

QUEENSLIFF CRUISING YACHT CLUB



Registration No: A0017353E

ANNUAL REPORT

2010-2011



Commodores Annual Report:

It is a pleasure to deliver the 49th Annual Report to the members. This is my third and final report as Commodore of your club and is delivered on behalf the extraordinary group of individuals who have made up your committee over the last 12 months.

The last two years has seen the completion of many projects aimed at re-invigorating QCYC. Many of these were initiated by previous committees and it is with pride that I now invite you to visit your club to see the fruition of this work.

The program of works completed as part of the coordinated site plan are extensions and renovations to the wharves, new safety lighting, vastly improved road access including strengthening of the cygnet bridge and provision of all weather access at the rear of the club, extensive redevelopment of the native garden areas and establishment of a grassed area from the club verandah all the way to the sea wall. Hidden but of equal importance are the extensive improvements in our plumbing and waste water management infrastructure carried out concurrently with the relocation and refurbishment of the storage sheds and storage areas to the North of the club. These developments continue our efforts to increase the efficiency and safety of the club's facilities by locating potential hazards separately from the main areas of general activity.

Other vast improvements are those made to the fairway and mooring grounds adjacent to the club. This area has been extensively dredged and redeveloped by Parks Victoria and the club has negotiated a 12 meter wide berthing strip for the club which runs the full length of the 200 meters of club wharf with a minimum depth at low tide of 2.5 meters. With the enhanced navigable water, the extra wharf length and depth and the novel dinghy ramp QCYC now has first class berthing to offer both its members and visitors.

I draw to your attention recent changes in the club By-Laws which clarify the obligations of members and visitors berthing at the club and reinforce a stricter policy on insurance for boats using the wharf.

Within the clubhouse itself, work is in progress to improve the dining and kitchen areas both through the addition of extra kitchen facilities donated during the year and through further renovations planned for the next two years. Priorities for these and other works are outlined in the Strategic, Management and Business Plan 2011-2013 approved by Committee at its meeting on September 13th and published on the club website www.qcyc.org.au

As the Treasurer will also indicate, the club has continued to rebuild its somewhat diminished cash reserves to a much more healthy position, such that the works proposed for 2011-2013 in the Strategic, Management and Business Plan can be undertaken with confidence.

In order to continue to thrive, it is equally important that the club continues to attract new members. The up and coming 50 Year Anniversary in 2013 of the establishment of the QCYC provides an opportunity to advertise the extent of the re-invigoration of the QCYC over the last decade so that it is even after 50 years still a club to be immensely proud of.

I have been guided throughout the year by the 2009-2011 QCYC Strategic and Management Plans and commend to you the 2011-2013 Strategic, Management and Business Plan completed in September 2011 for the next two years. Also added to the Club's documents is the Wharf Management Plan covering the procedures and protocols expected of members and visitors using our waterways and wharf. Further revisions of the club's By-Laws are an ongoing task for your committee and I recommend that all members take the time to read and understand all three of the above documents. All are regularly updated on the Club's Website.

The Club Website is rapidly becoming the primary vehicle for the delivery of Club Notices and members are reminded to visit it regularly.

Newsletters will still be produced to report on the social and sailing activities of the Club throughout the year. Note however that they are generally retrospective in content.

There will be more than the usual number of changes in the composition of your committee for 2012. It is with regret that I have accepted the resignation from the committee of one of the longest serving members, John Gleeson, whose efforts for the club are almost legendary. In addition, Peter Geary is stepping aside after some five years as Treasurer and Naomi Wilbraham is likewise moving on from Secretary. I would like on your behalf to formally thank all three for their hard work so generously given to the club over many years. As you will see from the agenda, James Ide has agreed to stand for Treasurer and Jonathan Crockett to take on the job of Secretary. The Club is extremely fortunate have two such well qualified and enthusiastic folk to fill these demanding positions. I am similarly delighted with the caliber of the two new nominees for general committee in Sheryl Gray and Noel Essex. Fortunately the Club will not be losing the services of either Peter Geary, who will continue as an Ordinary member of General Committee in 2012, or of Naomi Wilbraham who is the nominee for Rear-Commodore and is I know raring to go.

Our club was formally opened on November 21st 2010 by Captain Mark Hill, Commanding Officer of HMAS Cerberus and the fleet blessed in the traditional manner by the Reverend Peter Martin of Queenscliff. Guests and club members were treated to a sumptuous buffet, an example of the efforts of the many members, mostly but not only ladies, who have assisted in the decoration, set up, catering and cleaning up for the many functions small and large held at the Club throughout the year. Special mention must also be made of the raffle-ticket sellers and prize

donors who made it possible for the Club to donate several thousand dollars to Cottage by the Sea.

The Club had another successful Christmas / New Year season. Generally Members and Guests were relaxed and happy keeping the Club and surrounds clean and in good condition. As is normally the case there was the tireless group of Members who worked non-stop to keep the Club functioning – from mooring boats to running the bar, from arranging for supplies to removing the rubbish, and everything else that happens behind the scenes. To all those Members who continue to support the Club in this way, I extend my personal thanks.

The New Year's Eve Spit Roast, was to be replaced in 2010 by a club catered function making use of our new pizza oven. This new idea led to a great deal of extra work for those members who volunteered to prepared the Pizzas and salads.

The best laid plans don't always work. The function was a breath of fresh air as club functions go and those present celebrated New Years Eve in fine style. Surprising really as a Total Fire Ban on December 31st outlawed the use of the Pizza oven and pizzas became barbecued sausages. My thanks to all the volunteers whose efforts gave us all a New Years Eve to remember. (We ate the pizzas next day.)

Many of these same volunteers turned out on New Year's Day to prepare and serve Prawns and Oysters to yet another record breaking crowd for the New Year's Day Prawns and Oysters Luncheon. Again this year we needed to increase the total order for seafood in order to cater for this our most successful annual event. More thanks to the volunteers. This one obviously works.

Xmas in July 2011 was similarly attended by a substantially increased crowd up from 50 to 90 members and guests. Those who attended commended the efforts of our new caterer and accordingly dug deep to support donations for Cottage by the Sea. Thank you all for your efforts.

This year we have seen a further invigoration in visits from neighboring boating clubs. Besides reciprocal visits between the Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron and Queenscliff, the club has seen visits from Royal Geelong Yacht Club for The RGYC Murray McAllister Perpetual Trophy, Royal Yacht Club of Victoria for the annual Phoenix Trophy Race, Royal Brighton Yacht Club at the end of the Alan Robinson Race and the Sandringham Yacht Club as part of their Benito's Treasure Race. These further extend our pursuit of informal alliances with the other yachting and boating clubs as an important way to secure the club for the future.

By scheduling the HMAS Goorangai Memorial Trophy Race to Saturday 20th November to coincide with both our Opening Day and also the Annual HMAS Goorangai Commemorations in Queenscliff and by facilitating members and visitors use of the club during the Queenscliff Music Festival Weekend also in November, the Club is gradually re-developing a more widely

recognized reputation as a worthwhile sailing destiny and as a vigorous participant in the Queenscliff community.

These and the regular and growing Friday Night Sundowner at the Club extend what has been a busy social program in 2010-2011. Please feel free to attend if you are in the district.

QCYC prides itself as a Cruising Yacht Club. I note that nevertheless many members are not taking advantage of the Cruising Program prepared on your behalf by Cruising Director Mal Billings. These cruises require a great deal of careful preparation to provide you all with the opportunity to cruise in the safety that comes from cruising in company. A detailed set of imaginative cruise plans for 2011-2012 have been on the Website for some time now. These cruises can only go ahead if members indicate their intentions to the Cruising Director Mal Billings soon.

Finally, I would like to formally thank the entire Committee of Management who have supported me absolutely and wholeheartedly during my time as Commodore. As a team and as individuals they have without exception given enormously of their time and skills to you as club members and I am extraordinarily proud of their achievements. I have been extremely fortunate to have had excellent Vice and Rear-Commodores respectively in Brian Golland and Roger Bennett. I know they will do the club proud as your Commodore and Vice-Commodore and will make a formidable team with Rear-Commodore Naomi Wilbraham.

I have enjoyed immensely the privilege of being Commodore of the Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club and look forward to seeing you prosper in the future.



Ken R. Gayler,

Commodore