

Q.C.Y.C. Newsletter – No 60

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Commodore's Report

At least in winter the QCYC activities stop and we can get on with other things. "And if you can believe that, Sir, you can believe anything" as the Duke of Wellington is reputed to have said. Activities since the last newsletter have continued unabated. Easter was a little later this year but we had the usual numbers down at the Club and the now long established Vice-Commodore's (or is it the Darryl Morrison happy hour?) cruise into Cole's Channel was celebrated with its usual gusto. Martin Greasley our new Web-master made an appearance armed with a camera and will be requested to desist from publishing some of the more outrageous photographs; however some of the more publishable ones will be on the web. In the period before and after Easter we concluded the year's round of Club visits, with Royal Brighton coming down twice, first of all the cruising division and then a fortnight later on Queen's birthday week-end for their annual Alan Robinson memorial trophy race. Wind was there none, and those of the fleet that didn't turn round and motor back to Brighton, motored on to QCYC where they set about the task of proving that the bar takings during an RBYC visit could surpass the recently established record by RYCV. Then late at night through the darkness a solitary sail appeared. Island Trader had sailed all the way and by finishing had won - but by that time we were all ready for bed.

Work has still to start on the Causeway, Club member Jonathon Crockett did a wonderful job preparing the Environmental Management Plan, so good that it has convinced the Council that we are not going to cause any irreparable damage to the environment, and we are considerably closer to starting work, but a few formalities remain. We might be able to get the job done by Opening Day.

The committee that used to meet on a bi-monthly basis now meets on a monthly basis, with alternate meetings being devoted to planning for the future of the Club. Considerable capital expenditure has taken place during the last year and more is planned for in the coming years. The Club's present lease runs out in 2016, and so in order to ensure the security of our investment we are planning to submit an application for a new lease to extend beyond the present one. Such a new lease will only be granted to a Club that knows where it is going and what it wants to do. It is the planning for the Club future directions that is occupying the committee's attentions at the planning meetings. Under consideration are the refurbishment of the west side of the Club to match the refurbishment that has already taken place on the east side; extension of the north wharf to increase the berthing capacity of the Club; the development of a Club role within Yachting Victoria as a centre for cruising activities within the Clubs of Port Phillip (a cruising equivalent of the ORCV), the possible appointment of staff to look after the infrastructure of the Club and to monitor an increased number of visitors both members and non-members; development of a more family friendly garden area north of the Club; closer co-operation with Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club for both social and sailing events; and the possibility of taking a role in a committee of management that might assist Parks in the administration of the moorings in front of the Club. All these issues and others will be put before the membership and at some time in the new year a general meeting will be held to establish a Master Plan for the coming years. In the mean time please approach the officers and committee members with ideas or concerns that you may have so that these can be taken into account in the development of the plans.

On the subject of leases, Yachting Victoria is taking a lead in attempting to negotiate on behalf of all the Clubs around the Bay so that rents, rates, rights of access etc. can be arranged on an equitable basis with the needs of Yachtsmen and Yachtswomen taken fully into account. All members of QCYC are of course members of Yachting Victoria (your annual fees to YV on the current system (it is under review) are part of your annual fee at either QCYC or your "other" club) and you are encouraged to attend their meetings

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to make the voice of cruising heard loudly in the yachting world. However to ensure that QCYC's interests are never forgotten, an official representative has been appointed for the Club and this for the time being is Rear Commodore Paul Lobston.

The Black Swan is dead. The Department of Defence has changed the system by which members' vehicles are allowed on to Swan Island. After the 31st July 2006, the current olive green sticker/permit displayed on the windscreen will no longer be valid. A new red sticker will be issued by the guardhouse personnel to Club members. So for your first visit after the 1st August, you will be asked to provide your name and this will be checked off against the members' list held in the Guardhouse (make sure that your subscription has been renewed) and the car registration recorded. That will be the vehicle that is officially recorded as having permission to get on to the Island without further formality.

Brian Cherry
Commodore

News From Vice Commodore.

The end of the sailing season is drawing close and it is appropriate to reflect on our operations with respect to infrastructure matters. The Club carried out some significant renovations to the clubhouse and enhanced its facilities. We have appreciated the members' and visitors' compliments as to the improvements. We note there has been increased patronage and visitors to the Club due to the improved facilities and operations. There is a waiting list for membership and a record number of vessels on our register as a result.

The Club has a new business plan and further plans to upgrade your facilities. I apologize for the delay in the rebuilding of the road, but the Department of Sustainability and Environment requirements as to the road design and approvals, together with considerable delay at local government level and compliance with their protocols, has resulted in no visible improvements as such. However, despite some eighteen months of red tape we are now confident the road will be rebuilt to a new standard by our contractor in time for the opening of the season.

Financially, the road is our main priority at this point of time. We have not forgotten the improvements to the ladies facilities and to the northern aspect of the Club. I can inform the members we now have plans for submission to Council for approval that will remove all asbestos on the western side of the ladies ablution block and interior, together with new enhanced toilet and shower facilities for the ladies. New exterior cladding to match that of the east side of the Club will be provided. Given we are a commercial building, we are required to provide disabled facilities, hence a new facility will be built with toilet and shower, that can be shared, will be provided on the north west end of the clubhouse. The northern end of the clubhouse and glass windows area are in need of replacement due to rot. It is planned to have new aluminum doors and windows that can open to the north with a view to landscaping the area outside. A new balcony will be built to replace the existing western one in line with the new eastern structure.

Unfortunately, given the time frame for construction we cannot undertake these improvements until the winter recess next year. It is also prudent that we have sufficient working capital to maintain the Club and without the need to resort to loans and levies on the membership. I am confident that this will be achieved within the financial year through the proceeds of our operations.

We have been most fortunate our natural lawn movers that reside on the island do keep our grassed area somewhat in check, since September throughout the prolonged dry period. There has been some modest

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growth around the Club that the ride on mower cannot attack. Should any member who has a working garden mower that they no longer require, like to donate it to the Club to assist in keeping the grass in trim I would love to hear from you. Our loyal servant that remains in the shed has tendered his resignation forever. I volunteer to push any offerring most weeks to keep the residence in tip-top condition. (Ph. 03 5278 7331).

The conclusion of the season afloat has been historic, memorable and has been significant in that we are being recognized as the premier cruising club on Port Phillip in as much as the same way that the ORCV is recognized for ocean racing.

Our inaugural cruise to Western Port (previously reported) and the wonderful reunion dinner at RYCV in May has spurred further plans for offshore ventures. The St Leonards picnic lunch on Easter Sunday with our fleet of cruisers was again a wonderful family affair.

It is planned that on the second Saturday of February 2007, a joint fleet will cruise in company to Western Port and surrounds or onto Wilsons Promontory and surrounds incorporating Hogan and Deal Islands.

The fleet will leave from QCYC to Flinders Yacht Club. This is a wonderful gala cruise event. Next the fleet will sail to Cleelands Bight for the night. On Monday the fleet will divide and cruise in different directions for the rest of the week. Look at our website (www.yachting.qcyc.org.au) in September for full details and expressions of interest.

We are also working on a cruising rally on the Melbourne Cup weekend, where a fleet will gather at a predetermined destination and proceed in convoy. That evening it is envisaged a dinner will be held ashore. Details in early September will be posted on the website.

Finally, I have noticed in recent times, especially due to the cold weather since Easter, our fire wood supplies have been almost entirely depleted. It is indeed expensive to buy, but there may be a member who has suitable timber lying around they wish to dispose of, that they may like to donate. Please contact me if you can assist.

Darryl Morrison
Vice Commodore

Rear Commodore's Report

Business Plan For QCYC

In keeping with modern practices QCYC is currently preparing a business plan that will take the Club well into the future. Prompted by the Boating Coastal Action Plan and recent events associated with development of Queenscliff Harbour, the committee believes it important for the Club to become more strategic in its thinking.

Preparation of such a plan raises many questions, like – what exactly is it about QCYC that we cherish and wish preserved; do we want to develop our facilities; do we want to integrate more with the local Queenscliff community; and do we want to expand our activities?

These questions and more need to be answered so that the committee may steer the Club in the right direction. Don't be surprised if you receive some form of questionnaire regarding the above in the near future. Your thoughts are needed.

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Further Club House Improvements

If you thought that improvements to our clubhouse were complete, then you're in for a surprise, especially the ladies. Drawings are currently being prepared for the ladies toilets / showers to be modernized, similar to the gents. The existing beer keg room that abuts the ladies facility will be converted into a unisex, handicap toilet / shower [with baby change facilities].

Then just to cap it off, a new verandah will be placed on top.

And for those of you who have been in the bar room recently you will notice new blinds that give the room a much-improved ambience, thanks to committee person Karen Parker. Karen has also been busy in the kitchen replacing all our old crockery.

The business plan will provide for ongoing improvements over time and will include the kitchen and garden lounge to the north.

Addressing Growth

One of the pressures facing QCYC (like most Clubs round the Bay) is meeting the demands of growth, and despite all the improvements to our Club's facilities over recent times little has been done to address growth. Membership is capped at 500 and there is again a waiting list. The boat list grows by the week with more boats and bigger boats. For us to increase the cap we will first need to address kitchen, toilet / shower, and wharfage facilities. Swing moorings for members would also be great.

Paramount to any decision in this regard is preservation of the core values, those things about our Club that we cherish.

Salar 40 Meet

Recently QCYC hosted a Salar 40 Meet at which seven of these venerable yachts from around the Bay met for the first time. Familiar names such as Misty Blue, Panache III, Pou Hana II, Shearwater and Sovereign Lady graced QCYC's wharf, while their owners and crew gathered around the bar and in the dining room to talk about their boats and travels. A great time was had by all.

Another Meet is planned for later in the year.

If you're in an association for a particular type of boat or design, why not consider a weekend at QCYC. We'd love to welcome you. Call us and we'll allocate a weekend that's suitable to all.

Orientation Day

Eleven new members were welcomed to QCYC last Sunday (16th July 2006) by the Commodore and his committee. The day provided new members with an opportunity not only to meet the committee, but each other and to learn the ways of the Club. A most pleasant day with fine finger food prepared by the committee and a sausage sizzle to finish it off.

Paul Lobston

Rear Commodore

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GATE OPERATING TIMES

Gate Operating times currently, from 1st May 2006 until further notice, for the Swan Island Security Gate are:

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

Treasurer's Report

Whilst currently there is little member activity at the club, your treasurer remains busy with end of year financial statements and preparations for the AGM.

In early July the club's auditor and club member Michael Perry of Ernst and Young will begin the audit process of the books for last 12 months. This is a time consuming job and your committee is grateful to Michael and his firm for their continued support of QCYC.

Currently the club has cash reserves of \$180,000, and this is after expenditure of approximately \$92,000 on capital works and equipment in the 2005/06 financial year.

The rehabilitation of the club's vehicle access causeway has been covered in previous newsletters and I am pleased to advise that approvals from various government and local authorities is now in place. In this regard, we thank club members Jonathan Crockett, who prepared the environmental management plan and Paul Turner for his input and ongoing project advice. Budgeted cost of the project is \$75,000.

At this stage work on the causeway is planned to start late September / early October, and will involve approximately two weeks closure or serious disruption to vehicle traffic. Members will be advised of dates closer to the start of the works.

While any disruption is regretted, the works will provide an access causeway that will not be subject to flooding or wash away. During the work, boat access to the club will not be affected.

Rex Prosser
Treasurer

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

email: optech@optech.com.au

Web: <http://www.qcyc.vachting.org.au/>

From the Editor's Desk

QCYC Communications

All members will note that this Newsletter has been received by normal Post. This is not because we've had a change of heart regarding email, it's because the Annual Accounts are included. From next year it is expected that the Annual Accounts will be emailed to those members who have nominated email as their preferred method of delivery. And just to reiterate if you have not registered your email address with the Club, it would be appreciated if you would do so. Not only does it save considerable expense in printing and postage, more importantly, it saves so much time in folding and enveloping member communications.

If you wish you can record more than one email address for each membership. That way both partners may receive the Newsletter by email, and there is no risk that one will forget to pass it on to the other. Recently a member mentioned to me that even though they had registered their email address with the Club they were not receiving any information from the Club, and had asked another member to forward all Club communications to them. I remember taking my vehicle to a mechanic some time ago, who had a sign in his workshop that advised "If it works tell someone else, If it doesn't tell me!" Anyway I investigated the problem and found that it was my fault they were not getting any Club emails, but knowing about it allowed me to rectify it and I apologize to them for the inconvenience. Now, does anyone have anything they wish to tell me?

QCYC Web Site

We've had our updated website operating for some time now, and it still has a great look and feel. A couple of suggestions have been made and I put them to you for consideration. One is a crew list of members available or willing to offer their services to other members for deliveries etc. Just gives members somewhere to look when they're a bit shorthanded. The other suggestion that we've had is for members' hints. For example, what's the best way to?????. Email me if you have something you think is worthwhile or if you'd like to be added to the crew list. Mind you I haven't run either of these past our webmaster. Sorry Martin!

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

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, 3rd October 2006
Sunday, 5th November 2006
Sunday, 12th November 2006

Annual General Meeting at RYCV
Working Bee at QCYC
Opening Day at QCYC

Hope to see as many members attend these annual events in the Club calendar as possible.

Marine Radio Communications - HF

The National Marine Safety Council (NMSC) has released a discussion paper on the feasibility and acceptability of phasing out the requirement for the National Coast Radio Network to voice-monitor distress and safety channels in the high frequency (HF) band by 2010.

The NMSC perceives that a variety of scenarios could arise if the phase out goes ahead, including:

- Provision of an HF (voice) safety and distress monitoring system by services other than the current National Coast Radio Network through a new, standalone service;

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- Provision of an HF (voice) service by incorporating its function into the current Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) infrastructure that provides the existing HF Digital Selective Calling (DSC) Service so that it also covers HF (voice) monitoring;
 - Having some geographic areas continue to be covered by the HF (voice) service within the current infrastructure; or
 - Re-equipping boats with alternative long distance communications equipment.

Public comment is now sought on the possible phase out. Copies of the discussion paper can be downloaded from the NMSC website http://www.nmsc.gov.au/yoursay_2.htm (Note that there's a “_” between **yoursay** and **2**, ie. **yoursay_2** in the web address), or obtained by phoning (02) 9247 2124. The period of public comment closes on 30th September 2006.

Marine Radio Communications - VHF

It is my understanding that voice-monitoring of distress and safety channels on VHF has ceased from the beginning of July 2006, and that to make a distress call via VHF radio now you must have one that is equipped with Digital Selective Calling. (DSC). The advantage of DSC is that with the right equipment, it can transmit not only your vessel's information, but if interfaced with an appropriate GPS, also your GPS co-ordinates at the time of the distress call, therefore making it easier to know where to search if required. Fortunately, it is a comparatively small investment to replace your VHF radio, compared to your HF set. However, it is something that probably needs to be done sooner rather than later.

Marine Radio Communications - Seaphone

Thanks to our Commodore, who has continued to subscribe to the seaphone service, I pass on the following information from Telstra.

Seaphone has reached the end of its operational life. From 1st June 2006 there will be no new seaphone network access, and support for existing seaphone services will be withdrawn on or from 1st December 2006.

As a sweetener, it appears that Telstra are offering special deals on their Mobile Satellite service, including special deals on the purchase of the Iridium 9595A satellite handset, at I believe around \$1,500.00.

My understanding is that you need to be a seaphone subscriber, with a current access plan, but the number to contact Telstra on is 1800 632 995 regarding migration to the satellite service. To find out more about the closure of seaphone service you should call 1800 253 271, or email radio_csc@team.telstra.com (again note that there's a “_” between **radio** and **csc**, ie **radio_csc** in the email address).

Accounts

Members will notice that your account for your annual subscriptions and any miscellaneous charges is included with this Newsletter. It would be greatly appreciated by both the Treasurer and the Secretary if you could please settle the account within thirty (30) days, rather than have us chase debtors for the rest of the year. It's much more productive for us to be doing something proactive, and neither of us likes to be the bad guy.

Thanks for that!

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Election of Committee

Just as a reminder, the Club is run by a group of volunteers who serve in differing capacities on the General Committee. Some jobs are more demanding some are less so, it really all depends on where your talents lie. Committee positions are open to all members, new and old. It's quite a rewarding way to put something back into the Club, become more involved with the Club operations, and get to know the Club members better. The committee is elected at the Annual General Meeting, this year to be held in early October.

If you'd like to get any information about joining the committee then you should approach **ANY** committee member, or myself. Any of the committee will be more than happy to give you a run down on what goes on and how to get involved, and ultimately to welcome you onto the committee.

Sand Island Access Stickers

As has been mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter, the Department of Defence has decided it's time to tighten security with regard obtaining access to Swan and Sand Islands. For QCYC it will mean that our current "green swan" access stickers will be replaced with a new red ones.

At this stage Defence are going to change the distribution process for stickers as well. Previously, they issued me with a number of green stickers, and if you caught me on a good day I would in turn distribute these to members, recording the appropriate detail. From time to time I would pass the details of changes on to Defence. From now on, Defence is going to issue stickers directly to our members, and initially they will be issued as you arrive at the Gatehouse from 1st August 2006. Details are unclear as to the exact procedure, but if we all wait for Opening day to attend the Club next, I suggest that you probably will need to leave a day earlier to obtain your new Sticker, and gain access in a timely manner.

What I would suggest is that you take a leisurely drive to Queenscliff some time during August or September, and get your sticker when there's not too many people around, and the security staff are not under undue pressure. Although I have made some suggestions to Defence, they are still unsure how to handle lost / damaged stickers, change of vehicles and so on. Hopefully they will return the entire administration of the QCYC stickers back to the Club in the near future.

Michael Bowe
Secretary

New Members

QCYC welcomes the following new members, who have been accepted into our Club. As we have alluded to over the past months the Club now has a modest waiting list, and New Members will only be accepted, as vacancies occur. Our Waiting List is still open.

<u>Members Name</u>	<u>Boat Name</u>	<u>Members Name</u>	<u>Boat Name</u>
Paul Halstead		Colin Gibbs	
Alfred Crowe		David & Janet Seath	<i>Citation</i>
Glenn Spence	<i>Cathmar</i>	Grant & Marian St Quentin	<i>Hands Off</i>

Welcome Aboard!
