
Commodore's Report

Running a Club

As election time for new Flag Officers and Committee Members approaches, maybe it is time to think a little about what is involved in the running of a Club. Club's like QCYC, depend (currently) entirely on the voluntary help given by those who have the responsibility for ensuring its continued smooth functioning and its future development in accordance with the wishes of the members. Sitting on the balcony with a pleasant glass in one's hand, watching the sun go down over the Bellarine Peninsula is about as close to heaven as one can get on this earth. But, someone has to get the lavatory paper when its needed, someone has to ensure that the rubbish is taken to the tip, someone has to negotiate with and placate the authorities when a member behaves a little thoughtlessly, someone has to ensure that bills are paid and that money comes in to pay those bills. Currently all these things and a multitude of others are carried out by Club Officers and Committee Members, volunteers who are rewarded for their efforts by having to drive to Melbourne (Bellarine members) or to Geelong (Melbourne members) once a month for a committee meeting. And in the last two years, at least half of each committee meeting has been taken up with the progress of negotiations with our landlords and developers who would like to get what we have got, and the bureaucrats with an insatiable appetite for statistics and an even greater propensity for establishing new rules and regulations.

The Club now has an annual turn-over in excess of \$100,000 (that's why we now have to pay GST (yet more administrative troubles!)) and your committee is beginning to wonder whether it is still reasonable to ask volunteers who all have their own lives to lead and their own professions to pursue, to shoulder the burden of the servicing and management of such an enterprise, unassisted. For the facilities that it offers QCYC must be the cheapest Club on the Bay if not in Australia. So it seems that a point has been reached when either we need far more volunteers or we need paid assistance with the running of the Club and that means higher fees! All members will shortly be sent a questionnaire seeking views on the way that the Club should go in the future. Do we want paid help and higher fees or do we want to see every member being prepared to pull his or her weight at working bees, at getting a license to serve behind the bar, at coming down to the Club to do some extra painting or mowing the lawns?

The Club membership is full, if we sought to increase the numbers permitted by our license we might have a greater income, but could we accommodate additional members and still have the access to the Club's facilities that we all enjoy now? The Club has over 200 vessels on its register, and over the last twenty years the average length of a member's boat has gone up from about 28 feet to 40 feet. If we are to avoid turning members away we need more wharf space, but will be unable to achieve that without considerable dredging which Parks seem unwilling to pay for. As it is we have to confine motor yachts to the North Wharf because they are the only vessels with a shallow enough draft to park there. We would like to extend the North Wharf to accommodate more motor yachts, and this seems to be the only extension for which we have a hope of getting planning permission. With dredging we could even put a few keelboats up there - but it will need money! Members may be aware that our neighbors the Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club have virtually been driven out of their Club premises by the silting up of their waters, it would be nice to help them, but how can we?

So what is all this diatribe in aid of? Well first of all when you get your questionnaire, don't put it on one side to deal with later (which always ends up as never). Please let the committee know what you

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see as the future of the Club, say how you want it to develop or possibly not to develop. It can't stay just as it is, but the committee needs to know what you, the members want. And secondly, but just as importantly we need volunteers for the committee. As a Club you have been served magnificently by the stalwarts that have served for the last two years, but sickness and other commitments are taking their toll and we need new blood. A nomination form for committee membership accompanies the notice of the AGM. Please use it.

Brian Cherry
Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report

It is time to reflect back on the nearing of completion of my term in this office and appreciate the excellent teamwork and spirit of your Committee. They have been very supportive of the major capital works completed within the last two years and fought gallantly to defend our access to the water. A business plan has been developed and further improvements are planned in future years which will be achieved without any additional financial impost on the members. We still have the most modest fees and charges of any keelboat Club on the Port Phillip. The membership is full, whilst others await a vacancy. A record number of vessels are on the register of increasing size, with visitation to the wharf this season a record. Thank you all for your generous support and friendship.

Further to the causeway, I can confirm a contract has been let to renovate the road that will raise its level to provide all weather access. This has been a long process in completing all the documentation and obtaining the necessary approvals. Members should be aware that reconstruction will start in Early September and continue until the end of the month. There will not be access to the Club for most of that time. Please be patient as we do not want members invading the Club and putting themselves at risk. I am sure you will be most impressed when you visit for the opening of the season. This is an expensive project and we intend to fix a long-standing problem, which we are obliged to do under the Special Conditions of our lease with the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Recently we engaged a diving contractor to report on the condition of twenty piles of the north wharf. Despite their visual appearance they are in sound condition. We have received advice if we wrap the piles we will extend their life for at least another twenty years. This can be achieved for a very modest cost. Following our recent maintenance on the wharf this will further enhance the life of the pier.

It has been with regret several of our traditional on water activities have been curtailed because of insurance issues. It has been my brief recently to investigate this matter and I am hopeful by the next committee meeting to put a proposal for ratification to enable the Club to conduct official on the water events with protection for your officers. The Commodores of the major clubs and Yachting Victoria have recognized that QCYC is the premier cruising club and destination in Port Phillip. In the eyes of the general public we must be seen to be promoting the sport in the area, otherwise the powers that be may well push us out of existence in due course.

Following last seasons successful cruise to Western Port and Surrounds another event is planned leaving 10th February 2007 to Wilsons Promontory and Surrounds. Details to be released in Late September. Note the article in this Newsletter advertising our cruising rally to RGYC on Melbourne Cup Weekend. Please forward your expressions of interest as soon as possible.

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The annual working bee at the Club will be held on Sunday 29th October 2006, at 0900 hrs. Please bring your tools etc to assist in the cleanup. Bring a bite for lunch and enjoy a cleansing ale or wine at the end. Many hands make light work.

Club members must appreciate the volume of administrative work carried out by the Treasurer and Secretary, and the substantial annual turnover in which we have to account for GST can no longer be left to volunteers. At a recent Policy meeting of the General Committee it was decided we should investigate the employment of a part-time administrator/manager to attend to administrative matters and be on hand during the peak period of the Club. I have had preliminary discussions as to what the job description should be. I would like to receive any input to this matter before a final decision is made.

Finally, thank you indeed to the Yarnal family for your very generous donation. I am sure you will see some crazy Flag Officer when you visit, trying to cut daisies down to size behind the Yarnal mobile.

Darryl Morrison
Vice Commodore

GATE OPERATING TIMES

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

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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

email: optech@optech.com.au

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

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From the Editor's Desk (briefly!)

QCYC Web Site

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

Accounts

Members are reminded that annual accounts are now due and payable. So far about 50% of our members have done the right thing. Do it now!

Election of Committee

As outlined elsewhere in this edition a new Committee is about to be elected. This year we have a few Committee Members resigning for reasons of their own. They have all done a fabulous job, and I would like to express my appreciation to them all (those staying as well as those going!). I have a great deal of admiration for those that just keep the place going. Thank you to all of you!

Anyhow I digress. There is a nomination form attached to this Newsletter. Consider applying, or suggest it to a member you know that you think would be good. Return it to me. Need more information? Ask.

Sand Island Access Stickers

I can report that the new system of car stickers is in place. I now have no input into, or control over any access stickers. They are being handed out from the Gatehouse at Queenscliff. I have provided a list of Members and last known Registration Numbers to Defence and it is now up to them to allocate the stickers.

I was wrong also when I suggested they would issue stickers for all vehicles owned by a member. You need to take each vehicle for a visit to QCYC before they will issue a sticker to you. Again I suggest you make a visit before the Working Bee or Opening Day, otherwise it may be a long wait.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, 3rd October 2006, 2000 hours

Annual General Meeting at RYCV

Sunday, 29th October 2006, 0900 hours

Working Bee at QCYC

Sunday, 12th November 2006, 1200 for 1300 hours

Opening Day at QCYC

Note the Date for the Annual Working Bee has change. It is now as shown above. Change your diary! Hope to see as many members attend these annual events in the Club calendar as possible.

Michael Bowe
Secretary

Cruising Rally to Geelong

November 4th – 7th, 2006

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT

Melbourne to Geelong (RGYC), Dinner, Lay Day & Return via Portarlington

Invitations are extended for Members to participate in a cruise in company leaving from various departure points around Melbourne to rendezvous at Pipeline buoy No. 2 at 1000 hours on Saturday November 4th, 2006 to proceed in company to RGYC. Berthing to be arranged. Dinner Saturday evening RGYC, West Lounge 1830 for 1900 hours.

Sunday is a lay day. Enjoy the waterfront and surrounds. Breakfast available at the Club from 0830 hours and lunch from 1200 hours.

Monday departure to Portarlington for lunch at the Portarlington Hotel Dining Room. Anchor to West of pier or berth at the wharf overnight and continue home on Tuesday.

Arrangements are subject to prevailing weather.

A special prize will be awarded to the yacht that tenders the best menu at sea served on board for lunch. Menus will be collected on arrival and will be judged by the Head Chef at RGYC. Prize awarded at the dinner.

Send your Expression to: Darryl Morrison
Phone 5278 7331, or
email betty@ggs.vic.edu.au, or
mail to 14 Marathon Avenue, Hamlyn Heights 3215

Give details Name of Vessel
Name of Skipper
Number for Dinner
Contact Details, phone, email, address etc

Club Members are welcome to drive down to attend. Please advise if attending for catering purposes

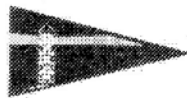
Note: if the prevailing outlook is poor notification of cancellation will be issued Thursday PM prior to the event.

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HON. SECRETARY
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VIC 3206
TEL: (03) 9099 8422

Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club
INC.

REGISTRATION NO. A0017353E

NOMINATION OF OFFICE BEARER

We hereby nominate _____

for the Office of _____

for the Season 2006 - 2007

Proposer: _____

Seconder: _____

I hereby consent to the above nomination.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

NOTE: Nominations close September 12th, 2006

Date Received: _____