

Commodores' Report

Since my last report the Club has been through its busiest time of the year with almost a full house of boats at the wharf through the Xmas /New Year period. Whereas Xmas Day is traditionally quiet at the club, by the time that I arrived on December 27th the holiday crowd was well entrenched and able to enjoy some of the best of the summer weather. Whilst it is fabulous to see the club being used to its capacity, it is important for all members to remember their individual responsibilities to ensure that their activities allow for all present to holiday in peace and safety.

I want, therefore, to remind you all of a CODE of CONDUCT implicit in your membership of the Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club.

For both safety and for the common enjoyment of all members it is imperative that the following is practiced by all:

1. Members are responsible at all times for their guests and need to be aware that not all visitors have the necessary familiarity with the inherent dangers around water based activities.
2. All members and their guests must be signed in correctly in the Wharfage book. This is a requirement of our Liquor Licence.
3. Parents are responsible for the supervision of children at all times and need to ensure that their activities are both safe and sensible.

The committee would greatly appreciate help from all of you in this way to maintain the safe and peaceful environment of the club for all to enjoy.

Now to Activities around the club:

Opening day pictures:



New Year's Celebrations:

New Year was celebrated at the club with the traditional Spit Roast attended by over 70 members and their families and friends. Only a proportion of these saw in the New Year on the balconies of the clubhouse, the rest having had to leave at sunset. As usual the Department of Defence Security staff made special efforts



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for us to get the guests and the caterer off the island. For those still wondering, there are much worse places to spend New Year's Eve than Sand and Swan Islands.

Next morning found a team of willing workers, decorating the clubhouse and preparing the food for what turned out to be a record 120 plus members and guests to enjoy the annual Prawns and Oysters lunch. At 8.00AM on New Year's Day a bleary eyed Commodore met with a bleary eyed fishmonger to collect the mountain of fresh prawns and oysters for the luncheon. Whites Fisheries in St Leonards opened up just for us on New Year's morning ensuring we got the best. And get the best we certainly did. From the reactions of those at the luncheon, we can expect an even greater demand next year so book early.

I must thank all the members who prepared food, decorated before and cleaned up afterwards, once again making this one of most popular events of the year. A special mention should also go to the young folk who cooked and sold sausages and drinks on the day. Their stall did nearly as much business as the seafood sellers and will be retained as a future complement to the day's offerings.

Interclub Activities

Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron has been very active in recent months in visiting QCYC... at the end of November they held their annual race to our club and the concept of racing to the 'Bar' to finish and start the return race has caught on.... Brian Smith



(Rear Commodore) is amongst the winners and therefore one of the enthusiasts! Commodore Barry Fitzgerald thanked us at their second visit in January and whilst it was social they looked after us in similar fashion with a round of thanks to our committee members present.



The club has also hosted visits from the Sorrento Sailing Cota Boat Club, the H28 Association, Cameron's Bight Boat Club and the Sandringham Yacht Club. From all reports they all intend to come again soon. We are also expecting annual visits from the Royal Geelong Yacht Club, the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria and the Royal Brighton Yacht Club. Each of these visits contributes substantially to both our general revenue and to our Cottage by the Sea fund, as well as being a

frequent source of new member applications. It is clear that the Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club continues to grow in reputation as a destination for boats from many parts of the bay and remains an important part of the recreational assets of Port Phillip Bay.



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Cruising from Queenscliff

While talking about club visits, I should also mention our gratitude to the Hastings Yacht Club and particularly David Tootle who hosted the yachts from Queenscliff participating in the Westernport Bay cruise in January. Yeringa Marina similarly made special efforts to accommodate Queenscliff boats during our cruise in January and made us all very welcome.

All clubs are under increasing pressure over the holiday season to keep up with the demand for visitor's berths so we are privileged as a club to be respected and welcomed in this way.

I must also thank both Mal Billings and Darryl Morrison who together organised the successful cruises to Westernport and to Refuge Cove and beyond. All of us who cruised this year have come back with many tall tales to be told and I look forward to seeing these reports in this year's newsletters. Particular thanks also go to our shore-based administrator, Rear Commodore Roger Bennett who continuously monitored the locations of all cruising yachts with the assistance of Smithton Radio, Coast Guard Tamar and Coast Guard Port Albert and kept those at home informed whilst the lucky ones sunned themselves at Deal Island.

Orientation Day

Induction of 20 new members by the committee happened on Sunday 21st Feb with good results. Over 30 people gathered and stayed well into the afternoon.

New members each agreed to speak for a few moments on their boating backgrounds, then were offered a fire-cart demonstration followed by a lovely BBQ lunch produced by Jill Golland and Naomi Wilbraham. It was the club atmosphere at its best.

Welcome to all new members.

Club projects:

The North Wharf Extension is beginning to take shape. Our lads together with Rex Prosser have done some nice preparatory work on the North Wharf extension in the past few days and now are awaiting some supplies from fabricators to go to the next stage....Thanks to Brian Phillips, Peter Geary and our new member Ray Orr for their assistance.

Another new member to the club in David McDonald has also leapt in deep at the clubhouse with the donation and installation of kitchen cupboards, an island bench and oven.

In the space of a week these have been installed opposite the current kitchen and look fantastic. It will be hard to believe we actually can house all our 'appliances and wot not' behind closed doors from now on...and there is extra kitchen preparation space now available on the island bench!



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The club owes a very special thanks to David whose efforts emphasise just how much volunteer's efforts and donations contribute to the club for us all to enjoy.

Clean Up Australia Day Working Bee:

On Sunday March 7th, coinciding with the national Clean Up Australia Day, some 50 to 60 members turned out in pouring rain to the second of the club's working bees in this financial year. It was a stunning turnout for a Sunday in the middle of a long weekend and we managed to remove an oversized skip of rubbish from the club, grounds, rock walls, water and the surrounding bush up to and including the beach on Port Phillip Bay. My thanks to all the enthusiastic workers who also managed to attend to a long list of minor repairs inside the clubhouse and a major rearrangement of the newly installed kitchen additions. The sun came out in time for a sausage sizzle. Bill and Gill Stubbs not only braved the bush (and snakes) during the cleanup but also proved they know how to cook. Be aware they have volunteered to organize Xmas in July this year – I suggest you book early for that.



Personal bits and pieces:

Roger Bennett (as Four Winds Marine), sponsored the Victorian Trailables Championships on Lake Hume on 27th and 28th February with more than 20 trailables involved...nice to see a good sponsorship deal and donation of a perpetual trophy as well!!

Our dear members on Ariadne III in Peter Harris and Fiona have been busy (always!) and Peter will tell you all about his part in the work to get the Tall Ship 'Stad Amsterdam' into Williamstown recently (24, 25 and 26th Feb) as part of the celebration of Wooden Vessels which included at least four others.



Best of all we have available Badges for members and friends to adorn your clothing including caps, jumpers, windcheaters, overalls etc....just look at these and you will want one...please send a note to

vicecommodore@qcyc.org.au and request them at only \$10 each...or send a self addressed envelope with your request to 4 Somerdale Avenue, Ocean Grove, 3226 and we will get them to you ASAP!! Don't miss out.

Finally, Happy Birthday John Gleeson – 65 and going strong.



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A final admission:

As you may have noticed from frequent changes in style this Commodores' report is a compilation of both the Vice Commodore and the Commodore

Best wishes for Easter

Ken Gayler and Brian Golland
Commodore/Vice Commodore

Members' Corner

This section enables Members to share any information on cruising activities. Email your cruising highlights or tips to Yewcrag@bigpond.com.

This month's tip from our Vice Commodore, Brian Golland -

If someone offers to stick your boat on a pile mooring ... it may not be what you think!



This is the end result for one yacht after a storm that brought 85 knot winds and massive seas struck a marina in France in February!

Bass Strait Cruises

We received ten entries for the combined cruises to Western Port and surrounds, the cruise to Wilson's Promontory, Deal and Flinders Islands and the Tamar River.

The fleet gathered at QCYC on Saturday 23rd January, prior to departing early on Sunday 24th to Flinders Yacht Club for lunch. Unfortunately there were two late withdrawals and some seven yachts

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anchored overnight prior to departure to the Promontory or cruising in Western Port. The Flinders Yacht Club again greeted us with a very warm welcome and provided an excellent luncheon.

On the Monday four yachts proceeded to Hastings, Tiercel, Saltshaker, Pau Hana and Kiandra. Our plans to originally berth at Western Port Marina were thrown into disarray when the management advised there were no berths available for visitors in the marina. Fortunately through some contacts we were offered four pile berths at the Hastings Yacht Club on the main Hastings Pier. Their members went out of their way to make us most welcome and refused to charge us berthing fees for our stay. On the second day we enjoyed a wonderful barbeque on the veranda at the yacht club with their members. On Wednesday, the fleet departed to Yaringa and again Stephan and his crew went out of their way to find four berths in the crowded harbour. All facilities were available to our fleet at no charge. On Thursday, the fleet members and the marina staff had an excellent barbeque in the surrounds of the marina office. No doubt the dinner at the Boathouse Restaurant was the highlight of our trip. After evaluating the weather outlook, the fleet decided to bypass the cruise to Chilcott Cove and Rhyll and on the Friday the fleet sailed directly from Yaringa to QCYC or home ports. Once again we enjoyed excellent weather and friendships were again renewed.

The fleet heading to Wilson's Promontory left from Flinders with Ganggajang and Nantucket. Karizma sailed direct from Port Phillip to Cleelands Bight. Ventura elected to remain at Flinders and sail back to Port Phillip following a change of crew. The Tuesday sail from Cleelands Bight to Refuge Cove was conducted in excellent conditions. Following a rest at Refuge the remaining three yachts headed off to Deal Island. However, Nantucket had the misfortune of engine failure between the Prom and Deal Island. Nantucket withdrew from the cruise and sailed back to Port Phillip. The cruise from Deal Island saw the two remaining yachts visit Killiecrankie Bay, Roydon Island, Marshall Bay, Trousers Point and Lady Barron. Karizma sailed back to Waratah Bay and then home to Port Phillip. Ganggajang sailed from Lady Barron to Thunder and Lightning Bay on Cape Barren Island before proceeding to the Tamar River to enjoy several days cruising the river before returning home. One must thank the services of Smithton Radio and Tamar Sea Rescue for their radio communications and position reporting to our shore based administrator, Rear Commodore, Roger Bennett. We look forward to another cruise next season.

Darryl Morrison,
Cruise Director

QCYC Programme 2010

Saturday March 27th, 2010 – H.M.A.S. Goorangai Memorial Trophy

Our prestige event from RBYC to QCYC. Then stay at the club for Easter.

Monday April 5th, 2010 – Peter Timms Memorial Trophy incorporating Coles Channel Picnic

Two events – one for Sail – the other for Power Craft.

Sunday July 18th Xmas in July Luncheon

QCYC Committee is presently considering ways to increase our sailing activities from the club over the summer. Member input is welcome.

For further details on any of the above on-land events contact Events Coordinator: Bill Stubbs. For sailing matters please contact Cruising/Racing Coordinator Mal Billings or Cruise Director Darryl Morrison.

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Gate Operating Times

Gate Operating times for the Swan Island Security Gate **until the end of daylight saving** are:

Sunday to Friday 0700 - 2000 hours

Saturday and Public Holidays 0700 - 2100 hours

Where upon the closing time will be one hour earlier **until winter** as follows:

Sunday to Friday 0700 - 1900 hours

Saturday and Public Holidays 0700 - 2000 hours

Contact QCYC

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

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Mobile 0412 150 228

QCYC Clubhouse:

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