
Commodore's Report

At last I can report the latest movement on the proposal by Parks to grant a lease to QHPL over the swing moorings area in Swan Bay. And the good news is that there is no movement! A letter from Mr. Dennis Duckett, Manager, Commercial Operations, of Parks Victoria informs us, that "Parks Victoria and QHPL have agreed to remove the swing moorings area completely from the area to be leased to QHPL". Mr. Duckett's letter continues, "Parks Victoria has resumed direct management of the swing moorings as per its past practice. Without fettering its rights to consider other management options at a later date, Parks present intention is to continue this direct management regime in the foreseeable future". The Club's thanks are due to Andrew Green and Raewyn Hansen for their efforts in achieving this much.

The bad news is that the Club's attempts to ensure that its rights to moor alongside its own wharf in perpetuity and to avoid future problems of the sort that have been imposed upon us over the last year, by taking a lease over the water in front of the wharf has also suffered a set-back. Mr. Duckett's letter concludes "Parks Victoria now advises that the *status quo* will in fact be retained and that no action will be taken on either the granting of a seabed lease to the Club or the setting aside of a specific fairway in the area under discussion". So we are back where we were two years ago and for the time being everything is sweet and rosy. But the recent events have given us a foresight of what might happen if we take our eye off the ball for a moment and we have to look now at what actions we can take to ensure that the threats that have taken so much of your committee's time over the last year or so do not arise again.

One possible action would be for the Club to take, in conjunction with current mooring holders and other local interests, a participatory role in the management of the moorings in front of the Club. The overtures that we have made to Parks over many years for the Club to take a more active role in the administration of these moorings have generally foundered on changes in the organizational structure of Parks and more recently in the undecided nature of the lease arrangements with QHPL. Now might be the time to reconsider what can be done. Recently, Anne Herring, the Office Manager, Queenscliff Harbour Pty Ltd has issued the following notice

Queenscliff Harbour Closed for Casual Berthing

A new and exciting phase for boating in Victoria has now commenced with the re-development of Queenscliff Harbour. When completed this world class facility will be available for all of Victoria's boating fraternity to enjoy. Unfortunately for boat owners, casual berthing during the construction period will not be available to those wishing to stay at Queenscliff Harbour, in short we simply do not have the space available.

As we progress through the construction phases the casual berthing situation will change. It is our intention to keep all boat owners informed of the progress of the project.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Anne on 5258 5459.

This obviously only applies to waters south of The Cut and does not apply to QCYC members, for whom our wharf is always available. But if you have friends who may wish to visit Queenscliff then **provided that** they notify the Secretary well in advance and **provided that** there is space available (i.e. not at Easter or other times when the priority accorded to Club members means that the wharf is full) then the Club should be able to make berthing space available for temporary (i.e. two or three days) visitors in accordance with its long standing rules.

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And now the causeway! In the last Newsletter, I suggested that the council approval for the resurfacing of the causeway was due at the end of February and that we should be able to get the work done in late autumn before the high winds and king tides cut the Club off from the rest of Swan Island during the winter months. Well we have got Council approval. However, it is conditional on the submission of an Environmental Management Plan, a report from the DSE concerning Native Title Assessment (unlikely to be a problem there as Sand Island has only existed for about seventy years) and that contingency plans are in place to prevent any accidental environmental damage that may occur during and as a result of the causeway works etc. etc.!!! We shall continue, in cooperation with the Planning Office of Queenscliffe Council to work our way as quickly as we can through the bureaucratic processes but I have no idea when we shall actually get permission to proceed and in the mean time please drive carefully.

Bureaucracy reigns supreme. Before anyone can give a hand behind the bar, the law says that they must be qualified to do so by attending a course on "The responsible serving of alcohol". We don't have a paid bar staff, so unless we can get enough people to attend such a course and become qualified we shall not be able to open the bar in the evening. Please, if you would like to see the bar continue, volunteer to attend such a course so that you can give a hand. The Club will pay all the fees, but we need a minimum number of ten for the course to be run and so far volunteers have been few. The Vice-Commodore would just love to add your name to the list so that we can organize a time that is convenient for all and you can add an extra qualification to your no doubt already distinguished C.V. The alternative is a paid bar staff and a probable doubling of membership fees.

Some bureaucracy has been in place for a long time. Easter is approaching and traditionally large numbers of children descend on the Club. We love to see them there and it is one of the Club's great strengths as a family club. But don't let them swim or paddle over and land on Rabbit Island! Such actions are a threat to national security and the Department of Defence staff will descend on the Club demanding to see the Commodore and asking him to explain why we are breaking the terms of our lease. And this would be a pity because although the DoD people prefer to be extremely helpful and friendly, they do have their duty to do. Incidentally the children will be a lot safer in the Club now, because thanks to the Treasurer's efforts we have a safety fence around the stove in the dining room and rampaging youthery cannot fall against a hot stove. Mind you they should be under proper parental control.

And finally in bureaucratic mode the Club has its own rules. There are many willing helpers to get you moored safely when you arrive. But ONLY if you fly a Club Burgee as you come down The Cut so that we know that, as a Club member, you might be grateful for someone to take a line as you arrive. And if your battery is flat because you have been using the bilge pumps all the way down - there is a battery charger that can be used in and only in the Bosun's Locker. The battery has to be taken there because an electric cable across the wharf makes the Club liable to a \$23,000 fine! And finally ALL food left in the fridges must be properly labeled, in proper containers, and taken away at the end of your visit. The removal of a piece of six-week-old (once) fresh Tuna was not one of the most pleasant tasks associated with Club maintenance.

Looking forward to seeing you down in Paradise. And whilst you are down there remember those who don't have the opportunities to enjoy the area that we have. The Vice -Commodore has really let himself go with the Easter raffle for "The Cottage by the Sea", dig deep and let us see if we can break all records in our donation to a very worthy cause.

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Brian Cherry
Commodore

News From Vice Commodore.

Peter Timms Memorial Cruise In Company to St. Leonards.

A cruise in company will be run from QCYC on Easter Sunday 16th April, leaving between 0930-1000 hours to avoid ferry operations. The participants will proceed passing the Swan Split Pile and the Coles Channel Pile Light to port and then northwards to Coles Channel to anchor offshore to the north of Parks Victoria Moorings buoys in front of St. Leonards Yacht Club in 3 - 4 metres at low water.

There is a picnic ground with tables and seats and toilets nestled in the trees and shrubs. Tenders will be required to go ashore. Bring your picnic lunch and supplies. No Barbecues are available, but you may wish to bring your own portable.

For those who wish to come by road refer Melways Map 474 A2 Lower Bluff Road.

We look forward to seeing you for the outing. This will be subject to appropriate weather. For further details phone Vice Commodore Darryl Morrison 52787331, or look for notices at the Club.

Darryl Morrison
Vice Commodore

GATE OPERATING TIMES

Gate Operating times currently, for the Swan Island Security Gate are:

Sunday to Friday	0700	-	1900 hours
Saturday	0700	-	2000 hours

These times will change again on 1st May 2006 until further notice, to:

Sunday to Friday	0700	-	1800 hours
Saturday & Public Holidays	0700	-	1900 hours

Contact QCYC?

Postal Address

Please note that the Club's address for correspondence is:

PO Box 119
Albert Park Victoria 3206

Telephone (Secretary): (03) 9699 3422
(QCYC Clubhouse): (03) 5258 1692

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email: optech@optech.com.au
Web: <http://www.qcyc.yachting.org.au/>

From the Editor's Desk

Newsletter

If any members have any articles or information they would like to share with the membership generally, they may submit that to me for a future Newsletter. Might be accounts of adventures whilst cruising, through advice or recommendations of where the best fish and chips in Australia are available. Maybe even For Sale / Swap notices. Just an attempt to make the Newsletter more useful to all Members. If you have any ideas please let me know.

QCYC Web Site

For those that haven't looked for a while the Web Site is now under control of Martin Greasley and Karen Parker. Since the retirement from the Committee and relocation of Glenn Williams, the Web Site suffered from severe neglect. There are some plans to make it more useful to Members, such as being able to download Application Forms to join the Club, past Newsletters and more visual content. Once again if there is anything you have that may be worthy of posting on our Web Site please let me know.

Have a look for yourself, and include it in your favorites - <http://www.qcyc.yachting.org.au/>

Easter

As reported in the last Newsletter, Easter is the next big event at the Club, with many boats, Members and visitors. Easter Sunday sees both the Easter Egg hunt in the morning and the Peter Timms Memorial Cruise to St Leanords, which was a great day last year, and is advertised elsewhere in this Newsletter. More importantly it gives Members an opportunity to escape the pressures of everyday life a couple of days and relax at the Club with friends and family. It is a very special place.

But because it is a busy time it will assist all Members if you take note of the following:

- All boats must be tied up securely which means:- if you are against the Wharf - a solid board and fenders – bow and stern lines and two spring lines as a minimum: if you are rafting against another boat - adequate fenders and bow and stern lines and two springs lines to the adjacent boat
- Visitors must not leave boats unattended overnight
- Wharf book and Visitors book must be filled out properly on arrival and departure of the Club
- QCYC is a self-help Club. Please share the work load of cleaning the Club each day whilst in residence

Reunion Dinner – Western Port Cruise.

Again, just a reminder of a note that was published last Newsletter.

There will be a reunion dinner for crews of the Western Port and Surrounds Cruise held at the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, Nelson Place, Williamstown on Sunday 30th April 2006, for 1200 hours. Travel via sea, or via the land. Please indicate numbers attending by the Thursday prior to the dinner to Darryl

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Morrison, 03 5278 7331. Bring your photographs of the cruise. If the same spirit of the cruise can be captured, this should be a fantastic event.

Michael Bowe
Secretary

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