



# PROPELLER

ROYAL VICTORIAN MOTOR YACHT CLUB | ESTABLISHED 1904

## INSIDE

Commodore's Report

Opening Day

Club News



## *Opening of the 118th Boating Season 2021*



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all Members.*

# Club News

A warm welcome to the Club.



Raymond Browne



Pamela Chandler



Gary Christie



Michael Eustace



David Goring



Jim Hogan



James Farrar



Gary Hunter



Linda Morgan



Nathan Mullins



Brendan Murphy



Pierce Reynolds



Ross Vicino



Peter Young



## Opening Day Sail Past

*Photo supplied by Paul Doherty*



### 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.

### ADVERTISE IN THE PROPELLER

**Did you know that you can advertise in this newsletter from as little as \$30.45 an edition for a business card size ad?**

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

**Business Card Size: \$182pa Quarter Page: \$392 Half Page: \$561pa.**

*We also offer a bonus free ad placement on our website for advertisers, where space is available. Contact the Club for further details.*



# From the Commodore's Deck



Dear RVMYC'ers,

This, my final report for 2021 draws a close to yet another tumultuous year. Lockdowns 3,4,5 & 6 resulted in the club being closed for a total of 113 days this year, compared to 154 in 2020, so being a "glass half full" person I see that as a bit of an improvement. It would be a fair presumption that after such massive disruptions, that the club's situation and affairs would be in disarray, however quite the opposite is true. We have excellent cash reserves due to the diligence and good management of your steadfast Committee and membership is the highest it has been in living memory. We currently stand at approximately 386 members in total and at the current rate of applications expect that number to pass the 400 mark early in the New Year. There are numerous benefits at achieving these types of numbers, least of which is the general buzz of energy and enthusiasm around the place. There are also additional strains put on our administration and hospitality departments to which our magnificent staff have been

very positively responsive. We are extremely fortunate to have such wonderful and quality people working for us and I thank them for their dedication and loyalty this year.

The Vice Commodore and his Boating Sub Committee were able to conduct an almost complete Nav Rally calendar and whilst there was no Presentation Gala again this year, were able to make an abridged presentation at the Opening Day lunch, so well done to all concerned.

Opening Day was another last minute affair being held with just a few weeks' notice and up against competing commitments as occur in mid-December. Despite these setbacks the slightly reduced numbers meant that we were able to have an excellent three course lunch in the Members Dining Room which was full and brimming with laughter. My thanks again to Svitzer who put on their water cannon display for the third year in the Sail Past and has now become an RVMYC tradition.

New Year's Eve can be celebrated at the club which offers an excellent viewpoint for CBD fireworks and drone displays, the bar will be open until 12:30am and members can self-cater.

I wish all our Boating Members fair seas for their planned trips both near and far over the holidays and for all of our wonderful RVMYC'ers you have Melinda & my best wishes for a Joyous Christmas and a Very Happy 2022!!

And remember whether on the water or ashore, stay safe and have fun.

Paul F Doherty  
Commodore

Office Closed  
Thursday 22nd December

Office re-opens  
Tuesday 4th January, 2022

Bar & Bistro Closed  
Wednesday 22nd December  
following dinner service

Members Bar Open  
New Year's Eve  
BYO Food

Bar & Bistro re-open  
Wed 5th Jan, 2022

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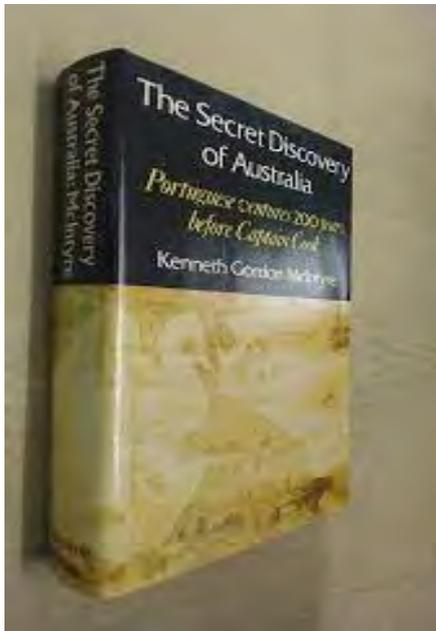
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## Portugese Sailors in Williamstown, Circa 1520s

Story by John Marks

The late Kenneth Gordon McIntyre in his book 'The Secret Discovery of Australia', easily demonstrates that European navigators actually entered Port Phillip Bay in the early 1500's. He cites Portuguese maps of the era showing not only the entrance, but the entire Bay in roughly the correct shape.



McIntyre also mentions the discovery of a set of metal keys, excavated from a lime deposit near Geelong and dated to the era, which were shown to the then state governor, Charles Latrobe. Latrobe recorded the find in official records.

The celebrated Dauphin map, when corrected to a modern projection, shows a very recognizable outline of the Australian continent, clockwise from the Abrolhos Islands to Warrnambool, including Port

Phillip Bay. McIntyre supposes that captain Christovao de Mendonca was despatched by the Portuguese royalty to intercept Ferdinand Magellan, who was promoting Spanish interests in the Portuguese controlled (Indonesian) spice islands. De Mendonca may have wintered in a bay near Gladstone, and also at Bittangabee near Eden on the NSW south coast, before proceeding around Cape Howe and onto the Victorian coast. Ancient ruins in both areas are otherwise unexplained.

De Mendonca never sighted Magellan, as Magellan's fleet approached Indonesia after a landfall in Guam, instead of proceeding north on the Australian east coast as expected. McIntyre supposes that de Mendonca explored and mapped the east Australian coast with the intention of crossing the Bight, but then lost one of three ships, driven ashore by a storm or tsunami, which became the celebrated Mahogany Ship, seen for many years in the dunes

near Warrnambool, but then lost in sand movement. The map finishes there.

The Marks family lived in the boatshed at Williamstown Beach from 1950 to 1960. My mother Alice Muriel was a keen observer, and showed great interest in some fonts carved into a rock in the tide line next to the boatshed. These were badly weathered, but appeared to be four numerals (a date?) and some alphabetical fonts in a foreign language, suggesting the name of a ship or a person?



*Inscribed rock in Williamstown  
Story continues overpage.....*



*Continued.....*

No one with any knowledge of a European or language other than English was shown the rock, and the inscription remains a mystery. The boatshed was demolished by Williamstown Council in 1962, and the rock pile, which was the foundation of the shed, was then "dressed" with very large slabs of rock to form a safe pedestrian surface. Observing the site recently, I imagine that with half a dozen boulders temporarily moved, the inscribed rock

would be exposed. A person reading McIntyre's book, or with knowledge of the Portuguese language, may make a momentous discovery, which could alter perceptions of Victorian exploration, and perhaps create a sensational tourist attraction?

The site of Magellan's landfall in Guam is well marked and documented, and complete with an observation platform.



### *The Mahogany Ship*



## **NEWS FLASH**

*The Club will be open for lunch on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and for dinner on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays during the Summer period. Book via the RVMYC website.*

# Get your boat fit for the water

You've packed the esky, got the sunscreen, filled the tanks and finally got that sunny, still day - water shimmering on the hull.

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### Special thank you to Committee on a memorable Opening Day.

It is always great to see old and new come together for such an important occasion.



*Paul & Melinda Doherty*



*Susan & Simon Mills*



*Kylie & Chris Ackerman*



*Mark & Kathie Rindfelish*



*Kathie, Marco & Susan*



*2021 Committee*



*Peter Skene w Phil, Chris & Kylie*



*Cherie & Rob Mitchell*



*Darren & Tracy Keast*



*John & Fiona Zammit*



*Chris, Simon & Paul*



### Presentations

Club badges, Club Aggregates and Boat Person of the Year- a well-deserving Jason Patton



*Marco Sampaio  
& Riley Skene*



*Jason Patton*



*Alison Miles*



*Chris Ackerman  
& Paul Doherty*



*Chris Ackerman*



*Cameron Simpson,  
Kathie & Mark Rindfleisch*



*Cameron Simpson*



*Susan Mills*



*Phil Taylor & Paul Doherty*

*From the Lawn, to the Bar, to the Bistro*



*Reverend Elizabeth Murray*



*Commodore Greg Yorke*



# Lunch is Served



## Herring Island by Chris Ackerman

The Herring Island Cruise has been part of the RVMYC boating calendar for most of the past ten years or so. In recent times a group of the more enthusiastic take their boats up to Marina YE the night before and spend the night there before departing in the tenders for Herring Island the following morning. For those who may not know, we go up in the tenders because several of the city bridges are too low for most of our boats. Some of the smaller club boats can make it under the low bridges if the tide is right but even if you know you'll make it there's still a few nervous seconds as you reach the point of no return under the lowest areas.



This year there were ten boats that spent the Friday night at Marina YE. Everyone had a fairly quiet night firstly making sure our tenders were in working order with all the safety gear before catching up with each other for drinks and nibbles on various boats.

Saturday morning was a relaxed start with most having a morning walk to

get their preference of coffee or breakfast or both. After that chairs, eskies, rugs and all manner of gear was loaded into the tenders and we all departed at about 10:30 in no order whatsoever but everyone was very happy to be out on the water and doing what we do as boaters.

I think everyone was surprised to see how alive the Yarra river precinct was with the small electric hire boats, party cruises, canoeists and rowers. We were fortunate to have a beautiful day which served to highlight how stunningly beautiful our city is. Whether it be going past the south wharf, trade center and city areas with the bustling restaurants, Polly Woodside and the many statues and landmarks or whether it be further upstream through the sports and garden precinct with the green tree lined banks with rowers, joggers, walkers and picnickers all enjoying what our city has to offer.

There were ten tenders arrived at Herring Island and when we



got there we were the only group on the island. Everything was unloaded from the boats and walked up the hill to the BBQ area before being spread out for everyone to relax, chat and enjoy our BBQ lunch. Around about thirty people attended, a few who couldn't make the boat trip were picked up across the river from the island and brought over to join in.



The trip back to Yarra's Edge was equally as nice as the earlier trip up to the island. On arriving back at Yarra's Edge we found an additional boat had joined the group and everyone except Kylie and I were able to stay at Marina YE for the Saturday night as well.



Thanks to Marco for arranging the bookings at Yarra's Edge and thanks to all those who attended the cruise.

## A Near Death Experience..

John Marks



When my son Robert was three or four, he and I went fishing with a mate in his 18' Whittley trailer boat. Laurie had recently commissioned some professional work on the boat, which included improvements to the under-floor fuel tank.



The boat had a big Suzuki outboard, and appeared to be all in reasonable order.

We departed the launching ramp at the "warmies" in Newport, and proceeded to an area off Altona or Point Cook. On the way out I experienced a fuel-like odour, which maybe had to do with the exhaust?

My little son's rod went off, and he wound in a palm-sized pinky snapper, his first fishing experience. With an unforgettable look on his face, he exclaimed "I can't believe I caught a real fish". This one had to go back, so we fished on. The fuel odour persisted, so we pulled up a floor-board, to only discover 25mm of

petrol floating on the bilge water. This is how boats explode and kill occupants. We carefully bailed out most of the fuel, but a strong odour remained, along with the last of the fuel. What to do next? After a bit of head-scratching and trepidation, I reached for the bilge pump switch, hoping that the circuit would not produce a spark. Thankfully we survived, so an old towel was used to mop out the remainder. After letting it air for another hour or so, we set off back to Newport. On inspection, it was discovered that a screw

which was a tad too long, had punctured the tank. Phew!! Robert is now 26, fully qualified as an urban planner with a lucrative government job, flatting with a mate in Elwood, driving my Rangerover TD6, and cruising on his new Benelli motorcycle.






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# Diary update & classifieds



## Buy Swap Sell

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## Members Draw!

Wednesdays at 7pm

- \$950 10th November - Robert Gunst -NIA
- \$1000 17 November - Andrew Brock NIA
- \$1050 24 November - Brett Prebble NIA
- \$1100 1st December - Graeme Gibson NIA
- \$1150 8th December - Robert Mitchell NIA
- \$1200 15th December - Ron Darker NIA



## MEMBERS BAR TRADING HOURS



Wednesday - Bar open 5.00pm  
Bistro open 6.00pm

Friday - Bar open 5.00pm  
Bistro open 5.30pm

Saturday - Bar open 12.00pm  
Bistro open 12.00pm to 2.30pm

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

To view the weekly Bistro menu, visit the RVMYC website

### JANUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					NVE Bar Open	New Year's Day Closed
RVMYC office, bar & bistro closed	4		Bar & Bistro Open	6	Bar & Bistro Open	Bar & Bistro Open
Bar & Bistro Open	10	11	Bar & Bistro Open	13	Bar & Bistro Open	Bar & Bistro Open
Bar & Bistro Open	17	18	Bar & Bistro Open	20	Bar & Bistro Open	Bar & Bistro Open
Bar & Bistro Open	24	25	Australia Day Bar Open 2pm-8pm	27	Bar & Bistro Open	Bar & Bistro Open
Bar & Bistro Open	31					

### FEBRUARY

		1	Bar & Bistro Open	3	Bar & Bistro Open	Bar & Bistro Open
Bar & Bistro Open	7	8	Bar & Bistro Open	10	Bar & Bistro Open	Bar & Bistro Open
Bar & Bistro Open	14	15	Bar & Bistro Open	17	Bar & Bistro Open	BOATING EVENT Poker run
Bar & Bistro Open	21	22	Bar & Bistro Open	24	Bar & Bistro Open	Bar & Bistro Open
Bar & Bistro Open	28					

## Fishing Licences

Fishing licences are available from the Club office or bar; 3 year licence \$102.20; 1 year licence \$37.70; 28 day licence \$21.50; 3 day licence \$10 Please contact the office or see Terri at the bar. Members can use their accounts to pay.

**NOTE: Seniors cardholders do not require a fishing licence**

## Calendar of Events

### JANUARY

- 1st - New Year's Day
- 4th - Office Re-opens
- 5th - Bar & Bistro Re-open
- 26th - Australia Day Public Holiday  
Bar Open 2pm-8pm

### FEBRUARY

- 19th - Boating Event: Poker Run

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

## Duty Officers

### January

- 8-9 Paul Doherty
- 15-16 Simon Mills
- 22-23 Chris Ackerman
- 29-30 Mark Rindfleish

### February

- 5-6 Peter Skene
- 12-13 Greg O'Connell
- 19-20 Kathie Rindfleish
- 26-27 Marco Sampaio