



Welcome to Paradise

The Newsletter of the Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club

95th Edition: May 2016

Potentially "The World's Most Unique Yacht Club"

In this edition of the newsletter **Vice Commodore Richard Lowe** reflects on the past season at QCYC, whilst Doug Curlewis reports on a recent **Depth Survey**. There is also an update on the **Lease Negotiations**, an introduction to our new **Events Organiser** and a reminder to **Sign in Visitors** to the clubhouse.

Whilst being reflective as the season draws to a close, there's plenty to look forward to at QCYC. And don't forget to check June's edition of the [Cruising Helmsman](#) for an article on the club.

Dates for your diary are:

June 11th Alan Robinson Trophy Race - RBYC to QCYC

July 31st Christmas in July at the clubhouse

October 4th 54th AGM at Royal Brighton Yacht Club

October 16th Working Bee at QCYC

Early November HMAS Goorangai Trophy Race and Opening Day (dates to be confirmed)

January 1st 2017 Prawn and Oyster Luncheon

January 2017 2nd Queenscliff Cup

February/March 2017 QCYC Cruise to Three Hummock Island and beyond

THANK YOU FROM THE VICE COMMODORE



Dear Members,

I have been a member of QCYC for four years and, compared to many, am only a beginner at the Club.

But no matter how long your association, it's quite clear that the Club's success has been due to members volunteering: fulfilling designated roles, such as OOD and the manning of the bar; attending working bees; maintaining or redeveloping the clubhouse; taking responsibility for daily cleaning of the club facilities, such as the kitchen, dining room and toilets; or organising special events or tasks.

In my role on the Committee, one of my responsibilities is to organise the rosters for Officer of the Day and Bar Volunteers and, to be honest, in past years it has been a struggle to find sufficient numbers to assist with the smooth operation of the club in these areas.

However, reflecting on the sailing season just gone, I believe there has been a discernible change of attitude around the club and a really positive vibe. Members have enthusiastically volunteered for these roles, especially as OOD. And when an OOD has not been rostered, members with boats berthed at the wharf have pitched in to assist other members and visitors arriving at the club.

The same has been the case for the bar and this season we have seen some new stalwarts step forward, several of whom have been members for a shorter time than me. We will be arranging another Responsible Service of Alcohol course before next season, and look forward to members without RSA certificates taking part so they can swell the ranks of those able to volunteer to operate the bar.

In other areas, the hard work of volunteers in making the Prawn and Oyster Luncheon such a success, and the large turn out at the first working bee also reflect this enthusiasm. Happily, the expectation that members of the Committee will undertake the bulk of the work around the club is fading; replaced by a much greater willingness of members sharing the load to make our great club run effectively. If we all pitch in to fulfill the necessary tasks it makes light work of keeping QCYC the unique destination and special club that it is.

Thank you to everyone that has contributed this season and especially to all those that have volunteered so willingly.

Richard Lowe

LEASE UPDATE

In August 2013, Parks Victoria was appointed as the Committee of Management over the new public purposes reserve in Swan Bay, which includes the area occupied by QCYC. The current lease expired on 31 March 2016.

Parks Victoria and the General Committee have been in the process of negotiating a new long term lease for QCYC for some months and the Committee completed its submissions some time ago. It has been a lengthy process but, in a letter dated 7 April 2016, Stuart Wardrop (Commercial Services Officer for Parks Victoria) confirmed that the existing lease terms and conditions will continue pending the execution of the new lease.

On 10 May 2016 Stuart further confirmed that the delegate for the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water has approved 'grant and purpose' for the new lease, meaning that Parks Victoria can now negotiate a new lease directly with QCYC. The lease commencement date cannot precede the date of the grant and purpose (ie May 6 2016).

Further updates will follow when the negotiations have been finalised.

For further information please contact either John Mooney (commodore@qcyc.org.au) or Richard Lowe (vicecommodore@qcyc.org.au).

CHRISTMAS IN JULY



Christmas in July will be held at the clubhouse on Sunday 31st July 2016.

Following the success of 2015, the menu will again be catered by Stuart North from 'Ebony and Ivory' at a cost of \$45.00 per head. Vegetarian options will be available on request at the time of booking. Drinks will be available from the Club Bar.

Thirteen year old Nerida Willis, a new family member, has kindly agreed to play a medley of seasonal music on the Club piano (recently donated by Peter Bland). The traditional Christmas in July raffle will again be held during the afternoon with proceeds going to Cottage by the Sea. The event last year raised over \$1,200 - it would be great to top that this year.



Please come and support this very enjoyable and important date in the Club calendar. Tickets should be booked through [TryBooking](#) from 16th May 2016.

If you don't have internet access please, book in writing to the Secretary, stating how many meals (non-vegetarian or vegetarian) are required and enclosing payment of \$45.00 per person, to the QCYC Secretary, PO Box 77, Queenscliff, 3225.

QCYC HARBOUR DEPTH SURVEY

The last hydrographic survey of the QCYC harbour area was conducted by Parks Victoria in 2010. To view the 2010 survey, [click here](#). (Note that, to read the depths clearly, it will be necessary to magnify the image in your browser).

It was therefore decided to conduct a check survey using long-time QCYC member Alan Webb's runabout (not necessarily shown in the photo on the right). This was done in 2 phases in March and April 2016. The work was done by Alan Webb, Ken McAllister, Chris Laker, Alan Farman and Doug Curlewis.



The findings indicate depths that are reasonably consistent with the 2010 Parks data. However there are now quite shallow areas alongside the wharf, particularly where the seabed shoals away from the wharf structure.

As a result of this survey, and the recent experiences of members, the Committee believes that the dredging of the harbour to a depth of 2.5 to 3.0 metres in the near future is essential.

The harbour area is not only used by members, but also by non-member boat owners who occupy moorings within the QCYC harbour precinct. It is also a safe harbour for visitors, both from within Port Phillip and external ports, including yachts leaving for and returning from offshore racing and cruising activity, many of which tend to have greater draughts than in the past.

With this wide range of activity and usage of the harbour and wharf, the Flag Officers and Committee intend to discuss with Parks Victoria opportunities for ensuring the continued use of this safe harbour through a new dredging programme.

Doug Curlewis

NEW QCYC EVENTS COORDINATOR

At her first meeting as a member of the QCYC Committee, Annie James kindly agreed to take over the role of QCYC Events Coordinator. Annie will put together the club calendar and liaise with other clubs in order to better coordinate events at, or involving, QCYC.

If you are in the early stages of planning a race or a cruise to or from QCYC, or if you would like an event posted on the QCYC website, or if you're just planning a weekend at QCYC with a group of boats, please contact Annie as early as possible. In this way the Committee will be able to make sure that everything runs as smoothly as possible and that all arrangements are in place, such as an OOD and bar operator if required.



Annie can be contacted on anniej@bigpond.net.au or 0414 306 142.



A REMINDER TO SIGN IN VISITORS AND GUESTS

It is a condition of our liquor licence that all visiting crew and guests are 'signed in'. We are obliged to keep a record of all visitors to the club, with records available for viewing on demand by the police or a compliance inspector.

This means, when entering the name of your boat in the Wharfage Book, clearly writing the name and contact details (address and mobile phone number) of any crew who are not members of QCYC.

Similarly, non-member guests arriving by road and using the clubhouse or bar should enter their details in the Visitors' Book, currently situated upstairs in the bar.

The Committee recognises that it is often easy to forget to do this, and this posting serves as a gentle reminder. In the meantime we are exploring options for using one method of signing in all visitors to the Club, in a similar manner to those used for recording temporary members at many other sporting and/or social clubs.



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