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26

ROYAL YACHT
CLUB OF
VICTORIA







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FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST COMMODORE

Dear Members,

It has been a genuine privilege to serve as Commodore and to work alongside our General Committee, sub-committees, staff and so many dedicated Members and volunteers who share a deep commitment to Royals.

I would firstly like to thank and commend Members Sandy Doull and Lisa Stevens for their foundational leadership on tackling occupational health and safety matters, and especially Rear Commodore Club, Peter Garner, who reorganised the OH&S portfolio as a Property and Facilities subcommittee that worked closely with General Manager Richard Black to implement responses to flagged safety concerns at the Club, along with yard staff and a willing group of volunteers. A major theme of the year has been practical delivery of lease obligations and prioritised capital works while building governance and compliance structures to support long-term planning. However, these new capital expenditures bring associated depreciation costs that have made a strong negative financial impact on this year's accounts, which will be expanded upon by Treasurer, Warwick Norman.

Key achievements and status since the last Annual Report include:

- Boat travel lift and new finger piers: commissioned and returning a critical capability that increases our yard throughput and restores reliability of the turnaround times for Members' boat works.

- Bar renovation and kitchen upgrades: delivered on a tight program to modernise service counters, refrigeration and flooring to meet contemporary health standards and improve energy efficiency.

- Fire management equipment: procurement of a fire pump and supporting equipment is complete; operational readiness achieved in line with the OH&S timetable.

- Yard and mast shed cleanup, decking and amenity upgrades and accessibility works: continued completion of previous staged works (decking, dining room, OTB ramp). OTB/hardstand amenities remain a high priority given child-safety concern

The broader capital program remains substantial. The Club Property and Facilities overview (prepared July 2025) identifies a staged portfolio with an estimated total value of \$42M across multiple decades. Short-term priority items through 2027 were agreed upon and continue to require careful funding and scheduling attention. Short term objectives include OTB hardstand amenities as a priority for child-safety, together with upgrades to yard staff and contractor facilities; and addressing the identified asbestos risk in the storage lockers.

The primary strategic consideration remains 1) the lease-mandated works to provide a new and larger marina and 2) growth in membership and diversification of revenue that will be necessary to support major works such as the marina replacement and seawall upgrades.

FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST COMMODORE

Financial position and funding outlook

- Operationally we continue to run a club that delivers significant community value while balancing the obligations of a long-term lease and major capital commitments.
- The annual infrastructure levy (applied across membership categories) has created a protected fund for capital projects; Member approval is required before funds are spent on major works.
- The Club's annual turnover remains in the order of millions, but the capital program will require escalation of membership numbers or external financing (grants, loans or philanthropic support) to meet lease sunset requirements, notably the projected multi-million dollar marina rebuild

Strategic advocacy and our waterfront precinct

The actions reported last year against the ferries causing the main source of high energy wave and surge action have reduced, but not eliminated, damage to Members' boats and our marina and foreshore infrastructure that continues to degrade, albeit at a slower rate. We recognise that the residual problems link mostly to port activities, which are planned to significantly expand in the now-released Port of Melbourne 50-year strategic plan.

- We have worked with POWAG (Port of Williamstown Action Group) to commission concept work (3D visualisations) to help socialise a rock breakwater / wave attenuation proposal to protect the Williamstown historic maritime precinct and create numerous community focused benefits. This concept is intended to inform stakeholders including Hobsons Bay City Council, Parks Victoria and State/Federal agencies of the opportunities this could bring to Williamstown.

- Meetings with Port of Melbourne, Parks Victoria and state ministers (including input from The Hon. Melissa Horne MP and discussions with former premier Steve Bracks) have elicited support, but underscored the complexity of funding, governance and ownership for any large foreshore works. In the forthcoming election cycles, the Club will continue to pursue these conversations towards funding, emphasising the recreational, safety and industry training benefits a resilient maritime precinct could bring.
- Success with this will bring the objective of a new extended floating marina within a manageable funding envelope.

Governance, safeguarding and safety

The Club has taken an active programme of governance and safeguarding reform following the events of earlier this year and in response to Member concerns. Highlights include:

- Child Safeguarding & Young People Policy: the 2017 safety policy has been comprehensively rewritten and adopted to align with the Victorian Child Safe Standards and Australian Sailing guidance. This includes a zero-tolerance statement, clear definitions of prohibited conduct, reporting pathways (internal and to external agencies), and a defined review cycle.
- Recruitment & screening: strengthened requirements - National Police Checks for new employees, regular verification of Working With Children Check status for staff, and contractor arrangements being revised to require WWCC where appropriate.
- Education & training: a mandatory, online safeguarding training portal is under development for staff, contractors and volunteers, and a tailored module for Junior Members so that reporting pathways and rights are clear.

FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST COMMODORE

Marina governance, licence framework and operational controls

To provide clarity and protect both Members and the Club, the Marina Hardstand and Yard Licence Agreement (draft April 2026) sets out modernised terms for berth and yard occupation. Key features include:

- clearer definitions of licence nature and non-proprietary occupation;
- robust insurance and safety obligations (including minimum public liability limits);
- stronger rules for contractor induction and hot works permits;
- clear fee, overdue and lien provisions (including rights to detain and deal with uncollected vessels in accordance with Victorian law);
- cruise absence arrangements, relocation rights and a disciplinary pathway for non-compliance.

The licence arrangement will allow the Club to better manage operational risk fairly and to underpin a sustainable marina business model.

Sailing, participation and youth development

Our mission to grow participation in sailing remains central:

- Competitively, Club sailors continued to perform strongly in major events, including ocean races, international and interclub regattas, and the Australian Wooden Boat Festival.
- Youth pathways: we have engaged with other clubs who have invested in youth keelboats (J70s for example at SYC) and have proposed a low cost start with the Club training vessel while pursuing grant opportunities to support acquisition of suitable dedicated youth pathway vessel(s) for squad development.
- Community outreach: the SailLAB STEM programme (Australian Sailing) offers an important school engagement pathway; RYCV supports participation and local delivery models that pair classroom learning with on-water experiences..

- Events and regattas: we remain committed to hosting high quality events (including national championships) and, with the support of our amazing volunteers, improving race management and facilities for visiting sailors.

Committee, sub-committees and capability building

- The General Committee has invested in skills audits and a talent pipeline to ensure appropriate succession and capability for complex projects. We are giving attention to gender balance and ensuring candidates bring practical site, finance and governance experience.
 - New or refreshed sub-committee advisory groups were proposed and activated during the year, notably:
 - a Marina Steering Committee to provide continuity and focus on marina replacement planning;
 - a Site & Infrastructure Advisory Group to retain long institutional knowledge and assist with project briefs and approvals.
- These arrangements help preserve continuity between changing GC compositions and provide a stronger platform for project delivery.

Risk, compliance and Member responsibilities

Members are asked to support the Club's obligations by:

- keeping insurances current and supplying renewal evidence when requested;
 - supporting the Club's safety rules and induction requirements (yard inductions, hot works permits, shore-power tagging and electrical testing);
 - complying with revised safeguarding and child safety protocols when engaged with junior activities;
 - supporting reasonable licence conditions that protect the Club and its assets.
- The Club will continue to apply a fair but firm approach in enforcement to protect Members and the long-term viability of the marina.



FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST COMMODORE

In closing

The General Committee continues work on the ongoing improvement program that is centred on growing sailing participation, pathways and enjoyment with priorities on many fronts framed by our lease obligations, safety and compliance while in a restrictive funding environment that requires fiscal discipline.

This year has been one of consolidation as well as delivery. We have completed important infrastructure, strengthened the Club's operational and safety framework, and begun to address longer-term strategic risks such as climate resilience and marina renewal. We have also renewed our commitment to running an inclusive, safe Club for people of all ages.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to these outcomes: the General Committee, sub-committees, our staff, contractors and the many Members who give their time so generously. I am confident that the systems, facilities and culture we are building will sustain Royals and enable the next General Committee to take the Club forward with purpose.

With gratitude,

Damian Purcell
Immediate Past Commodore

SAILING

ON WATER ACTION AND COMPETITION

The 2025/26 season has been one of significant progress for sailing at Royals, with important reforms across race management, safety, interclub competition, major events and youth development, while delivering an exceptionally active sailing program.

On the water, we delivered eighty eight regular keelboat racing events and three major regattas, alongside nineteen days of OTB Club racing and regattas, supported by extensive junior coaching and development.

The 2025 Lipton Cup Regatta continued its strong resurgence, attracting fifty six competitors, up 27.5% on 2024, and delivering a clear surplus of \$18,500. Building on this success, General Committee supported our proposal for free entry in 2026, replacing entry revenue through increased sponsorship. Already \$15,000 is committed, with a further \$15,000 under consideration, compared with \$14,200 in 2025.

Importantly, our advocacy through the Club Captains' Forum secured expansion of the 2026/27 Range Series, incorporating an additional day of performance racing and the new Passage Race Series into Saturday's Lipton Cup program, providing a significant platform for further growth.

Formal on-water race management was introduced for Sunday Pursuit Racing, replacing previous informal arrangements and ensuring compliance with Australian Sailing race management and safety requirements. We also introduced the Single-Handed Series and developed RYCV's Short-Handed Sailing Policy, establishing a formal framework for single and double-handed sailing. RMYS joined Summer Twilight Racing, increasing competition while reducing mixed fleets on northern Port Phillip.

Interclub competition strengthened through the Port Phillip North Yacht Clubs Championships, culminating in the inaugural Presentation Night at Royals, bringing together more than 60 competitors from our three clubs.

Looking forward, we have secured the Sydney 38 National Championships for January 2027 – the first National title for the class since 2019 and first in Victoria since 2014. This will be expanded to include Sydney 32 and Sydney 36 divisions, more than 20 visiting yachts are anticipated.

Our General Committee also committed funding to establish the RYCV Youth Squad, creating an important pathway for sailors graduating from International Cadets into competitive sports boat and keelboat racing without having to leave Royals to gain this experience.

These achievements reflect a substantial body of work over the past twelve months. My sincere thanks go to our Sailing and OTB Committees, race management teams, volunteers, staff and Members whose ongoing commitment makes sailing at Royals possible.

Matt Fahey
Rear Commodore Sailing



SAILING

2025/2026 TROPHY WINNERS

TROPHY

SUN THEATRE TROPHY
LIVINGSTON TROPHY
LIPTON CUP

CHALLENGE 12 TROPHY

DIVISION 1 AGGREGATE TUI HALL MEMORIAL TROPHY

VICE COMMODORE'S TROPHY AMS DIV 1
SEASON AGGREGATE

DIVISION 2 AGGREGATE

REAR COMMODORE'S TROPHY AMS DIV 2
SEASON AGGREGATE

THE JEFFREY GRAY MEMORIAL TROPHY

McCUTCHEON CUP

E O DIGBY TROPHY

LORD BRASSEY TROPHY

LORD FORSTER TROPHY

COMMODORE IN CHIEF'S TROPHY

COMMODORES TROPHY

ELWOOD HUON TROPHY

PALLISER TROPHY

HAROLD WARD TROPHY

AWINYA CUP

PHOENIX TROPHY

PHOENIX TROPHY WOODEN SPOON

BLACK BOTTLE TROPHY

VAL HODGE TROPHY

SONIA TROPHY

TRIPE AND ONIONS SERIES

STEAK & MUSHROOMS TROPHY

BILL HALES TROPHY

ANDREW BELL TROPHY

ESSENDON CUP

ESSENDON SERIES AMS WINNER

LAURA GLORIA TROPHY

RIVERS CUP

BOAT NAME

LAURELLE
LAURELLE
CHUTZPAH (D1)
PEGASUS (D2)
OASIS SCAG RACING (Super 40)
SHADOW (Classic & Cruising)
MAGGIE ISLAND BREWERY

VERTIGO

MAGGIE ISLAND BREWERY

LAURELLE

LAURELLE

YOUNG LION

STEALTH

PRIVATE EQUITY

YOUNG LION

YOUNG LION

MAGGIE ISLAND BREWERY

STEALTH

BUNYIP DREAMING

LAURELLE

MAGGIE ISLAND BREWERY

QUIXOTIC

FASTER FORWARD

AFRAYED KNOT

HANINI

SUNSHINE

CHUTZPAH- Start Line 1

MERCEDES IV - Start Line 2

50/50

ANA

MATADOR

IKNO

GRAVITAS

YOUNG LION

YOLLA

50/50

SKIPPER

RAY BORRETT
RAY BORRETT
BRUCE TAYLOR/GAVIN GOURLEY
ANDREW LYNCH
PAUL O'DRISCOLL
TIM BLUNT
C.BLACK/G.GOURLEY/J.PERMEZEL

TIM OLDING

C.BLACK/G.GOURLEY/J.PERMEZEL

RAY BORRETT

RAY BORRETT

DUNCAN RAE

JOHN HANDLEY

TIM CAMPBELL

DUNCAN RAE

DUNCAN RAE

C.BLACK/G.GOURLEY/J.PERMEZEL

JOHN HANDLEY

MICHAEL REHFISCH

RAY BORRETT

C.BLACK/G.GOURLEY/J.PERMEZEL

ANDREW MIDDLETON

MATT FAHEY

KARL HOWETT

DAN KENNEDY

TATUM MACKEY/AILSA PENDER

BRUCE TAYLOR

JOHN MILES

JOHN GAUSDEN

ZRINKO LEVAR

MURRAY McCUTCHEON

BRUCE McCRAKEN

PAUL LARCHER

DUNCAN RAE

PATRICK CLARKE

JOHN GAUSDEN

OFF THE BEACH

Off the Beach Committee

Claire Fazakerley
Chris Loftus
Siobhain Murphy
Cat Coyle
Rachel Canaway
Jacqui Pace
Jacinta Brenan

Thanks to the dedication of our parent volunteers, our committed coaches and the support of our members, the junior and Cadet fleet continued to go from strength to strength during 2025-26.

At the time of writing, five of our Cadet sailors have just finished competing in the Promotional Fleet at 2026 International Cadet World Championships, held in Lake Garda, Italy. Congratulations to all of our sailors for a great regatta, and in particular, to Poppy (and her RGYC skipper Tilly) for winning the Promotional Fleet championship. Competing in large international regattas challenges the sailors to grow both on and off the water and inspires the whole fleet by showing what is possible in the sport. We are proud of the way Poppy, Leo, Manon, Jarvis and Louis have represented our Club on the world stage.

With our Cadet fleet growing to ten boats this year, we were lucky to have Leo Church join our coaching team this year, working alongside Lulu Di Sciascio. Lulu and Leo's energy and commitment, and their balance of performance focus and genuine care, help make sure every sailor feels supported and capable, whether they are at the front or the back of the fleet.

The Off the Beach program couldn't run without our dedicated team of parent volunteers who help keep everything running on water, on shore and behind the scenes. This year our volunteer team was kept busy - in addition to our regular Sunday racing program and the Lipton Cup Regatta, we supported the Friday Twilight interclub dinghy racing series, successfully hosted the 2025-26 Cadet State Championships and co-hosted the Cadet/Optimist course at Sail Melbourne along with RMYS.

Our OTB fundraising program helps to contribute towards the practical costs that keep our junior program running, including club boat repairs and maintenance, clubhouse upkeep, equipment, uniforms and support towards the costs of competing national and international regattas. By helping to keep costs manageable, fundraising strengthens our ability to welcome new families to the club and support ongoing participation, building confident sailors and a lasting connection to sailing and our Club.

This year, we stepped up our fundraising program. In addition to our popular fortnightly Last One Standing draw, we held a Bunnings BBQ fundraiser and an Italian-themed Twilight Dinner (inspired by the venue for the 2026 International Cadet Worlds) and raffle. Delicious food, balmy weather and great company made our Twilight Dinner a particular success. A huge thank you to Siobhain Loftus and Cat Coyle for organising the Twilight Dinner and raffle, Paul Lloyd for leading the BBQ fundraiser, the OTB kids for selling Last One Standing Tickets - and our club members and their guests who have supported our junior sailors by buying participating in our fundraising events.

During the season, Clare Beaumont and Kristene Lay both stepped down from the OTB Committee, and I'd like to thank them both for their contribution as well as welcome Jacinta Brenan to the committee.



OFF THE BEACH

International Cadet 2025-26 Australian Championship

Eight RYCV boats made the trip to Royal Geelong Yacht Club to compete 64th International Cadet Australian Championships. It was great to see our new skippers and crews stepping up, including Bella, Ingrid, Eva, Zara, Evie, and Oscar (all competing in their first ever Nationals) and our three first-time helms Poppy, Ellie and Matthew.

Challenging conditions delivered mixed results across the fleet, with multiple capsize and both Manta Ray and Stealth unfortunately losing their forestays but there were plenty of positives to take away. Manta Ray was the best placed RYCV boat in 14th place overall, while Bullant improved across the regatta to take out the performance handicap trophy.

One Design

- 14. 10049 MANTA RAY - Leo Loftus/Manon Lay
- 17. 9917 CREATURE OF HABIT - Mairin Lloyd/Evie Iberg
- 23. 10048 AUSTRALIA 6 - Matthew Cross/Oscar Pratt
- 24. 9931 JONATHAN L - Jarvis Coyle/Louis Ridgeway
- 25. 9779 SNIPER Ellie Fazakerley/Ingrid Staedler
- 33. 9915 MOCKINGJAY - Ellie Lloyd/Zara Osborne
- 35. 9617 BULLANT - Holly Severino/Arabella Brennan
- 39. 9621 STEALTH - Poppy Loftus/Eva McNally

Performance Handicap

- 1. 9617 BULLANT - Holly Severino/Arabella Brennan
- 4. 9779 SNIPER - Ellie Fazakerley/Ingrid Staedler
- 18. 9917 CREATURE OF HABIT - Mairin Lloyd/Evie Iberg
- 21. 9915 MOCKINGJAY - Ellie Lloyd/Zara Osborne
- 22. 10048 AUSTRALIA 6 - Matthew Cross/Oscar Pratt
- 29. 9931 JONATHAN L - Jarvis Coyle/Louis Ridgeway
- 30. 9621 STEALTH - Poppy Loftus/Eva McNally
- 35. 10049 MANTA RAY - Leo Loftus/Manon Lay

International Cadet 2025-26 Cadet States results

Royals hosted the Cadet States over the Labour Day long weekend in March. Competitors faced challenging conditions and a variety of courses, producing some excellent sailing across the fleet. Royals was well represented with seven boats competing, and top 10 finishes from AUSTRALIA 6 and CREATURE OF HABIT.

- 8. 10048 AUSTRALIA 6 - Matthew Cross/Arabella Brennan
- 9. 9917 CREATURE OF HABIT - Mairin Lloyd/Evie Iberg
- 11. 10049 MANTA RAY - Poppy Loftus/Leo Loftus
- 13. 9915 MOCKINGJAY - Ellie Lloyd/Zara Osborne
- 15. 9779 SNIPER - Ellie Fazakerley/Ingrid Staedler
- 19. 9617 BULLANT - Holly Severino/Eva McNally
- 22. 5759 FOXY LADY - Ross Tolcher/Oscar Pratt



OFF THE BEACH

RYCV Trophy Winners 2025-26

OTB Presentation Night is the social highlight of our season, and this year we were thrilled to award a magnificent new OTB Volunteer trophy, the Schofield Spyglass generously donated by Guy and Tina Schofield. Cat Coyle was the well-deserved inaugural trophy winner.

This year we decided to do something a little different for our take home trophies, making personalised 'mini sail' trophies from retired Cadet sails. Thank you to Siobhain Loftus for driving the mini sail project, the Hobsons Bay Men's Shed for making the bases, Calum Brenan for stitching the sails; and Jarvis Coyle and Ellie Fazakerley for donating their retired sails.

Digby Trophy, Greenfleet series - Zachary Cross

Sheeba Trophy, Race 3 of the Club Aggregate - CREATURE OF HABIT Mairin Lloyd/Charlotte Dunbar

Jan Trophy, Race 5 of the Club Aggregate - MANTA RAY Leo Loftus/Manon Lay

Smart Trophy, Race 7 of the Club Aggregate - CREATURE OF HABIT Mairin Lloyd/Evie Iberg

Commodores Trophy, Race 10 of the Club Aggregate - MANTA RAY Leo Loftus/Manon Lay

Aoma Trophy, Club Aggregate – performance handicap - AUSTRALIA 6 Matthew Cross Oscar Pratt/Bella Brenan

Junior Club Aggregate - Cadets - MANTA RAY Leo Loftus/Manon Lay

Junior Club Aggregate - Mixed - Zachary Cross

Senior Club Aggregate - RAMBUNCTIOUS Theresa Morton/Oliver Halse

Arch Cawthorne, Cadet crews race series - MANTA RAY Manon Lay

Tom Hillenaar, Lipton Cup sprint series - AUSTRALIA 6 Matthew Cross/Oscar Pratt

Malcolm Anderson, Best placed 1st year Cadet skipper - MOCKINGJAY Ellie Lloyd

Djemma Award, Best Placed Female Cadet skipper - CREATURE OF HABIT Mairin Lloyd

Junior Club Championship - MANTA RAY Leo Loftus/Manon Lay

The Cup, Best RYCV boat in Cadet Nationals - MANTA RAY Leo Loftus/Manon Lay

Walker Warner, Most tenacious boat - RESISTANCE Ross Tolcher/Oscar Pratt

Phillip Miller Memorial Award, Most tenacious crew - Bella Brenan

Parents Encouragement Award - Poppy Loftus

Coaches Award - Ellie Fazakerley

Schofield Spy Glass, OTB Volunteer of the year - Cat Coyle



YOUR COMMITTEES

Thank you to all our Members who have volunteered their time and skills serving on our Club committees during 2025 - 2026. Our Club could not run without you!

GENERAL COMMITTEE

The General Committee plays a key role in the day to day running of the Club and it's future development

Commodore - Damian Purcell
Vice Commodore - Cath Beaufort OAM
Rear Commodore Sailing - Matt Fahey
Rear Commodore Club - Peter Garner
Secretary - Liesl Petterd
Treasurer - Warwick Norman AM
Committee Member - David Barnett
Committee Member - Sandy Doull (resigned)

SAILING COMMITTEE

The Sailing Committee is responsible for organising and coordinating sailing events and regattas which occur at the Club.

Chair - Rear Commodore Sailing Matt Fahey
Off The Beach Club Captain - Claire Fazakerley
SheSails Rep - Liesl Petterd
Sailing Administrator - Owen Church
Handicapper - Gary Fell
Training and Development - Ian Fox
Crusing - Vacant
Committee Member - Sam Smith
Committee Member - Paige Butcher

PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES

The Property and Facilities Committee assists in the operations of the Club's yard and marina.

Chair - Rear Commodore Club Peter Garner
Committee Member - Glenda Pililfeant
Committee Member - Ken Uber
Waterfront Manager - Max Leonard

HOUSE AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The House and Social Committee assists in the planning and running of social events.

Chair - Vice Commodore Cath Beaufort OAM
Committee Member - Melissa Fahey
Committee Member - Julie Webb
Committee Member - Jackie Mitchell
Committee Member - Sabina Staedler
Committee Member - Rene Johnson-Sneddon
Food and Beverage Manager - Simone Kienc

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee discusses new and innovative ways to encourage more people to discover sailing.

Chair - Vice Commodore Cath Beaufort OAM
Committee Member - Megan Jackson
Committee Member - Susan Webber
Committee Member - Julie Standen
Committee Member - Karen Moore
Committee Member - David Barnett
Committee Member - Sam Solly
Membership and Sailing Administrator - Melissa Wisbey.

173RD OPENING DAY



We were blessed with exceptional weather for our 173rd Opening Day.

The season opening began with the participating RYCV fleet joining a sail past to salute with three cheers to the Commodore, who had Flag Officers and the General Manager, as guests aboard SCIMITAR. The Committee responded with equal gusto. Conditions were close to perfect and thanks to volunteers aboard THORSEN, who provided a fitting amount of ceremony to the event, with David LeRoy using gunfire and flags to start the different sailing classes.

Crews returned to the Club with the “Rats of Tobruk” pipe band playing before we commenced the formal proceedings by acknowledging our Admiral (King Charles III) our Commodore in Chief (Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor Margaret Gardner) and the traditional custodians of the lands and waterways (the Bunurong People). Member Marg Godard led the blessing of the fleet before we had the chance to celebrate the incredible contributions of three giants of Club with two 50-year Life memberships and one Honorary Life membership.

First was Cliff Wilkinson, who is now 94 years of age and was thrilled to share the presentation of his badge with his large family of children and grandchildren who attended the Club on the day. Cliff was deeply involved in RYCV racing, including four Melbourne to Hobarts, two Sydney to Hobarts, a Sydney to Noumea, a Sydney to Suva, and the Melbourne to Osaka race in 1995. Cliff spent the next seven years cruising back to Melbourne with his wife June, who kept the Club updated on their travels with highlights in the Royals magazine.

Second was Alan Sheers, who sailed with the Williamstown Sea Scouts and Hobsons Bay Yacht Club as a young man before joining RYCV in 1977, sailing on many vessels, including numerous Melbourne and Sydney to Hobart ocean races, bay racing, and ¼ and ½ ton world championships.

We were then able to introduce our newest Honorary Life member, Past Commodore Michael McLean, who joined RYCV 28 years ago. His written nomination was submitted by two past Commodores and a long-standing Member. Michael's achievements in sailing and for the Club are exceptional and include winning a gold medal in the 2000 Paralympics, World Champion in the 2.4m class in 1999, and spearheading RYCV's successful bid and delivery of the 2015 Para World Championships held at our Club. Michael was Vice President of the International 2.4 metre class, and an RYCV Flag Officer and Commodore with over 8 years of service. Michael never let his disability get in the way but used sailing as a way to excel and to give back to the community.

The official season opening was marked by the unfurling of the Club burgee by the Junior Club Captains, Holly Severino and Matthew Cross, following the firing of the cannon in the hands of Past Commodore, Michael Smith. After a quick ceremony to cut the ribbon to open the new travel lift and figure piers for business, many settled into some wonderful lunch offerings from the RYCV kitchen, and all seemed happy with our newly revamped bar that should cut down wait times in peak periods. The day made me very proud to be a Member of RYCV.



NEW TRAVEL LIFT



Monday 6 October 2025 marked an exciting day in the Club's history - the first lift using our brand-new travel lift and of course the first vessel is the Club's flagship vessel THORSEN!

The project began in mid-July and reached completion last Friday, with the official opening ceremony held on Saturday as part of our Opening Day celebrations.

This upgrade represents a major step forward for RYCV, enhancing our on-site capability to service and maintain Members' and non-members vessels safely and efficiently.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to bringing this project to life, from the contractors and staff, and in particular the volunteer Club Members who supported the development every step of the way.



State-of-the-art Travel Lift with the following features:

- **Lifting capacity** of approximately **32 tonnes**
- **Lifting length** of approximately **20 metres**
- **Lifting width/beam** of approximately **5.5 metres**
- **Draft capacity** of up to **4 metres** (subject to fairway depth)
- **Optional multiple sling configuration**, ideal for cradling heavier and timber vessels to distribute weight evenly across the hull and keel
- **2-tonne jib crane** for lifting masts, engines, and other components
- **Faster winch speeds** to improve haul-out and launch efficiency
- **Forward cross beam** minimises the need to remove a yacht's backstay for lifting
- **Most mizzen masts** will not need to be removed for haul out

THORSEN



After an extensive slipping and major 10-year survey inspection, Thorsen is now officially back in survey and ready to return to operations.

The inspection works included detailed assessment of hull fastenings, shaft and propulsion components, hull condition, and general structural integrity to ensure the vessel continues to meet commercial survey and safety requirements.

A huge thank you to the volunteers, contractors and supporters involved in the process of keeping this important race management vessel operating safely for the Club and the broader sailing community.

CLASSIC CUP REGATTA



Photos: A.J. McKinnon

And so it came to pass in the two thousand and twenty fifth year, that that Cup Regatta was run and won. It is a strange phrase that "it came to pass"; The feeling of anticipation, it passes; tears and disappointment they pass, exaltation and exhilaration they pass, the aching muscles and bruises they certainly pass but two things that never pass are your memories, memories of a great regatta, and friendship, those of the old friends you have caught up with once again as well as the new friends you have made. This is what the Cup Regatta is all about. No playing for sheep-stations here.

Seventeen boats lined up to meet the starter off the breakwater at St. Kilda in a freshening 12-15kt northerly wind. The course took the boats from RMYS D, across to RMYS C then down to R2 for the slog, I mean beat, back up to D mark with a second loop back to RMYS B. By the time they would receive the hooter, the breeze was nudging over 25kts which allowed for some late excitement.

Close racing across all divisions was observed and the race committee got it right with the entire fleet finishing within 17min of each other.

In Division 1, whilst MERCEDES IV got the line honours nod, it was the back of the fleet who stormed through to take the overall honours, with MARIE LOUISE III heading CYAN with MERCEDES IV rounding out the podium.

Division 2, the Tumlarens, saw YVONNE continue her stellar run, cleaning up by eight minutes from DINGO who was left chomping on road kill in the form of Ettrick in third with 1sec separating them on handicap.

In Division 3 it was MARAMA, with John Russell-Cook who again flushed it, taking the chocolates from Rob Pullin in Astrud, and David McNeice in AKALA.

In Division 4 it was once again Rob Tucker and team in MORNING STAR who continued her stellar form coming in a just on a minute ahead of Tony Kinsman in JOAN. Without some troubles at the start JOAN may have been able to exert a little more pressure at the pointy end. Rounding out the count was LUCY with the double ender net-boat JEAN chomping at their heels.

In Division 5, Geoff Stevens and the HOTSPUR crew continued their dominance recording a clean sweep for the event. It was great to have their involvement and hopefully in future we'll see more modern classics on the course to give them a little competition.

In all it was a great day's racing to round out what was a terrific regatta.

Congratulations to the following entrants.

Division 1

1. BOAMBILLEE S51 - George Fisscher
2. MERCEDES III R450 - Martin Ryan
3. MARIE LOUISE III GKA1 - Scott Taylor

Division 2

1. YVONNE 97 - David Allen
2. DINGO 200 - James Hutchinson
3. ETTRICK 321- Gordon Tait

Division 3

1. MARAMA R1441 - John Russell-Cook
2. ASTRUD KA544 - Robert Pullin
3. ALWYN H151- Peter Costolloe

Division 4

1. MORNING STAR C157 - R Tucker
2. JOAN C99 - Tony Kinsman
3. LUCY C31 - Michael Golding

Division 5

1. HOTSPUR R188 - Geoff Stevens



NAUTILUS MARINE LIPTON CUP



Last November delivered two fabulous days of racing, paired with plenty of fun and a fantastic vibe off the water!

For the very first time, we were thrilled to award an OTB Nautilus Marine Insurance Lipton Cup, a wonderful milestone for the event.

Well done to all sailors, volunteers, and supporters who made it such a memorable weekend!

What a great weekend it was. The Nautilus Marine Insurance Lipton Cup Regatta always sees the Club a buzz with sailors, volunteers and those who have come along to support and watch the event. A fantastic sunny day with perfect sailing conditions unfolded over Saturday and only got better as the afternoon went on; it was an amazing start to the weekend.

Sunday dawned with a cooler breeze and darker sky that threatened to become problematic for the day ahead and would eventually see the tempo step up a good deal for our sailors, for race management, and for our crews on the water.

Our Principal Race Officer, Steve Aulich, made a great call to shorten the keelboat course so they would finish a little earlier and closer to the Club as the squally weather approached. Shortly after that, the PRO also made the call to abandon the last of the Of The Beach races, ensuring the OTB sailors would be back in the safety of the marina when the change in weather came through. The OTB fleet were packing up their boats when the rain squall and associated strong winds arrived. Clear justification of the PRO's calls on race completion.

Congratulations to the winners and place getters for the various divisions of the Nautilus Marine Insurance Lipton Cup over a great weekend.

Keelboats

Cruising & Classics SHADOW R241 - Tim Blunt

Division 3 OASIS SCAG RACING R2 - Paul O'Driscoll

Division 2 PEGASUS SM5915 - Andrew Lynch

Division 1 (Super 40s) CHUTZPAH R33 - Bruce Taylor

OTB

Mirror WATERLOO SUNSET - Alex Morton & Alex Streets

Optimist MAD DOG - Stirling Marshall

Cadet RINGO - Jack Benyan & Louis Davis



Volunteers are at the heart of all large events at Royals and none more so than the Lipton Cup.

Thank you to each and every one of you who helped make it happen.

A special shout-out to Grant Botica for setting up the radio room, and to Daniel Coyle for tackling the mark shed cleanup. Your hard work kept the regatta running smoothly!

Thank you all for being a part of the Nautilus Marine Insurance Lipton Cup Regatta, see you in November 2026!





ORCV RUDDER CUP



ORCV MEDIA

....Quixotic, the X-41 skippered by Andrew Middleton was second on AMS overall and The Jackal, skippered by Matt Setton and sailing their first long-distance ocean race, finished in third.

Middleton, from the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, and his crew were quietly proud of their spoils in the race winning the FH Stephens Perpetual Trophy for first on PHS and the Doc Bennell Perpetual Trophy for first on ORC after finishing fourth across the line.

"We are very pleased with our results, keeping the boat moving and staying out of the holes was important," said Middleton.

Crew member Hester Freeman, no stranger to ocean racing having sailed a few Melbourne to King Island and Apollo Bay races over the last five years, and with a previous Rudder Cup under her belt, was kept busy during the race.

We kept the boat moving, we did a few sail changes that worked well including a spinnaker peel," said Freeman. James Patterson was full of praise for his crewmates.

James Patterson was full of praise for his crewmates.

"It's a very good crew, we all worked really well together and my role, well I just got up every ten or fifteen minutes and told them to go faster," Patterson said laughing.

"We were all working together as a team, as a conglomerate, bouncing off each other, working as one unit with lots of thoughts going in - it's really good on the boat as everyone can have a say," said Patterson.

Highlights for skipper Middleton included being quick out of the [Port Phillip] Heads "and keeping Chutzpah and Scarlet Runner in our sight for a long, long time which was great, and also, I guess, realising sometimes that we missed a hole in the breeze that we could see the boats behind us fall into - it's a bit cruel, but what it meant was that we had made the right choice.

"For us, we did more sail changes than we would normally do offshore and every time that we did one, it was the right choice, we were really pleased with that," said Middleton.

The light forecast made it tough going for the fleet with one late withdrawal and nine retirements reducing the race to 17 yachts as boats fell into holes in the breeze, creating a virtual 'parking lot' on Bass Strait and making conditions more conducive to photography and whale watching than flat-out sailing.....

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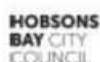
*If you have completed an RYCV training course or paid \$150 member



Partners



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BLUEBIRD PRESENTATION NIGHT

RYCV has a strong history of female membership from 1984.

At the Bluebird Presentation Night last November, we congratulated Paige and Samantha, on BLUE VOLVO, for being the first women from RYCV to win the Class Monkeys Series and the Bluebird Cup.

It has been good to see an increase in the number of women participating in sailing at our Club. This aligns with the Club's Vision Statement that is:

- To encourage and mentor women in sailing and to develop a sense of community within the club which nurtures a life-long ambition to sail, and
- To ensure women's interests are respected and represented on all major committees of RYCV.

The Bluebird Class actively encourages and supports women in sailing, whether as boat owners or crew. As well as competitive One Design racing, we value the social interactions after races on the club lawn or deck.

Bluebirds are very affordable to purchase and own and they are easily sailed, either two or three-handed. There are a few Bluebirds for sale at the moment, and it would be a great opportunity for women who'd like to own a boat and participate in One Design racing. Bluebirds welcome those who'd like to try sailing.

MELBOURNE CUP @ ROYALS





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All female race management team (L to R): Cas Bukor (photographer), Vicki Bayly (Radio Operator), Marg Goddard (Incident Management Lead), and Catherine North (Race Director and Duxelle owner)

ORCV WHNR

ORCV Media

After months of planning and a strong return in 2022, the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria's Women's Helm, Navigator, and Radio Operator Race (WHNR) made another inspiring comeback on Saturday 26 July, reigniting the club's commitment to creating space for women in offshore racing.

The 26-nautical mile passage race from Royal Brighton Yacht Club (RBYC) to Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club (QCYC) brought women to the forefront - with 72% of boats led by female sailors in helm, navigator, and radio roles. They were supported by 28% male boat owners and mentors, and the event was run entirely by ORCV's all-female Race Management Team, led by Race Director Catherine North.

Race day dawned grey and wet, with loitering low-pressure systems overhead—but the energy from the crews couldn't be dampened. Conditions began with calm seas and 10–15 knot northerlies, but built to gusts of over 20 knots and increasingly confused seas as the fleet neared the finish at the West Channel Pile.

The standout performance came from the 60-foot Belle, helmed by boat owner Kylie Balharrie, who spectacularly surfed under kite down the bay to take Line Honours and 1st PHS. Balharrie beamed, "Great day on the water today,,,We loved every minute of the downwind race...Awesome day thanks everyone and ORCV for getting behind a fabulous race!"

Close behind was the 36' X-yacht DuXelle, helmed by Rachel McGuigan (while boat owner Catherine North ran the race), who overcame an early jib issue and executed a perfect racing peel to climb back into contention and finish second on both line honours and PHS only 10 minutes behind Belle.

RYCV

TRIPLE & ONIONS



30 YEARS OF SUNDAY SAILING!

Join us for one of the Club's favourite summer traditions as we celebrate 30 years since the Series was first awarded.

Whether you're a regular racer or just looking for a great day on the water, it's the perfect excuse to:

- Sail with friends
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- Bring the family along
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0412659341



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20TH-22ND NOVEMBER 2026

OTB PRESENTATION NIGHT

It was a fantastic evening celebrating our OTB sailors at their Presentation Night.

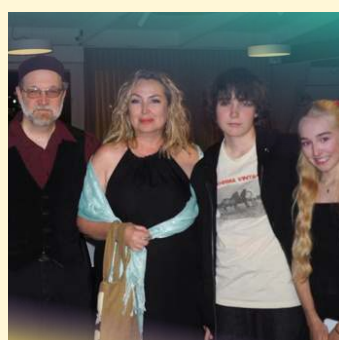
It was wonderful to recognise the achievements of our sailors throughout the season, from those taking home their first-ever Club trophies to our more experienced competitors. The smiles, excitement and pride on the night were a great reminder of what makes our sailing community so special.

A huge thank you to our volunteers, coaches, race officials, parents and supporters. Junior sailing simply wouldn't happen without the many people who give their time and energy throughout the year.

A special thank you to Claire Fazakerley for her dedication and commitment as Club Captain. Claire has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to support our sailors, families and volunteers, helping make the season such a success.

We were also proud to present our unique trophies made from retired Cadet sails. Having spent years on the water through wins, losses, long trips and countless adventures, they now celebrate the achievements and stories of a new generation of sailors.

Congratulations to all of our award winners and thank you to everyone who helped make this season one to remember. We can't wait to see what next season.



OTB PRESENTATION NIGHT





WINNER:

**Instructor
of the Year**

**IAN
FOX**

ROYAL YACHT CLUB OF
VICTORIA



IAN FOX

Victorian Instructor
of the Year 2026

Ian inspires people of all ages to discover, enjoy and excel in sailing as Training Manager at the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, delivering year-round instruction across keelboat sailing, powerboat handling, marine radio and the highly successful Tackers Junior program. His patient, adaptable teaching style has made him exceptional at converting first-timers into lifelong sailors, with junior graduates progressing into the Club's Off the Beach fleet and many adult students going on to become Members and active racing crew. Beyond the training boat, Ian has spent two decades mentoring countless instructors and volunteers, helping build the next generation of sailing educators. Widely respected for his professionalism, integrity and genuine passion for helping others succeed, Ian's dedication has played a significant role in growing and retaining participation in sailing at RYCV.

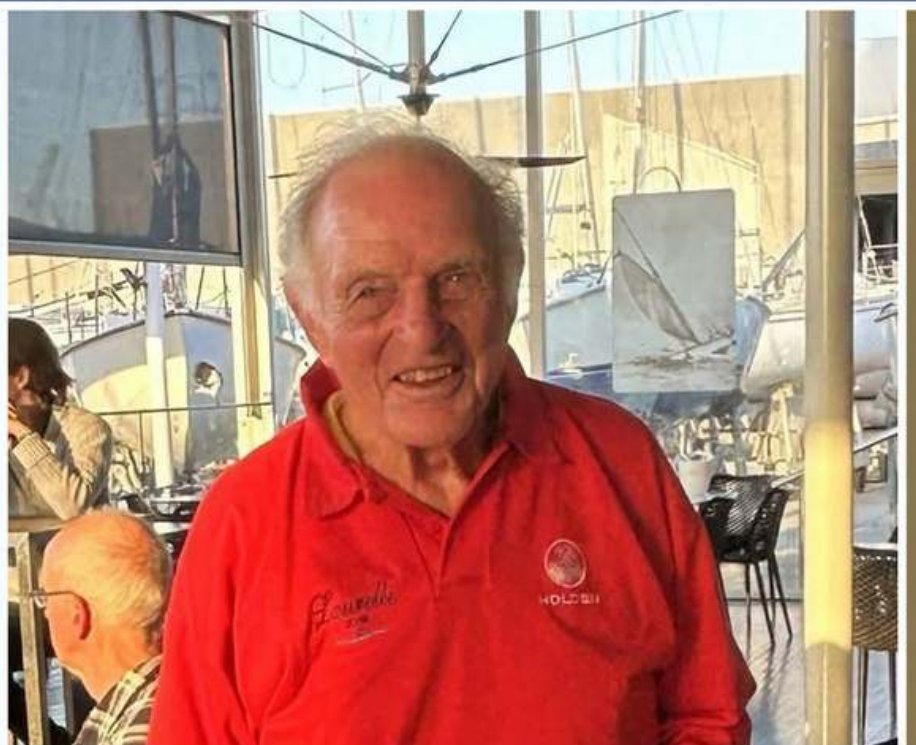


WINNER:

**Lifetime
Achievement Award**

**PETER
BEDGGOOD**

ROYAL YACHT CLUB OF
VICTORIA



PETER BEDGGOOD

Lifetime Achievement Award

Peter's 75-year sailing journey has taken him from model yachts on Pittwater in the late 1940s to offshore racing legends like the Sydney-Hobart, Commodore of the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, and decades of race management still going strong today. Through Bedggood Canvas, he continues to manufacture and repair race marks for yacht clubs, keeping his contribution to the sport hands-on well into 2026. He marked his remarkable connection to sailing by celebrating his 90th birthday racing on the water, crossing the finish line to a chorus of "Happy Birthday" from the Race Committee, a fitting tribute to a lifetime of genuine, ongoing involvement.



ALIEN Dominates the 2025 Melbourne to Hobart Yacht Race.

Story by ORCV Media, Photos by Jane Austin

Justin Brenan and his team of diehard sailors from the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, have sailed their Lidgard 36 yacht, ALIEN, to take a clean sweep of all handicap divisions in the 2025 Melbourne to Hobart 'Westcoaster' Yacht Race.

The most prestigious of these victories is for first place on corrected time on AMS handicap which determines the overall winner of the race and is awarded the Heemskerk Perpetual Trophy.

Joining Brenan onboard Alien and sharing the spoils of victory were his son Calum Brenan, Glen Cowan, Ben Tyrrell, Michael Noy, Andrew Vincent, Allison Wetzels and navigator Katrina Hartman.

Ocean Racing Club of Victoria's Commodore Cyrus Allen led the presentations at the Derwent Sailing Squadron where sailors, families and friends gathered to share a long lunch prior to the awarding of the silverware.

No stranger to winning, Brenan has sailed in 16 Westcoasters, and has six wins under his belt including a win when the race was sailed down the East Coast of Tasmania as part of the centenary Rudder Cup celebration.

Brenan won on ORC handicap and was presented with the City of Melbourne Perpetual Trophy for his win on PHS.

In a wonderful acknowledgment of her sailing expertise, Katrina Hartman was awarded the Zeehan Perpetual Trophy as navigator onboard the overall winning yacht.

Brenan was chuffed to win another Westcoaster on a corrected time of 2 days, 21 hours, 33 minutes and six seconds, and expressed much praise for his team, including the valuable advice he received from Calum at a pivotal moment in the race.



"I've got my number two son Calum onboard, he's done a few of these races, maybe 12 or 13.

"We did have a light argument on the way down about what to do at Macquarie Harbour with that transition in the weather, I wanted to be two miles further out and he wanted to go up the middle.

"He picked it perfectly and so we sailed straight through.

"Everyone one else went way offshore and of course having gone all the way out west had to come back to the east, so that gave us a few miles, but other than that, it was just about having the right sails and the right crew.

"It was really nice weather, maybe a little bit light, but we got a couple of hours of reasonable sailing down the bottom and sailed straight past FASTER FORWARD.

"It was a good, interesting race, quite tactical, you really had to sail the right angles, it's quite critical when you are going through the gap between Tassie and King Island, if you are in the wrong position, you've just lost 10 miles.

"People don't believe me, but all you have to do is look at the currents, the tide really doesn't matter, as long as you are on the eastern side, and you stay out of the middle.

"I've passed this information on to other people, but no one follows it, so that's a bonus for us every year.

"But really it was just delightful weather, we didn't have too many calm spots, it didn't rain, it was warm, what more could you ask for," said Brennan.

Matt Fahey's Sydney 38, FASTER FORWARD, was second on AMS Handicap, winning the Edward Henty Trophy, and second on PHS.

Matt Setton, skipper of the Ker 11.3, THE JACKAL, from the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron, was the line honours winner in this year's Westcoaster, sailing the race for the second time and his first as skipper, in an elapsed time of 3 days, 5 hours, 22 minutes and 23 seconds, 20 minutes ahead of ALIEN.

In what was a fabulous ocean race for Setton, who was awarded the Wreast Point Abel Tasman Trophy for line honours, the Port Phillip Sea Pilot's Trophy for the first boat through Port Phillip Heads, and the Alan Collins 'Rookie Skipper' prize awarded to the best performing first time skipper as assessed by the Race Director.

In a closely fought race, THE JACKAL led all the way from Melbourne to Hobart, clinching the line honours victory despite the determined efforts of Matt Fahey's Sydney 38, FASTER FORWARD, and a last-ditch effort from Justin Brennan's Lidgard 36, ALIEN, in the final few miles of the race.

"It was close racing, THE JACKAL at one stage was 20 nautical miles in front of us and it ended up four nautical miles in the end, maybe less," said Brennan.

Setton reflected upon his victory as a first-time skipper and what gave them the edge.

"I'm pretty happy to be here, very relieved, it's been a big year getting the boat ready, I'm glad we made it.



"I think our downwind speed on the second day gave us a little bit of a break from FASTER FORWARD.

"We knew that they would be pretty good upwind and so for the first 12 hours or so, it wasn't quite downwind, and there were only a few miles between us, but we thought, once the breeze got behind us, we'd be able to skip away a little bit, and we were able to do that which was good.

"It was a great race, very tactical, probably equally as tactical in some respects as a Sydney to Hobart.

Onboard THE JACKAL with Setton were Jeff Whiteside, Nigel Fellowes-Freeman, Peter Grant, Stuart Addison, Robert Buchanan, Thor Cembala and Ronald Piang Ng.

In true Westcoaster tradition, Simon Dryden, a race veteran onboard FASTER FORWARD received acknowledgement for completing 30 Melbourne to Hobart Yacht Races.

FASTER FORWARD skipper Matt Fahey acknowledged his crew in this year's race and made mention of the impression that Dryden has had on this race.

"I'm delighted, we've had the boat seven years, this is our fifth Melbourne to Hobart on our boat, and we just love it.

"We've put a new team together this year with a few new people, and they've done an incredible job, not only the novices in our team but also the ones with experience that have come to us from other parts of Australia.

"I'm really happy with what we have achieved as a team, I've never had a bond like we have already in this group, and I couldn't do it without Simon.

"I'm thrilled that I've had him back with me again this year, and I'm thrilled that I've had the opportunity to share his 30th [race] with him, it's a real privilege to have done four together.

"Hour on hour, there was something new that all of us learnt ... that's the privilege I have in being able to sail with Simon," said Fahey.



“Dryden took a moment to reflect upon his Melbourne to Hobart racing achievements after docking in Hobart for the 30th time.

“It’s a race that I love and that I have done so many times, it’s just part of my nature.

“It’s good fun sailing with a bunch of guys, some of them are new, some are less experienced, so teaching them all the way about ways to do things...it’s always something you look forward to, it’s [Hobart] a great destination.

“It’s about taking people on the journey; I think that all eight people that Matt and I had on this journey will be back.

“The interesting thing about the Melbourne to Hobart Race is that we see such lovely countryside and we see such lovely places, it’s just really nice how this race comes via various stages of Tasmania,” said Dryden.

The Kevin Behrens Shield for Outstanding Crew Member, awarded to the crew member judged most outstanding in the race, was presented to Robert Brown, affectionately known as Spiderman, by the crew of JOAN LORRAINE for being so willing and helpful and at aged 70 was the first up the mast twice during this year’s Westcoaster.

The Westcoaster is one of the world’s great ocean races, covering 435 nautical miles from the start in Port Phillip to the finish line in the River Derwent in Hobart.

The race starts with a 125 nautical mile passage across Bass Strait before the fleet sails 200 nautical miles south down the West Coast of Tasmania, past Maatsuyker Island, east to South East Cape then turning northeast through the challenging waters of Storm Bay and then the fickle conditions of the River Derwent.

The monohull race record of 1 day 17 hours 28 minutes 59 seconds was set by Shortwave in 2008.

KEELBOAT PRESENTATION NIGHT

Members and guests gathered on Saturday evening for our annual Presentation Night, a wonderful celebration of the achievements, dedication and success of our sailors throughout the season.

The evening was filled with great food, entertainment and plenty of laughter as Members came together to recognise outstanding performances both on and off the water. It was a fantastic opportunity to reflect on another successful season and acknowledge the commitment of our sailing community.

A special thank you to PC Michael Smith, who did an outstanding job as Master of Ceremonies, keeping the evening running smoothly while adding plenty of humour and warmth to the proceedings.

Congratulations to all award recipients and competitors. Your enthusiasm, sportsmanship and achievements continue to make our Club a great place to sail.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the evening such an enjoyable celebration.

Club Awards

Junior Sailor of the Year - Leo Loftus
Intermediate Sailor of the Year - Shashi Anjan
Cruising Sailor of the Year - Pet Bengtzen
Crew Member of the Year - Belinda Pike
Sailor of the Year - Catherine North
Boat of the Year - QUIXOTIC
Club Member of the Year - Claire Fazakerly



KEELBOAT PRESENTATION NIGHT





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Louis, Jarvis, Manon, Leo and Poppy at Lake Garda, Italy.

An interview with Leo Loftus, Poppy Loftus and Jarvis Coyle, who completed in the OTB 52-boat Promotional Fleet of the Cadet Worlds at Circolo Vela Torbole, Lake Garda, Italy from 30th July to 7th Aug 2026.

How long have been sailing on Cadets?

Jarvis: About 3 to 4 years.

Leo: About 5 years.

Poppy: About 4 years.

Was this your first time competing at a Cadet Worlds?

Leo: Yes, it was the first time at any international regatta.

Jarvis: Yes, it was.

Poppy: Yes.

What preparation did you do in Australia before competing?

Poppy: My skipper, Tilly and I competed in both training camps at Geelong and Tasmania for the Cadet Worlds. Then, we did some one on one training together in Geelong.

Leo: I started by sailing by myself regularly during the week and after school and I competed in both training camps. I also trained with the other Cadets at Royals.

Jarvis: Most weekends I travelled to Geelong to do a lot of training with the other cadets. We spent a lot of time racing.

What was it like getting out to the start for the first race of the series. Were you nervous?

Leo: I was nervous, especially seeing how many boats were there, but I was also excited as it was a pretty amazing venue.

Jarvis: A bit nervous definitely, I think we all were, but also lot of excitement, especially being in such a great environment.

Poppy: I was pretty nervous, but I was also very excited because Lake Garda is such a beautiful place to sail.



What was the most enjoyable was the most part of being at the Cadet Worlds?

Jarvis: The racing was amazing and the scenery was fantastic, but definitely the social side of it, just getting together after the races and even in the mornings when we were all rigging together.

Poppy: Meeting other people from different countries and learning about the places where they sail.

Apparently, a 45 knot squall came through in one of the races. What was that like out on the water?

Jarvis: Actually there were two squalls that came through. The first was on Day One of racing. The race committee decided to try and hold us out there, but we all made our way back to shore. The second squall was about same time on Day Four. It was an even stronger squall that came through. A lot of boats capsized. The Aussie teams got back in real quick. We all jumped on the ribs and went to go help other boats get back to shore.

Leo: There was a bit of chaos. Looking around I could see almost 3/4 of the fleet were capsized.

Poppy: It wasn't too scary because I have been in experiences like that before, so we just sat on out the top of our boats waiting for the rescue crew.

Poppy, what was the feeling like winning the Promotional Fleet Series?

Poppy: It was very exhilarating and it took a while to sink in.

What was something you learned from competing at Lake Garda?

Leo: I think what I got most out of it was learning from all the top sailors in the Australian Fleet. About how often they train and how they sail. Then, applying it to my own sailing and seeing how good I can get.

Jarvis: I learnt a lot more about race tactics and really just good boat handling skills as well.

Poppy: That even in places where the wind is usually very consistent, the weather can still be very unpredictable.

What would you say to other cadets who were thinking about competing at the worlds in the future?

Leo: I think that it's an amazing experience. You learn so much more than you could from sailing cadets at home. Whether you're in the Cadet Worlds or Promos, it's worth going.

Jarvis: I strongly recommend doing either the Cadet Worlds or the Promos, even if it's just for the fun of it. It's such a great opportunity and it's really one of the best things you can do.

Poppy: I think it's very beneficial and you get to learn a lot and meet new people.

Any other comments?

Jarvis: If you get a chance to go to Lake Garda, I'd strongly recommend it. It's such a lovely place with great scenery.



Parent interviews:

What was it like from a parent's perspective being at the Cadet Worlds?

Siobhan Murphy (Leo and Poppy's Mum):

I think it was amazing on so many levels, especially for Leo and Poppy to participate in sailing at an international level. There were people from all around the world, including some of the best Cadet sailors. I watched Poppy grow in confidence as a sailor and as a person from being with an older skipper who she became very good friends with. Obviously, they were quite successful in what they did, and she's come back with a desire to do well. Lake Garda was a very picturesque location. The kids got so much out of it not only for their sailing but from a personal level. They made lots of friends from places like the UK, Tassie, South Australia and Geelong that they still keep in contact with. I highly recommend it for other parents and their children.

Cat Coyle:

It was fabulous. It was exciting. It was a lot of hard work and long days, but amazing to see all these kids get out there and just push themselves to their limits. It was run really well. The kids were really impressive. They showed up and gave it their all. Australia did really well, but also there was a really good team atmosphere and all of the countries got together and really supported each other. I really enjoyed it. There were good social activities for parents. We had an international night where participants from all the different countries brought different foods from their country. From Australia, we took vegemite, Arnott's shapes, kangaroo and crocodile jerky, Bundaberg Rum and Green Ant Gin, which other parents were curious about. Every day was different and a lot of fun. I really enjoyed it and hope that we go to a few more in the future.

This experience was a formative one for the five cadet participants that has left a lasting impression on them, influencing their growth as young people and sailors. As a Club, we should continue to support our cadets to participate in such events.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers, both on and off the water. Your time, passion and dedication help make our club what it is, and so much of what we do simply wouldn't be possible without you. We're incredibly grateful for everything you contribute to the Royals community.

