season. By summer's end, we had ten Cadet boats regularly participating in Club training and Sunday racing, up from seven the previous year. We also aim to build an Optimist fleet with ongoing winter training for a small group of Green Fleet Optimist sailors. We are working closely with VIODA, the Victorian Optimist Association, to develop this pathway.

Our regular Sunday morning training sessions are crucial for maintaining the quality of our sailors and fostering an inclusive environment. Being an exceptional sailing coach involves more than just teaching; it's about guiding and supporting the team. Clare Olding concluded her coaching tenure at the end of 2023 as she transitioned to full-time work. We thank Clare for her dedication and expertise and wish her the best in her future endeavours. We are excited to welcome Lulu d'Scasio as the new coach. Lulu, a long-time RGYC Cadet sailor with experience in high-performance programs, brings valuable insights and enthusiasm to our fleet while also contributing to the Tackers program. Maddie Scambary-Speller continues to lead the Opti Green Fleet training program, helping young sailors transition from the Green Fleet to Club racing. We anticipate great growth in the Optimist fleet and synergy between the Optimist and Cadet programs.

Our OTB racing and coaching program relies heavily on volunteers, mainly parents of junior OTB sailors, who assist with safety boats, mark laying, and race management. Developing a skilled pool of volunteers is as crucial as the racing and training itself. The Club continues to support and train parents, including those with no sailing background, to take on various on-water roles.

Our dedicated volunteer group has excelled in fundraising, channelling these funds into enhancing our Cadet programs and ensuring a smooth introduction for young sailors. We extend our gratitude to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts, including Janet Wilks of Wilksie Marine, who generously sponsored the RYCV Worlds team.

In late December, seven RYCV Cadet crews and their families travelled to Sandy Bay in Hobart for the 62nd International Cadet Australian Championships. The conditions were cold and windy, challenging the crews and skippers. Despite the tough weather, all competitors showed improvement throughout the regatta. Plans for the next Cadet Nationals in Port Lincoln, SA, were already underway before the regatta concluded.

During the March long weekend, the Club hosted the Cadet State titles. A fleet of 29 Cadets raced over three of the hottest days of the summer. Notable results included CHILL (Arjay Layton and Matthew Cross) finishing 5th and PEPSEA (Leo Church and Jarvis Coyle) securing 8th place.

Social highlights included a movie night, our gala fundraising event, and a fantastic 70s-themed OTB Presentation Night. The season's final day featured an OTB Olympic event and a highly competitive parents' Opti race.

This year, the Junior Club Member of the Year award was shared between Leo Church and Arjay Layton. At the end of the night, our 2023-24 Junior Club Captains, Arjay Layton and Eliza-Jane Layton, handed over their duties to the 2024-25 Junior Club Captains, Leo Loftus and Mairin Lloyd.

Owen Church is passing the OTB Captaincy to Claire Fazakerley. Owen, who was named RYCV Club Member of the Year, is now working part-time with RYCV as a sailing administrator and managing the International Cadet Worlds team.

International Cadet 2023-24 Nationals Results

Congratulations to all Competing Royals Cadets.

Place	Sail No	Boat Name	Skipper	Crew
9	9622	PEPSEA	Leo Church	Zachary Cross
12	9929	CHILL	Arjay Layton	Matthew Cross
23	5678	CONSECUTIVE	Eliza-Jane Layton	Ellie Lloyd
33	10049	MANTA RAY	Leo Loftus	Poppy Loftus
36	9285	HYPKNOTIC	Mairin Lloyd	Ross Tolcher
41	9779	SNIPER	Ellie Fazakerley	Emily Dean
43	9931	JONATHAN L	Jarvis Coyle	Hunter Coyle

International Cadet 2023-24 States Results

Congratulations to all Competing Royals Cadets.

Place	Sail No	Boat Name	Skipper	Crew
5	9929	CHILL	Arjay Layton	Matthew Cross
8	9622	PEPSEA	Leo Church	Jarvis Coyle
12	5678	CONSECUTIVE	Eliza-Jane Layton	Ellie Lloyd
21	10049	MANTA RAY	Leo Loftus	Poppy Loftus
22	9285	HYPKNOTIC	Mairin Lloyd	Ross Tolcher
23	9779	SNIPER	Ellie Fazakerley	Emily Dean

RYCV Trophy Winners 2023-24

Trophy	Boat	Skipper & Crew
Aona Trophy	CONSECUTIVE	Eliza-Jane Layton & Ellie Lloyd
Jan Trophy	PEPSEA	Leo Church & Zachary Cross
Tom Hillenaar	CHILL	Arjay Layton & Matthew Cross
Smart	PEPSEA	Leo Church & Zachary Cross
Commodore	CONSECUTIVE	Eliza-Jane Layton & Ellie Lloyd
The Cup	PEPSEA	Leo Church & Zachary Cross
Junior Club Champs	PEPSEA	Leo Church & Zachary Cross
Junior Club Aggregate	PEPSEA	Leo Church & Zachary Cross
Walker Warner	HYPKNOTIC	Mairin Lloyd & Ross Tolcher
Arch Cawthorne	CHILL	Matthew Cross
Parents Encouragement	BILLANT	Holly Severino-Blaesjaar
Phillip Millar Memorial	SNIPER	Emily Dean
Djemma	CONSECUTIVE	Eliza-Jane Layton
Malcolm Anderson	HYPNOTIC	Mairin Lloyd
Sheeba	PEPSEA	Leo Church & Zachary Cross
Digby Trophy	GREEN FLEET	Nick Fazakerley
Gold Trophy	GREEN FLEET	Sophia Howett
Coaches Award	MANTA RAY	Leo Loftus
Junior Club Members of the Year	Arjay Layton and Leo Church (Joint Winners)	

Owen Church and Claire Fazakerley

OPENING DAY

It was a cloudy spring day for our 171st Opening Day last Saturday. The Club was buzzing as Members and guests enjoyed the festivities.

This year, we changed the order of the day and commenced with the Sail Past at 1100hrs. Numerous boats saluted and cheered Commodore Tim Olding and the official party who were on board Vice Commodore Damian Purcell's yacht SCIMITAR.

The onshore formalities commenced at 1300hrs after a wonderful performance by the Rats of Tobruk. As part of the celebrations, we were thrilled to be able to present Life Membership to Dr Michael Clancy.

After Rev. Marg Goddard blessed the fleet, The Hon. Tim Watts MP, accompanied by IPC Doug Shields, fired the cannon and our junior Club Captains, Eliza Layton & Arjay Layton, raised the Burgee officially opening the 2023/2024 sailing season.

It was wonderful to also have The Hon, Melissa Horne MP and Cr Jonathon Marsden, Hobsons Bay City Council, join us for the formalities.

The Club was bustling as Members enjoyed lunch and drinks whilst listening to the Wildermoths.

A great time was had by all.



170TH GALA BALL

WOW what a great night we had on the 28th of October to celebrate the Club's 170 years since inception at the Aerial venue in South Wharf. I have had so much positive Member feedback, some are even saying we should do this every year! It was so good to see so many Members frocking up.

The Newport Strings quartet welcomed us to Aerial, the presentation of trophies was quick but respectful to the effort owners/boats put into achieving success, and the other live band on the night was The Baker Boys who were superb, getting everyone up onto the dance floor - the dance floor was still full at 11:30pm.

For the night to be such a success, there were many people involved, and we thank them for their great support, including Samantha Smith, who was lead and brought the team together. PC Mike Smith was MC on the night, always so engaging with a wicked sense of humor. Ann Goodwin, with the assistance of Camilla Bett, put a huge amount of work into digital imagery, covering our history so concisely and accurately. Susan Webber (Membership) helped rally Members to join in the celebrations plus managed to source a range of table decorations, including Doug Hem's table boats and Rear Commodore Sailing Cath Beaufort compiled and sorted out the table seating arrangements on the night—not an easy task! Our General Manager, Michael Neumann, and his dedicated office staff, Melissa, Simone, Andy, and Tina, provided fantastic support and offered assistance and advice when needed, ensuring there were minimal hiccups.

As you can see, it was a mammoth task with a great team effort by the Club. Thank you so much to everyone involved and to Members, partners and guests who attended making the night such a success.



LIPTON CUP REGATTA

After an awesome two days of racing, the winner of the 2023 Lipton Cup was team IKON/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/JUNGLE JUICE. Congratulations to you all!

A huge shout out to all competitors, it was a great weekend of sailing and socialising!

A regatta on this scale wouldn't be possible without the help of our amazing volunteers; a huge thanks to each and every one of you.

Thanks also to all the supporters who came along and enjoyed our social program, it was great to have you at the Club.

The Lipton Cup really is the regatta for everyone!



LIPTON CUP REGATTA

There was some great racing in both OTB and keelboat divisions.

Congratulations to the following entrants.

Division A&B

PHS

Division 1

1. R999 GNET - Duncan Russell
2. SM0369 PEGASUS - Andrew Lynch
3. R1121 EXECUTIVE DECISION - William Sheers

Division 2

1. R367 CELESTE - Calum Brenan
2. R488 LOCH SLOIDH 2 - Peter Mc Farlane
3. AUS216 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION - Dan Morrow / Ross

Coates

Division 3 (S80)

1. H398 SKIPJACK - Bill Feore
2. R2781 GRAVITAS - Paul Larcher
3. R1152 ASSAILANT - Assailant Syndicate

Division 4 (Bluebird)

1. R815 BUNYIP DREAMING - Michael Rehfisch
2. R241 SHADOW - Tim Blunt
3. R471 NUNYARRA - David Barnett

AMS

Division 1 up to Race 4

1. R935 VERTIGO - Timothy Olding
2. R1121 EXECUTIVE DECISION - William Sheers
3. H1010 IKON - Bruce McCracken

Division 2

1. AUS216 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION - Dan Morrow / Ross

Coates

2. R6257 MAINSTAY - John Arnold
3. R488 LOCH SLOIDH 2 - Peter Mc Farlane
4. R367 CELESTE - Calum Brenan

Division 3

1. H398 SKIPJACK - Bill Feore
2. R2781 GRAVITAS - Paul Larcher
3. R182 UP N GO - Cath Beaufort

Division 4 up to Race 4

1. R471 NUNYARRA - David Barnett

Division 5

1. R410 SALTAIR - Sarah Allard

ORC

Division 1

1. R1121 EXECUTIVE DECISION - William Sheers
2. H1010 IKON - Bruce McCracken
3. R999 GNET - Duncan Russell

Division 2

1. AUS216 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION - Dan Morrow / Ross
2. R488 LOCH SLOIDH 2 - Peter Mc Farlane
3. R1030 YOLLA - Patrick Clarke

Division 3

1. H398 SKIPJACK - Bill Feore

E&F

PHS

Division 5

1. 115 SWALLOW - Sue Burke
2. H2926 LANNCOORIE - Trevor Burke
3. H2621 DE JA BLUE - Paul Neilson

AMS

Division 5

1. H2621 DE JA BLUE - Paul Neilson
2. R18 LAURELLE - Ray Borrett
3. S9 JUNGLE JUICE - Monica Jones

Lipton Cup off the beach Regatta

International Cadet

1. 10072 RINGO - Josh Garner
2. 9527 MUSTANG SALLY - Cate McCoy
3. 9929 CHILL - Arjay Layton

SANTA BY SEAPLANE





PORT PHILLIP WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

SHIRLEY FREEMAN TROPHY

The 2023 Shirley Freeman Trophy, Race 1 of the Port Phillip Women's Championship series, was held on 3 December 2023 in a strong breeze and sunshine.

Congratulations to the following Royals entrants.

DUXELLE R362 - Catherine North
LIBERATOR R2001 - Andrew Roche

VAL HODGE TROPHY

The 11th Val Hodge race was hosted by RYCV on Sunday 4 February 2024 in very variable conditions of less than 5 to 25 knots. The race is the annual female helm race for RYCV, honouring one of RYCV's first female skippers, and part of the Port Phillip Women's Championship Series which encourages greater participation of females in sailing as helms and crew.

It was great to see eleven crews participating with several backing up after a tough weekend of racing at Festival of Sails and travelling from other clubs. Entered from Royals were DUXELLE, LIBERATOR, SALTAIR, SILVER CLOUD, UP 'N GO AND VERTIGO - thanks to all for supporting the race.

Congratulations to Tatum Mackey and the crew of SUNSHINE from RMYS taking out the Val Hodge trophy on PHS, and Clare Olding and her crew on VERTIGO for winning on both AMS and ORC.

Special thanks to Race Officer Cat Coyle and support crew of Marg Goddard & Andy Warner, OASIS for being the finishing boat and RYCV staff.



WOMEN IN SAILING

There was a fantastic turn out for the 2024 SYC WISC event on 3 March 2023. A record number of 27 boats entered across the three divisions. It was great to see so many women on the water sailing competitively in some tricky conditions.

JENNIFER GOLDSMITH TROPHY

RMYS hosted its annual Jennifer Goldsmith female helm race last Sunday 7 April, with this being the 4th race in the Port Phillip Women's Championship Series.

There was a fleet of around 12 boats with DUXELLE, UP 'n GO and LIBERATOR representing RYCV.

Congratulations to Cath Beaufort and crew on UP 'n GO for winning both AMS and PHS.



BLISS REGATTA

The BLiSS Regatta on 5 May was the fifth and final race of the Port Phillip Women's Championship Series.

Congratulations to Clare Olding on R935 VERTIGO for line honours, 1st on AMS and 2nd on PH.

ALIEN WINS RECORD-BREAKING FOURTH HEEMSKIRK PERPETUAL TROPHY AND PECCADILLO SMASHES MULTIHULL RECORD IN 2023 MELBOURNE TO HOBART YACHT RACE



Image: Michael Currie

ORCV Media

After a gruelling last 24 hours of sailing in winds gusting greater than 40 knots and battling 4 to 5 metre seas along the South Coast of Tasmania, Alien, skippered by Justin Brenan from the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, was victorious in the intense battle for the prestigious Heemskirk Perpetual trophy while the multihull Peccadillo took line honours in the 51st Melbourne to Hobart Yacht Race.

Justin Brenan, and his seasoned ocean racing crew, flew under the radar for the first part of the race but positioned themselves well for the final run home to Hobart to win the coveted Heemskirk Perpetual Trophy for the overall winner determined on AMS handicap.

The modest skipper and his crew sailed Alien into the record books by winning the Melbourne to Hobart Yacht Race (Westcoaster) on AMS handicap for the fourth time, a record that will take a long time to beat. Brenan also won the Melbourne to Hobart Eastcoaster Race in 2008.

The battle for AMS honours was on in earnest on the second day of sailing with Ryujin, skippered by Alex Toomey, last year's runner-up Ginan, skippered by Nigel Jones and Cam McKenzie, and Lord Jiminy, skippered by Jimmy Oosterweghel, primed for a three-way battle for the AMS win, but three-time winner Alien picked up speed overnight and had a great race into Hobart.

Skipper Justin Brenan, twice-crowned the ORCV Offshore Champion, reflected upon the 51st race to Hobart.

“The winds were warm all the way, we didn’t get any cold weather at all.

“It was an interesting race. Normally we have a beat and then a reach and then we’re running under spinnakers but this year there were no spinnakers really.

“The winds were warm all the way, we didn’t get any cold weather at all.

“It was an interesting race. Normally we have a beat and then a reach and then we’re running under spinnakers but this year there were no spinnakers really.

“We had good breeze. A 50-knot gust went through and at that stage we only had a double reefed mainsail and a small headsail up and doing 19 knots which was good.

“It’s not every day you can go sailing in the Southern Ocean, in warm conditions and go fast.

Coming across the bottom of Tasmania presented the most significant challenge to Brenan and his crew.

“There was enough wind to make it interesting. Most of the time we had 35 knots and a bit of rain...going through the islands in the dark meant you had to watch your navigation a bit because in the rain you just couldn’t see them.

Brenan has won the race each time on the Lidgard 36 designed boat, which he affectionately describes as an evergreen yacht, which was designed in 1990, built in 1996, and, according to the winning skipper, “still beats some of the most expensive ones around”.

The remarkable achievements of this humble crew bear testament to what can be achieved with a combination of a well-designed boat, a skilful and experienced crew, and excellent seamanship.

“The other good thing about this race was how close it was. Ourselves, Vertigo [retired] and a few other boats were all within a couple of minutes of each other.

“Coming up the River [Derwent] we knew we had about an hour and forty minutes if we wanted to win so it was pretty close and a good fleet,” said Brenan.

Peccadillo, skippered by Charles Meredith in his first Westcoaster, was thrilled with his win and relished the heavy conditions.

“Blowy was good for us, we enjoyed that, it was the long upwind legs down to the bottom of Tassie that were not really our favourite, but across the bottom [of Tasmania], in a nice 30 knot breeze, that’s what this boat likes.

“We don’t point the same as a monohull, so we tended to sail bigger angles than the rest of the fleet, but we also wanted to get out further west after King Island so we could get a better angle when the wind came around from the west which worked for us.

“Lord Jiminy followed us after a while as that type of boat sails somewhat similarly to us. It was a good place to be with a nice set of angles coming down the West Coast.

Meredith, a seasoned ocean sailor, was enthralled by the stunning West Coast of Tasmania.

“Travelling the West Coast of Tassie is always something special, whether it’s a cruise, racing or whether you are bushwalking on the land.

“As we came in closer to the Coast around Maatsuyker [Island] and the rock stacks – it’s just such a spectacular place, with big seas, and it looks like you are in the Southern Ocean because you are. I’ve never sailed that far South before – that was certainly a highlight,” said Meredith.

Meredith is keen to defend his multihull record in 2024.

“The ORCV has done the hard work in making it possible for multihulls to enter the race, but because it’s so new, we really need to get the word out a year ahead, and I think there’s potential overseas interest – this really is one of Australia’s great ocean races,” said Meredith.

Peccadillo smashed the previous multihull record set by Bagatelle in 1988 by almost 10 hours, with an elapsed time (which included a time penalty for a course-sailed error leaving Port Philip Heads) of two days, 18 hours, four minutes and one second.

Bagatelle’s previous record on elapsed time was three days, three hours, 35 minutes and 23 seconds.

Rod Smallman and Leeton Hulley, from the Sandringham Yacht Club, co-skipped their Jeanneau Sunfast 3600 Maverick, to win the double-handed division and the overall race on performance handicap.

Ginan was the first monohull into Hobart and was the winner on ORC handicap.



LONG WEEKEND @ ROYALS

The Club was a hive of activity over the long weekend, hosting both the International Cadet Class and the Adams 10 state championships.

With 30+ volunteers on deck, we welcomed:

- 58 energetic junior sailors on 29 cadets
- Over 40 skilled sailors cruising on 8 Adams 10s.

The weekend saw racing in some strong breezes in hot conditions. The Cadets continued on to Monday, which saw perfect sailing conditions and some great starts and finishes.

Our RYCV Cadet fleet truly shone, and Member Will Sheers took out first place in the Adams 10 Championship. Well done to all!

A weekend of this scale would not be possible without the assistance of our amazing volunteers. We thank every one of you for your generous and valuable contribution. A special shout out to (then) OTB Club Captain Owen Church for all his work leading up to and across the weekend.

As General Manager, it is greatly rewarding to see all aspects of the Club come together to deliver quality racing and events. Our strong food and beverage offering, race management, waterfront services and administrative resources enable us to successfully host state, national and international regattas.

It was wonderful to see so many Members, guests, and families enjoying all the Club has to offer.



TRIBE & ONIONS STEAK & MUSHROOMS

Congratulations to all the T&O and S&M sailors that under difficult circumstances have made this year's series very successful.

The reason for our success is the continuing participation of you our sailors, your camaraderie and the hospitality of the Club.

This has been our 27th year, and 28 years since the first race between Bill Pepper (Salty) and Capt. Bob McGregor with the loser having to eat a meal of tripe & onions prepared by Bill Pepper.

We have now moved on to a delicious annual luncheon in the dining room following the final race which was attended by 80 Members.

Royal's food and beverage team must be congratulated for their efforts. Simone and her staff were able to produce a delicious lunch and desert. Well done.

The T&O trophy plaque has been reproduced to accommodate many more years of sailing. Many thanks to Michael Neumann (General Manager) for his efforts in this regard.

This year we have been able to complete all 12 races, the first time since Covid.

The racing was very close with only a few points separating the winners.

SERIES WINNERS DIVISION ONE ARE:

1. VALIANT 9 - Peter Dusing
2. HOTSPUR - Geoff Stevens
3. SHORETHING - Robin Warlond
4. ANA - Zrinko Levar

SERIES WINNERS DIVISION TWO ARE:

1. FOOTLOOSE - John Robb
2. MAGIC - Richard English
3. BRAVADO - Lindsay Butler
4. 50/50 - John Gausden

Special thanks to Royals Office Staff and our volunteers that make things run smoothly so that we can go racing.

The tradition of T&O lives on, GO RACING HAVE LUNCH

See you in October.

Rick English, Signing off.





40TH ANNIVERSARY OF FEMALE MEMBERSHIP

This year the theme for the Long Lunch in June honoured women and girls in sailing. We celebrated the time when the first four girls were accepted into the Club as Junior Members on 4th June 1984. These schoolgirls had been sailing with the Cadets and were proposed for Junior membership during March 1984 and May 1984 before the new rule was instigated on 1st June 1984.

The “first Senior Lady Member to be admitted to the Club” was Adrienne Shaw, nominated to the membership committee on 7th May 1984 and formally elected as a Senior Member on 16th July 1984.

Did you know that the topic of ‘women as Members’ was raised as during a RYCV Half Year meeting in February 1983? Club Rules at that time stated that ‘women were not permitted in the bar’.

Questions were asked by concerned Members alluding to the State of Victoria’s Anti-discrimination Act 1977, amended and passed in December 1982 as The Equal Opportunity Act (1977,1982).

This was the catalyst for action. According to undisclosed sources, some brazen and scantily clothed women were disruptive in the Members’ Bar one Friday evening in protest to the ‘no women in the bar’ Club Rule. More formal actions took place in February 1984 at the Half Yearly General Meeting when there was a change to the Club Constitution and Rule 3 covering membership was altered to “delete any reference to male or female gender.”



AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S KEELBOAT REGATTA

Over the King's birthday weekend, an amazing 33 crews from around Australia participated in the 32nd Australian Women's Keelboat Regatta (AKWR) hosted by RMYS.

Representing RYCV were around 25 female crew members on DUXELLE helmed by Catherine North, LIBERATOR by Katie Holroyd and Janet Wilkes, and VERTIGO by Clare Olding.

Although conditions were light, they were also challenging, with light wind sailing to be navigated and patience while race management did their best to get races underway, with five out of the six scheduled races able to be completed.

Huge congratulations to Clare Olding and her crew for successfully taking out Division one EHC and AMS, with a second in ORC. As Dee Mason (MC) said in announcing the first places for VERTIGO "that's the future of women's sailing right there". Clare & crew - you did the Club proud.

RYCV's other boats were also able to share in the prizes for the weekend with DUXELLE finishing second on EHC in the third race, and LIBERATOR awarded the "girls just wanna have fun award" for their entertainment provided during postponements, and importantly giving around 10 crew members the opportunity to experience this premier regatta.

Thanks to the boat owners, Tim, Michael and Andy, for generously lending their boats for the weekend, and also to the Club for providing two ribs, which doubled as race management boats, and for the crews to ferry themselves to and from the regatta.





CADET WORLDS 2024

The Cadet Worlds were held from 27 July - 4 August in Plymouth, UK. Royals had two teams competing - congratulations to Arjay and Matthew (33rd) and Leo and Ross (35th),

FROM COACH TONY BULL

Well, the world championship has finished, and it has been very successful for Australia. The last day saw only one race sailed as the intent to sail the final three was thwarted by the nuances of the sailing instructions and only one could be undertaken. This meant that our scoreboard leaders could not be beaten, and they still chose to head out to sail last race (and win it). But this last race did mean 10 completed and the 2nd discard comes into play ensuring a fairer result.

would like to thank the whole team, in one of our early meetings I spoke about you had to have a tight cohesive group. That the eventual world champions would be a product of a strong team effort.

IMHO the “lone wolf” thing rarely works, and as the results show this was a strong team. In our final last day briefing, it was reiterated that all contributed to this regardless of results, placings and success. To undertake and train for so long, to manage yourself and deliver on the one regatta is an emotional rollercoaster. To handle the setbacks, to see the tears alongside the Rhib or in the quiet corner of the boat park and the personal development of each has been an amazing journey. Improvement in one meant improvement in all.

If you will spare me the indulgence, I would like to acknowledge all the sailors as all are worthy of praise.

Leo Church and Ross Tolcher, 35th, boy did these guys have a tough week. Both coming down with a viral complaint in the week leading up to the regatta and then fronting up and doing so well. I can remember Leo a few years back being someone who was really aspiring to make the Australian Team and his father telling me he was writing down notes (bullyisms) after each training session. Well, you and Ross both got here and despite setbacks kept your chin up and did well.

Arjay Layton and Matthew Cross- 33rd. With their Laissez Faire approach to life and sailing. These two were our more chilled sailors, some good results here and there and always a lot of fun (which is kind of what it's all about!).

Martha Read and Charlotte Kratz- 19th, a good solid regatta and good effort to get in the top 20. Got caught up in a few congested situations. But a great attitude and couple of infectious smiles always greeted me when I came alongside.

Will Farnell and Louis Davis 15th- the comeback kings, often caught very deep at the first mark but always worked their way through from the 30-40's into the low teens and a good 7th place in last race. Another top 20 finish.

Cate McCoy and Will Garner 10th- a very well deserved top 10 finish. I can remember Cate as a very young crew and her instigating a conversation with me about how her skipper at the time was stressed out and how she could help. It has been a long journey and she's a very accomplished sailor now in her own right. And as for Will he's just another one of those bloody fast Garner's!

Issi Wilcox and George Shugg 8th- Issi and George were not in the original team but made it because of another crew withdrawing. They made the most of this situation and through a hard training regime developed into one of the better crews in the team. From not being in the original team to finish 8th in the World's the world is an amazing result. Bravo Zulu! Isaac Archer and Flynn Clougher 6th- This young crew is one to watch, Isaac the skipper is only 13 years old and won the trophy for the best under 15 helm person, a crew this young to do so well augurs well for the future. A great regatta boy's!

Charlie Birch and Archie McQuillen 5th- This crew were amazingly consistent in their regatta with regular top 10 finishers and rarely out of the low teens. A quiet determination to go out and do as well as we can was paramount. Their presence was also notable for Charlie's appalling dress sense!

Sam Hooper and Thomas Pitt 3rd – To get on the podium in the world championships was a fitting tribute to Sam's cadet career. A multiple World's team representative beginning as our youngest crew member and culminated in this success. Thomas was a big part of this combination and while Sam was sick in the week preceding the championship, Thomas accompanied me on the support boat, and I was impressed by his questioning and analysis. An outstanding regatta.

Josh Garner and Jack Benyan 1st- World Champions'. Well, where do you start? A sublime regatta. Winner of the Australian Championship, top scoring boat on UK Nationals and were tested by the Ukrainian crew of Uliana Postrelko and David Guttiev (plaudits to them too). They came out and smashed the last race,

blowing everyone away and putting the result beyond doubt! As the family Rhib headed out to the last race, they were greeted by a seal swimming alongside. Jack's dad Dave mentioned that the appearance of a seal in the surfing fraternity is regarded as being joined by a departed soul, and we all know who that was! Grandfather John would have been very proud!

Olive Hooper and Samantha Archer -1st promotional fleet. The results don't just end up with the Worlds, over on the "promo" fleet which is run in conjunction with the worlds these girls had a convincing win, highlighted by a port tack cross the fleet last race start! Another one to watch next year?

So, a few thanks to deliver. To team manager Owen Church, what a sterling job. The organisational skills and smoothness of which you ran the whole campaign was first rate. To fellow coach Ben Garner, thank you for your assistance, support and input. I would also like to thank the parents and support group who just did so much to make this a memorable event. From fuelling the Rhib's, organising team dinners, doing rosters, social media and numerous other tasks, thanks, thanks and thanks! Brendan Garner who helped me out on the coach Rhib and Tim Davis who did the UK Nationals with me. Both provided invaluable insights into the unlocking of the Plymouth Sound and British Channel racecourses. Tim before he departed said to me "I reckon there is a chance there could be up to 5 Aussie boats in top ten?". Well for once you were wrong mate, there were 6!

So, in closing, thanks to the United Kingdom Cadet Class for running a great event and to the Mountbatten Centre for hosting the event and all those that make the sailing happen. Arky and his race committee, jury, measurer's and safety boats and most important all the volunteers who are an invaluable commodity in any experience of this type. Lastly to our team sponsors, you have enriched some young sailors' lives.

With humble gratitude,

Bully





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