



PROPELLER

ROYAL VICTORIAN MOTOR YACHT CLUB | ESTABLISHED 1904

INSIDE

New Members Boating Day

RVMYC Fishing Comp

Kanton Atoll

Big Bay Swim & New Member's Boating Day



RVMYC Fishing Competition

Saturday 9th February



The RVMYC fishing competition was contested in some fierce conditions.



Four boats fished in the howling winds and rain with a decent total of ten fish being weighed in at the end of the competition.

Continued Page 4.....



Croatia

Story by Dearne Price

Recently, members John and Dearne chartered a boat and ventured to Croatia for what was a trip of a life-time.

Turn to Page 10 to hear about their fabulous adventure.

Who's New to the Club

A warm welcome
to our new Club members.

Christine Veitch



Haydn Veitch



Rick Lyon



Simon Pickett



Stephanie Pickett



RVMYC VOUCHERS

Expiry Date: 31st March 2019

Members are reminded that all vouchers including birthday vouchers must be used before the 1st April. Vouchers will not be accepted after this date.



UPCOMING EVENT

Shadowfax Winery Lunch
Saturday 30th March, 1pm



Every Saturday, the restaurant comes alive with the sounds of their resident bands, so we can relax with a delicious lunch and glass of wine & enjoy an afternoon of live music.

Members may cruise to Wyndham Harbour (make own arrangements) & perhaps stay the night, or travel directly to Werribee Park by car.

A group booking will be made so you can enjoy great company and the fabulous 3 course Chef's Sharing menu for just \$49.

Strict limit of just 40 guests for this event so secure your places now by advising the Office.

Bookings must be confirmed (and paid) by C.O.B, Friday 22nd March.

EDITOR'S NOTE



We welcome contributions from members, Propeller will endeavour to publish articles as soon as possible, space permitting. Please contact the propeller sub committee for more information.

Ann Przybysz: shezgame24@gmail.com

ADVERTISING RATES

Did you know that you can advertise in this newsletter from as little as \$29.90 an edition for a business card size ad?

Ten editions are published each year and circulated to our members and friends.

Business Card Size: \$179pa Quarter Page: \$377 Half Page: \$539pa.

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From the Commodore's Deck



Dear Members,

I can't help but feel very privileged, let alone proud, to belong to a club such as the RMYC. This year is my twentieth year as a member and throughout that time I've been constantly reminded about all that's good about the club. Not the least of which are the friendships made, some of which have become lifelong, including friends that we still see regularly even though they have moved away to the country or interstate.

The RMYC has always been a very active social club, both on land and on the water. Apart from the very many social events held in the clubrooms, there are also the boating events, and just as important are the impromptu 'get-togethers' both, on land, in the clubrooms or the BBQ area, and on water.

Just last Sunday was a typical example. We took part in the 'Rotary Big Bay Swim' where around twenty club boats lined the course from Sandridge Beach to Williamstown, to act as safety boats for the swimmers. After the swim we heard that some of the boats were cruising up the river to Docklands so we joined them in Victoria Harbour where nine club boats rafted up for an impromptu lunch and social afternoon of good food, a few drinks, much laughter and lots of 'boat hopping'.

And similarly over the Christmas break we spent a week in Geelong where, over the week, around ten boats from the RMYC were there at one stage or another. And the same at Queenscliff where we joined another seven boats from the club. As always, there was plenty of socializing on individual boats or group lunches or dinners at nearby pubs or restaurants.

I've always said that the more involved you are at the club, the more you get back, so, if you've been hanging back, I suggest you consider getting involved and come along to some of the events. And if it's a boating event and you don't have a boat, let the office know and we can nearly always accommodate you.

There is plenty coming up around the club, starting with the Blues Brothers Trivia Night on 01 March and on Sunday 03 March we have the Navy joining us for the Lonsdale Cup Navrally with lunch afterwards in the Bistro, always a great day. Then on 10 March, the Oslo Cup Navrally between the RMYC and RGYC and on 17 March, the Whalley Cup between the RMYC, SYC and the MMYC. And speaking of competing with other clubs, I'm pleased to say that our annual competition with SYC for the CUB Trophy, held recently, saw the CUB Trophy come back to its rightful place in the RMYC trophy cabinet. Congratulations to our team, Casa Verde, Bold Venture and Tango Too.

With regard to our members Bar and Bistro, that is still progressing well, however, the Committee is very conscious that there's always room for improvement and is listening to member feedback, and wherever possible (and practical), acting on that feedback. One example is the recent installation of a 'decent' coffee machine, a direct result of member feedback.

Other suggestions have been about making the club more accessible to the local community, suggesting that members benefit as the club becomes more viable and would encourage more locals to become members. There is certainly merit in that, however, we are balancing the fact that the RMYC is first and foremost a members club, we also have some restrictions according to our lease, not to mention OH & S and security considerations. However, all that being so, the club is moving cautiously forward in that area.

All members would have received a letter from the Secretary recently,

outlining how the Committee sees the club moving forward. This includes leaving the front gate open from 12-2pm on Fridays and 12-5pm on weekends for a trial period to encourage visitors. The hope is that this will encourage new members and help to make our club more vibrant. We'll also shortly introduce a tiered price structure, where unaccompanied visitors will pay a higher price than members and their guests, adding to the value of membership.

We're also actively encouraging local service clubs and community groups to utilize club facilities for their dinner/breakfast meetings, which will add to the profitability, and subsequently the service and the offering, to members and may possibly result in some new members. To that end we've already had talks with three different groups with encouraging results in all instances.

With all of the above in mind, we are asking all members to play a part as Club Ambassadors ensuring:

- All visitors and guests are signed in
- Entry doors to the members area are kept closed
- Non-members (other than member's guests) cars are parked only in the visitors area
- The side gate to the lawn area remains closed at all times (new signage has recently been installed)

As I've said many times, this is your club, our job on Committee is to do the best we can to make this club what you, the members, want it to be. In that regard, we are always ready to listen and if it's possible/practical/responsible and works for the majority, we'll try to make it happen.

That's it from me till next time, happy boating and look forward to seeing you all around the club soon.

Regards

John Zammit
RMYC Commodore

RVMYC Fishing Competition

by Ann Prysbyz

The fishing competition began on Friday evening, and concluded Saturday afternoon.

With a lot of enthusiasm, those competing took to their boats to try and score a big catch.

Steve and Joanne Sutherland were the winners of the heaviest fish with a snapper weighing 500 grams.

Steve and Ann Fish won the best boat with a total of five fish. They also won heaviest bag of 1.93kg.

Darren and Tracey Keast won secret weight of a flathead at 310 grams. There were no junior participants so the fabulous prize of the Okuma rod and reel was used as a door prize. The lucky winner was Joanne Sutherland.

There was a great turn out for the bbq at the end of the competition.

Twenty people attended, eating the delicious meat supplied by Terry Lawless, and the scrumptious salads prepared by Steve Warner. Big thank you to both for their contribution.

Despite the tumultuous weather, it was a great weekend.



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Two glasses of wine A life lesson

Story supplied by Kathie Rindfleish

A professor stood before his philosophy class with a number of items on his desk. When the class began, wordlessly he picked up a large, empty jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked his students if the jar was full: they all agreed it was. The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar, shaking lightly. The pebbles rolled into the empty spaces between the golf balls. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students again agreed it was.

The professor then picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. The sand, of course, filled up every other space remaining. Once again, he asked if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous yes.

The professor then produced two glasses of wine and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty

space between the sand. The students laughed. "Now", said the professor as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognise that this jar represents your life. The gold balls are the important things; your family, your children, your health, your



friends, your favourite passions; things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else; the small stuff.

If you put the sand into the jar

first", he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles of the golf balls. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are most important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical check-ups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18 holes. Do one more run down the ski slope. There will always be time to clean the house. Take care of the golf balls first; the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and enquired what the wine represented.

The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple glasses of wine with a friend".

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Kanton Atoll

Story by John Marks

Kanton Atoll is a remote Pacific Island, just two degrees south of the equator, and 660 nautical miles north of Apia, Samoa, the jumping-off point for those adventurous souls wishing to visit. It is the largest of the Phoenix Group, and together with the Gilbert and Ellis Islands, makes up the nation of Kiribati.

Kanton and surrounding islands is an internationally recognized marine sanctuary, known as the Phoenix Islands Protection Area, or PIPA. To visit and fish, one needs a permit, a customs and quarantine clearance, and a paid observer sent from Tarawa. Also a suitable vessel, as currently no air service exists. The fish life is astounding, perhaps like all the other islands in the Pacific were in earlier times.

Before WW2, trans-pacific passenger flights completed the journey from San Francisco to Australia in short hops. The aircraft refuelled in Hawaii, Kanton Atoll, and Fiji, before landing in Rose Bay, Sydney. The main carrier was Pan American Airlines, using Clipper flying boats. The Pacific staging ports all had suitable large lagoons, and Kanton, which was then generally un-inhabited, was chosen as a half-way point between Hawaii and Fiji. Fuel arrived through a steel pipe, from a tanker anchored offshore.

During WW2, the Americans established a military presence, with a two-kilometre airstrip, a wharf in

the lagoon, the entrance channel dredged, and 1100 personnel. Air traffic was busy, and quite a few aircraft wrecks are reported in or around the atoll. After the war, the strip and facility continued to provide a Pacific service, using land planes. Once long-range aircraft were available, the atoll became an abandoned back-water.

Today, 50 local residents live in and around the solid dwellings built to house American officers. They are generally Gilbertese, from the capital of Kiribati, Tarawa. The primitive village has a school, a very basic



hospital, and little else. Coming ashore for a ramble about in the scrub, one can observe the remnants of previous activity. Old vehicles, air craft parts, buildings, a diesel powered generating station, and a large radar installation are rapidly rusting away in the hot, humid salty atmosphere.

Another relic of the war years is the wreck of the SS President Taylor, a converted troop ship which got into difficulty near the lagoon entrance. The steam engines and a bow

section rise starkly above the surface, to warn navigators of the perils.

A huge fish presence, clear warm water, and the wreckage make for a first-class scuba dive.

I was fortunate to join a fishing party to visit Kanton, in April 2018. Four of the six adventurers are avid salt water fly-fishing proponents. We departed Apia for the 110-hour voyage, aboard Sabatayn, a beautiful 74' steel motor-sailor, which had been ferried from Nelson NZ, for the purpose. This ship is comprehensively equipped, with a water maker, air conditioning, a high-pressure air supply and cylinders for diving, and a re-compression chamber, to assist recovery from diving accidents. Crew was owner Matthew; Birger, a very experienced Danish sea-farer was the skipper, and Tebata, the young Tarawa-based government observer. The ship was heavily provisioned, to ensure that the culinary needs met the high standards of other arrangements.

Right from the start, things seemed to be askew. Departing Apia was taking hours of negotiations, regarding the visitor's permit to Kanton, and a quarantine clearance. Then the fuel wharf was closed, and we had not completed departure arrangements from Samoa. Miraculously, a last-minute phone call by group leader Andrew won the day. The fuel guys relented, so we got away only about six hours late.

We were told that the hydraulic anchor winch was out of order. The Gardner diesel engine was running just off-idle at 900 rpm, (no suitable wind was assisting), much less than normal cruising speed. After just three days, we were advised that half the available fresh water had been used, and that the water-maker had problems. Half a dozen 20 ltr drums were brought out, a clear sign that the crew knew of water problems back in Apia. The air conditioning system was not coping, and relief from the heat at night meant everyone was sleeping on deck.

We trolled for Skipjack, the only species apparently interested in our lures, and made fine sashimi. Showering was curtailed, but what the heck, we were enjoying ourselves. A glass of wine, gentle breezes and spectacular sunsets set the mood. After four days, Kanton rose above the horizon. Sabatayn entered the lagoon and we set the anchor manually.

That afternoon the fly-fishers got down to business, with instant results. Metre-long GT's, weird-looking Trigger Fish and Napoleon Wrasse, Bone Fish, and a myriad other species, only able to be identified by the initiated, were eager participants. To comply with the permit, all fish had to be caught on barbless hooks, and released un-harmed. I had some fine diving, assisted by local skipper Tuake from the island's only boat, a 16' plywood dory with a 40 hp Yamaha outboard. I marvelled at fantastic intact coral, abundant fish life & the President

Taylor wreck, a world-class diving site.

On shore, the locals treated us royally, as they are beautiful people, and receive few visitors. We were served a fantastic banquet of local cuisine the first evening, by torch-light on the visitor's beach, which had taken days of preparation.

Kids and adults danced and sang, to our delight. A tour of the island? No problem, just pile onto their only mass transit vehicle, a tray-truck tricycle fashioned from a motorcycle. We visited the school, and our two women participants, both nurses, had a special time with the hospital staff, a lone mature-age nurse, whose tenure was about to expire. Equipment consisted of a thermometer, blood pressure test, and a few tablets.

Our days at Kanton passed all too soon, and we set off back to Apia after manually hauling the 150lb anchor and chain, this achieved with much effort and aggro. Our remaining fresh water was rationed to last the four days back to Apia, to join our flight to Sydney. Once again, great meals and company, but trouble was brewing. Matthew and Birger often attended to the Gardner engine, which was smoking and over-heating, and using our precious oil reserves. In the early hours of the last morning, suddenly all lights and navigation instruments failed, and the Gardner was shut down. This also meant no toilets or fresh water, but that was already used, and our drinking water came from the plastic drums. No matter, the lights of Apia

were in sight, forty miles south.

Sabatayn can sail beautifully, but we were becalmed. Mathew and Birger launched the big RIB dinghy, well-powered by a 50hp outboard, and proceeded to tow the yacht towards Apia, using an ipad for direction. Would we have enough fuel for the tug? Lockers on the after deck held seven 20lt drums, but this was rapidly disappearing. With eight miles to go, and a fuel shortage looming, suddenly a breeze sprang up, and Birger set the head sail to advantage. Back at the wharf on time, a free-day allowed an island tour, a visit to the cultural centre and to a beach resort. We were taken to the famous author Robert Louis Stevenson's former home and estate, now a museum, and later our guide Tuala and his family treated us to a superb banquet of local food, washed down with fresh coconut water, straight out of the shell.

Kanton residents have invited us to return, but it's hard to imagine how we would contemplate the serious cost, administrative effort, and logistics again. Time will tell.

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Portarlington Cruise



From left to right:
Darren Keast, Steve Sutherland, Joanne Sutherland, Tracey Keast



RVMYC Staff member Jenny Erickson:
Enjoying some time out in Queenscliff

SYC Cup and CUB Trophy

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st – 4 by 8 | Dave & Kate McCucheon (SYC) |
| 2nd – Casa Verde | Chris & Kylie Ackerman |
| 3rd – Bold Venture | Cameron & Bridget Simpson |
| 4th – Tango Too | John & Fiona Zammit |

The CUB Cup trophy went to RVMYC.

Congratulations to those who participated!



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A business with heart

- with Lynne Skene

Lynne Skene has been a member of the RVMYC since 2016, together with her son Riley, and her husband Peter Skene.

Lynne's background is in food science and food product development.

Prior to starting a family, Lynne spent many years in Asia. It was during this time in Asia, working with customers and promoting Australian food ingredients that Lynne fully realised the true value of clean, green, safe food.

After some time, Lynne had the chance to produce a range of products where authentic Australian provenance was an essential, and all the ingredients could be traced to exact growing regions. Lynne created the business Get Farmed, a boutique food company with 'heart'. The mission was to make the best

quality product and to work closely with farmers and suppliers to source the best ingredients and sustainable packaging, and to grow and promote the Get Farmed brand.



Lynne also wanted to ensure that there was support for farmers and their communities.

In 2017 Lynne received the Hobson's Bay Business Excellence Award, cementing the fact that her hard work and dedication had paid off.

What an achievement!

When Lynne is not busy working, she is taking her dog for a walk, or partaking in one of her favourite pastimes of drinking wine and eating cheese in the vicinity of the Club. Lynne and her family also love to travel, and most recently have been enjoying taking the boat to Docklands, Geelong and Queenscliff, places popular with many of our members!



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Eat, drink by the sea: Croatia

Story by Dearne Price

To celebrate years of hard work and the kids no longer living with us, it's become a bit of a routine now for John and I to charter a boat with good friends every two years. 2018 saw us head off to Croatia and meet up with 4 other couples and spend a week on the fully crewed (and catered) Dolce Vita 1.



She is a refurbished 34m (110 ft) Gulet with all the amenity and water toys you could ask for. We had a crew of 5 looking after us and our job was just to sit back, relax and enjoy it all.

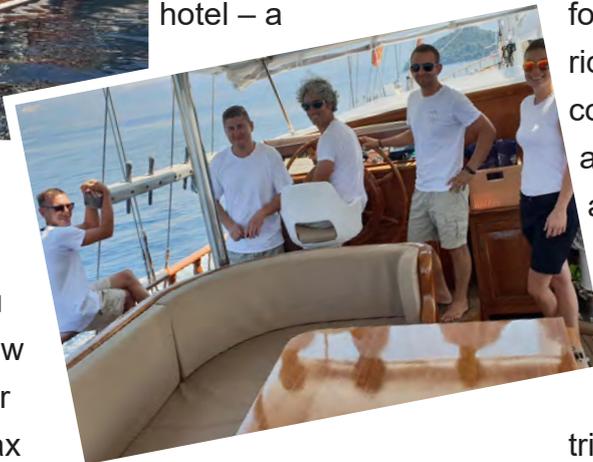
One of the challenges of chartering a boat is getting the right group of people together. The people we went with all knew at least one other couple, so everyone got to meet new people and catch up with old friends. We are all boaty people and appreciate time on the water. None of us had been to Croatia at all, so we all

took advantage of a few days by ourselves before we met to get on the boat.

John and I flew into Zagreb and



had 2 days there wandering the streets. It felt very old, eastern Europe. We stayed at the magnificent Esplanade Zagreb hotel – a



highlight of which it has a beef tartare dedicated waiter, mixing your own preferred blend of ingredients from the trolley at your table. Zagreb was interesting and 2 days maximum is enough time there.

We hired a car and drove 6 hours across the top of Croatia on very good highways and found paradise in the port town

of Rovinj, in the region of Istria. This town was once under Austrian rule, then French, Austrian again then Italian and finally post war became part of Yugoslavia. Its history is reflected in the fabulous cuisine.

If you like seafood and truffles, Rovinj is the place for you.

We wined and dined and wined and dined (in that order in fact). I can't

recommend Rovinj highly enough – it's definitely a place we will return to and spend a lot more time enjoying the seaside, the beaches and the food. Venice is a short boat ride away and Trieste – a couple of hours drive north is apparently worth a long stay as well.

The next stage of our trip took us to Trogir, 30 minutes north of Split. Our excitement for the boat trip was starting to grow and on arrival, we caught up with our friends who were also joining us on Dolce Vita 1. We did very well rehearsing for cocktail hour on the boat – a girl can't enjoy an Aperol Spritz as much as in Croatia. The 3rd couple then arrived – who were new to us and having a New Zealand wine merchant in our team proved to be a valuable addition.

The day came when we all met and joined Dolce Vita 1 and her crew out of Trogir.



When chartering a boat overseas there is always a little bit of anxiety about getting what you paid for (fully in advance). Did the money we transferred end up funding someone else's boat trip and we were going to be left boatless at the jetty? Dolce Vita 1 did not disappoint – getting on that tender and seeing her for the first time left us breathless – it was huge



and we knew we had a special week ahead of us. We had pre-organised who would get which room, so when we boarded, it was like excited 10 children running towards their dorms at school camp. A glass of champagne

started off the cruise and we were off. From Trogir, we went down the coast and stopped in Brac, Hvar, Vis, Korcula and ended the trip a week later in Dubrovnik. All magnificent places to visit and historically, really interesting.

Our days consisted of a morning swim followed by breakfast and a discussion with the Captain about the day's journey ahead and whether we had any special requests. We settled in with a book or a snooze or simply looking at the sea (me) and motored on to the next stop. We stopped in bays of glass water for a swim / paddle board / jet ski; we saw pods of dolphins and enjoyed long lunches on the back deck.

Each night we opted to eat at a restaurant on shore and ate at some fabulous places – some more humble than others and always the food was excellent. Lots of seafood and the wine was cheap (in Australian terms). Most nights it was

party time back on deck – the crew thought we were great fun “old people behaving badly” we call it. Our last night was spent moored not far off Dubrovnik – we had a drink with the crew and partied like it was 1999. Would we do a similar charter again? Yes, without a doubt and would definitely include Trieste (Italy) at the start and a trip to Montenegro at the end. Ahoy!






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- 13/02/19 \$550 Harry Varelas NIA
- 20/02/19 \$600 Ivan Andolfatto NIA
- 27/02/19 \$650 Nick Christou NIA

Members Draw 7pm Wednesdays.
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Fishing Licences

Fishing licences are available from the Club office or bar; 3 year licence \$98.20; 1 year licence \$36.20; 28 day licence \$20.60; 3 day licence \$10 Please see Terri at the bar. Members can use their accounts to pay.

NOTE: Seniors cardholders do not require a fishing licence

Calendar of Events

- Sunday 3rd March
Lonsdale Cup
- Wednesday 6th March
RVMYC QGM
- Sunday 17th March
Oslo Cup
- Sunday 24th March
Isle of Mordialloc
- Saturday 30th March
Shadowfax Winery Lunch
- Sunday 7th April
Whalley Cup
- Sunday 14th April
Williamstown Cup
- Sunday 14th April
Marconi Cup

**BE SURE TO CHECK THE
WEDNESDAY WRAP, FACEBOOK AND
RVMYC WEBSITE FOR UPDATES**

Duty Officers

- March**
- 2-3 P SKENE
 - 9-10 G O'CONNELL
 - 16-17 K RINDFLEISH
 - 23-24 S WARNER
 - 30-31 A PRZYBYSZ

- April**
- 6-7 J ZAMMIT
 - 13-14 P DOHERTY
 - 20-21 T LAWLESS
 - 27-28 L ANDOLFATTO



MEMBERS BAR TRADING HOURS

Wednesday - Bar open 5pm. Bistro open 6pm

Friday - Bar open 5pm. Bistro open 6pm

Saturday - Bar open 12.00pm. Bar snacks available

Sunday - Bar open 12pm. Bistro open 12.00pm to 2.30pm.

To view the weekly Bistro menu, visit the RVMYC website

RVMYC EVENTS CALENDAR						
MARCH						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN	2 OPEN BAR AND BAR SNACKS
LONSDALE CUP	4	5	QGM	7	8 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN	9 OPEN BAR AND BAR SNACKS
OSLO CUP	LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	12	13 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN - MEMBERS DRAW & RAFFLE	14	15 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN	16 OPEN BAR AND BAR SNACKS
WHALLEY CUP	18	19	20 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN - MEMBERS DRAW & RAFFLE	21	22 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN	23 OPEN BAR AND BAR SNACKS
24 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN	25	26	27 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN - MEMBERS DRAW & RAFFLE	28	29 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN	30 OPEN BAR AND BAR SNACKS
31 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN						
APRIL						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN - MEMBERS DRAW & RAFFLE	4	5 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN	6 OPEN BAR AND BAR SNACKS
7 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN	8	9	10 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN - MEMBERS DRAW & RAFFLE	11	12 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN	13 OPEN BAR AND BAR SNACKS
14 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN	15	16	17 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN - MEMBERS DRAW & RAFFLE	18	GOOD FRIDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	20 OPEN BAR AND BAR SNACKS
21 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN	EASTER MONDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	23	24 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN - MEMBERS DRAW & RAFFLE	ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	26 BAR/ BISTRO OPEN	27 OPEN BAR AND BAR SNACKS
RVMYC Marconi Cup	29	30	BAR/ BISTRO OPEN - MEMBERS DRAW & RAFFLE			