



PROPELLER

ROYAL VICTORIAN MOTOR YACHT CLUB | ESTABLISHED 1904

INSIDE

Commodore's Report

RVMYC Chat

Opening Day

119th BOATING SEASON

OPENING OF THE

OCTOBER 2022



Club News

A warm welcome to the Club.



Maria Avtzoglou



Katy Brindle



Ricky Edwards



Melissa Goldsmith



Gary Morcombe



Patrick Harrington



Glenys O'Brien



Phirom Saly



Martin Watkins



Fiona Williams



Brian Waymouth

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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.

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From the Commodore's Deck

Dear Members,

We have had a very busy period over the past couple of months since my last report.

The passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II was a significant time in our Club's history. It now means that the royal warrant granted by Queen Elizabeth II is now void upon her death. Our Club Secretary, Mark Rindfleish has processes in place to reissue and retain the Club's Royal Warrant.

The first acknowledgement of our new Monarch was undertaken in our official ceremonies on Opening Day wherein God Save the King was played for the first time and we look forward to the coronation of the King Charles III.

I am pleased to advise of the hospitality changes wherein we have introduced Parma and Steak nights on Thursday and Fridays, which have been received very well.

To co-inside with these themes, we will be introducing incentives for patronage on a Friday night which will include raffles and a travel prize.

The Works Sub-Committee have remained busy as always, where they have been fitting out shelves and painting the containers so as to keep all the Club's assets safe and protected. You will also notice in the bar area, two new

monitors above the bar which will service as another platform of information for Members which will include upcoming events, changes in menu and rolling pictures of members enjoying Club events.

It was exciting to celebrate Opening Day on its original date this year, with no restrictions. There was a terrific turn out for the sail pass, with so many members participating and the Navy Cadets for the first time in a long time, also going out on the sail pass.

Two weeks later, we presented the Spring Lunch, which was an amazing success. We were fortunate to secure the most high-profile racing identities as our speakers, Michelle Payne, OAM, Craig Williams and Damien Oliver, who were there to support Craig & Layrsa Ukraine Humanitarian Foundation and ensured a full house of 160. We were able to cater for it ourselves with our own Chef, Petar and our staff which not only highlighted the Club's capability to run such events internally, provided a significant financial benefit.

I would like to thank my wife Susan and the Events Committee for their tireless work on their preparation of both events and in particular, thank Past Commodore, Paul Doherty for conducting

the auctions and Greg Miles OAM for being our Master of Ceremonies extraordinaire. Through the funds raised on the day, we will be able to purchase some new furniture for the Club as well as presenting Craig and Layrsa Williams with \$5,200 to contribute towards their Foundation.

We would like to thank Kierran for his contribution to the Club during his tenure. The decision to make this role redundant was an extremely difficult one for the Committee and we would like to advise that processes are in place to ensure member services and events will continue at a high standard as members would expect.

Finally, I would like to make mention of the diligent work that your Committee has undertaken in the past few months with a considerable workload and thank them for all their efforts going forward.

Safe boating everyone

Regards

Simon Mills

Commodore

The Gordon River, then and now...

Story by John Marks. Special thanks to Frank Wilkes

The first Europeans to enter Macquarie Harbour in Tasmania's south-west were James Kelly and his crew, during an 1815 circumnavigation of Tasmania rowing a whaleboat. A year earlier, the 20yo captain had sailed south to Macquarie Island in his small vessel the Mary and Sally, to bring home a cargo of seal skins.

Huon Pine was already well known as probably the world's best timber, and Kelly noticed prolific stands of Huon Pine trees along the shores of Macquarie Harbour. Returning to Hobart, he was able to secure a one-year exclusive right to harvest. In 1821 the penal colony on Sarah Island in Macquarie Harbour was established, to confine the most intractable of British prisoners. The colony commenced a boat building program which took advantage of the nearby timber, but conditions were so harsh and the colony became so infamous that it was closed after seven years, and Port Arthur became the new penal colony.



Huon Pine

Apart from any aboriginal presence, the tough men who became known as piners and a few government surveyors were the only ones who ventured up the Gordon River, a dramatic stream which flows into Macquarie Harbour. Gary Kerr's book *The Huon Pine Story* tells of the incredible hardships endured by the piners as they moved further upstream and away from the rivers in quest of the coveted timber.



Hell's Gates

Pine logs from here and Port Davey were shipped to Hobart, but during this trade many vessels were lost at Macquarie Harbour's narrow entrance, dubbed Hell's Gates by the convicts.

The harvesting and milling of the fabulous timber was soon a major source of revenue for the state, until over-exploitation caused the government to belatedly legislate to protect what was left of the stands of pine. The piners then moved to harvest more remote timber further up the Gordon and its tributaries, often dragging a clinker boat, or punt as these

were called, upstream and even overland around the rapids and waterfalls to bring supplies to the camps or to organize the progress of logs as they were floated downstream after heavy rain.

During the early 1980's, conservationists and protesters blockaded the lower reaches to prevent the damming of the river to provide hydro power. The PM at the time the late Bob Hawke intervened to outlaw the plan. The magnificent scenery and amenity of the Gordon is now a major tourist attraction.

A voyage to Macquarie Harbour and a trip to Strahan or up the Gordon is now the preserve of visiting yachts or tourist boats but entering through Hell's Gates is no less difficult. After heavy rain, a strong flow keeps the entrance in ebb, defeating the regular tidal regime. Any strong wind from the west or northwest can virtually close the harbour. Those arriving after a voyage of 100 nautical miles from the nearest safe haven of Port Davey in the south, or the Hunter Group in the north could find themselves with nowhere to go if such weather is encountered. Fortunately modern forecasting and good communication gear on board should keep our voyager well informed, in order to plan a voyage and depart a safe anchorage to arrive at the harbour.

The Gordon is navigable for many miles upstream even for relatively deep draught vessels. Explorers can leave the boat and walk into the bush or take the dinghy to enter shallow areas or venture further upstream. In good conditions, it is possible to take a small boat as far as the confluence of the other major stream, the Franklin. Piners camps and abandoned mines and equipment provide interesting walks, but don't get lost.

Many tracts of the river flow through steep gorges and rough terrain. Be warned that should your RIB get punctured or your tinny capsizes, it is not possible to walk out to civilization. Pelican and crew expect to visit Macquarie Harbour and venture up the Gordon during April 2023, after participating in the AWBF at Hobart in February. Wish us fine weather and good luck!



Piners punt



12 pop

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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Opening of the 119th Boating Season

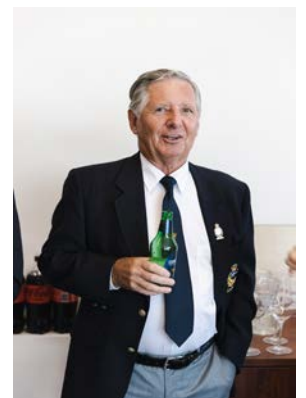
Sometimes you never know what the weather will hold until the day. This year the Opening of the 119th Boating Season was not only the blessing of the seas, but the blessing of good weather. As the ceremony commenced, members and guests basked in the glorious sunshine that had been bestowed

upon them. This year we were lucky enough to have the Hon. Melissa Horne grace us with her presence. This was befitting for the opening of the boating season, given Melissa Horne is the Minister for Ports and Freights. The Club was also lucky to have Reverend Elizabeth Murray who

delivered her blessings, and Commander Roger Blythmann as guests.

The Victorian Scottish Pipe Band were in fine form once again, and the canon organised by Bruce went off with a bang!

A big thank you to Svitzer for their water display once again this year!









RVMYCHAT!

with David Munro

David has been a member of the RVMYC for about 6 years. He and his wife Maree live in Williamstown and spend a lot of time at their property near Romsey. They have two teenage sons, Archie and Sidney. Dave was apprenticed as a carpenter/shopfitter in Melbourne before moving to Darwin where he met his first wife and had two sons Myles and Fraser. His family owned property, part of and near Queen Victoria Market and he returned to Melbourne to develop sites there, including building the Mercat Cross Hotel which Dave and his brother ran for eleven years then leased it out. This was the first hotel in Victoria with a 24 hour licence for up to 100 patrons. All the properties were sold in 2014.



What's your connection to RVMYC and Williamstown?

Dad had a 38ft sloop at Royals and as a young lad I sailed Cadets there for about 10 years, then we bought a Cousta boat, a 28ft double ender like "Jean" which we sailed a lot. I also enjoyed fishing. After marrying Maree, we bought a beautiful property - actually a farm, near Moama, NSW, where we lived for several years. Upon deciding to move back to Melbourne, what better place to settle than Williamstown and move from sailing to owning a "stink" boat. The motor yacht club also looked interesting. I used to look through the fence, as the club seemed

always to be locked up, but Angus Scott Walker who sold us our house in Willi invited me for a visit. It was very quiet! I looked up the website and thought that it was all black tie stuff and the members would all be doctors and solicitors - not for me! Anyway, the next week was Opening Day, and Angus said the gate would be open and I've arranged for you to go out with a guy called Frank Wilkes. I found the boat on the south finger and Frank said "You must be Dave. Welcome on board, there's the fridge, grab yourself a beer." Well, I felt right at home and haven't looked back since.

What do you like most about the club?

The Social aspect, the people really. Also it's a very well run Club. I needed a boat and found Meltemi in Queensland. Frank helped us bring it home. We had it for a while but had seen another boat Sommer Sea and ended up buying that and selling Meltemi. Then we bought the property in Romsey, and weren't using the boat so we sold it - unfortunately!

What's been your most unusual/unique experience?

That's put me on the spot! After I finished my apprenticeship, I got a job building film sets in Holbrook NSW for "Mad Dog Morgan" which featured Frank Thring, Denis Hopper and Jack Thompson. For several weeks all the cast and staff hung out together, usually in the pub where we all stayed.

Living in Darwin for about 6 years was a unique experience. Sharing a house with mates, having just

left home, always having a party or BBQ. All the tradies in Darwin new our place including a couple blokes who worked on a prawn trawler and they would front up with a few kilos of prawns instead of beer.

Favourite Restaurant

"Anywhere" - yes, anywhere. Smith and Daughter in Fitzroy - great for vegans, and Fancy Hanks in the city.



Tell me something about yourself that people might not be aware of..

I love cars and trucks particularly classics and have a few including an AC Cobra about 30 years old. We have done a lot of rallies in it. Also have a couple restoration projects on the go. It would be great to visit Goodwood UK for one of their vintage competitions. Early days my mates were mucking around with cars and I was busy developing properties, so I missed cars. However being a registered builder, I did alright!



Favourite holiday destination?

We really enjoyed cruising around the Pacific Islands like Fiji. I also like holidaying in Australia, particularly where it's warm and sunny.



An old uni mog restored



Meltemi

High Seas, Bay, River or Lake?


Probably the most enjoyable voyage was around the Bass Strait Islands. Flinders, Brunel in a 48 footer. If you could leave them the way they are and tow them to Queensland they would be even better?



Sommer Sea


What motivates you?



I love going to motor races, particularly older cars, but our farm at the moment, our kids and two new grandkids.




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The Importance of Uniform

I was in the Royal Australian Air Force for 11 years, serving the Queen and Australia. I wore the uniform knowing that I not only represent the defence force but those who provided the very freedom we enjoy today. As the clubs' uniform represents the same, representing the Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club and those who provided the luxuries we enjoy today.

Members may mock or tease those who wear the club's Royal uniform at events, but those who wear the uniform stand tall. Remember, uniforms promote camaraderie, unity, and pride. In short, they foster the club's spirit. When the committee wears the uniform, it demonstrates they are all on the same team.

Across the world, uniforms carry an undeniable symbolic value, in the club the wearing of the uniform and flying Royal Emblem bestowed on the club denote discipline, equality and respect. Intangibles such as mottos, uniforms, badges, medals, insignia, flags, and pennants inspire and motivate. All of these motivate members to give their best.

The uniform offers the club a sense of identity. The royal insignia of the club provides a sense of belonging and links with members, with whom they have ties to the past and future.

When a committee member wears their uniform or flies the ensign, we are displaying what our predecessors have accomplished, which is to say, we will not let them down. We shall constantly endeavour to uphold the principles that the club has established. We shall never forget their contribution.

The significance of wearing the uniform is that others will identify your behaviour with the principles of the Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club.

I am proud that so many committee members are wearing the uniform to club events—it is appropriate that our committee wear their uniforms with pride and remind people of the tremendous contribution they, and prior committee members, have made to the club. I'd also want to thank all of the committee members for making it possible for their members to join our exclusive club. I hope that more people are encouraged to learn more about the fantastic opportunities available to Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club members.

Ken Warren.




Exciting Times at the RVMYC

Join us in the Bar & Bistro for a great meal, cool drinks and a great time!

Thursday 24th November
7pm start

RVMYC TRIVIA NIGHT




IN THE MEMBERS BAR
Hosted by Greg Miles and Trivia Master Ken Warren
Prizes Awarded

Email the office to register

\$20


BOOK WITH THE OFFICE OR VIA THE WEBSITE

JOIN US IN THE BAR THURSDAYS FROM 5PM



PARMA 'N' POT

Thursdays & Fridays
from 5pm - 7pm
in the Members Bar



HAPPY HOUR

- \$5 Secret Garden Red, White, Sparkling**
- \$7 Basic Spirits**
- \$7 Schooners, Carlton Asahi, Captains Choice**
- \$8 Sangria cocktails**

Friday Night is Steak Night

Come & join us for a great night out



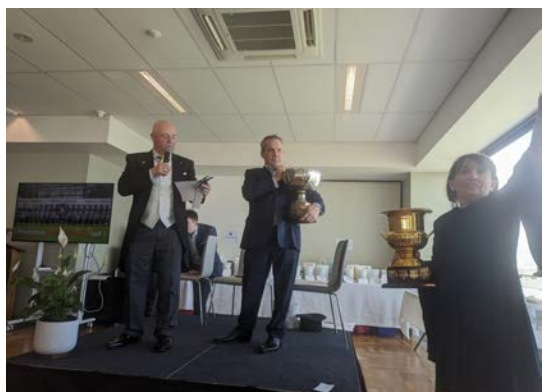
\$25 Porterhouse Steak served with chips and salad.

Spring Racing Lunch

The Spring Racing Lunch has had a hiatus, but this year it returned, and was a most spectacular affair with some amazing guest speakers. It was a tremendous job by all in planning and setting up this event which sold out in a short period. Thank you to all the sponsors for their generous

donations. This year a portion of the funds raised were donated to the Craig and Larisa Williams Ukraine Humanitarian Aid Appeal to assist in the purchase of medical kits and survival packages for those affected by the current situation in the Ukraine.





***A special presentation to
Craig & Larysa for the
Ukraine Humanitarian Aid Appeal***



The RVMYC were pleased to present Craig & Larysa a giant cheque for funds raised towards the appeal. Off the back of an amazing win at The Everest at Royal Randwick last month, Craig could not wipe the smile of his face. Members at the club were extremely lucky to be treated with a viewing of the magnificent Jockey's trophy awarded to Craig for the win. The trophy is worth an incredible \$57,000 and is encrusted with diamonds. Thank you to Craig and Larysa for their efforts in aiding those in need, and thank you to Craig



for allowing members to get close to the Everest Trophy!





Diary update & classifieds

FREE ADVERTISING SPACE



MEMBERS BAR TRADING HOURS



Wednesday - Bar open 5.00pm
Bistro open 6.00pm

Thursday - Bar & Counter Meals open 5pm

Friday - Bar & Bistro open 12pm lunch
Bistro open 5.30pm dinner

Saturday - Bar open 12.00pm
Happy Hour 4-6pm
Bistro open 12.00pm to 2.30pm
Bistro open 5.30pm dinner

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

To view the weekly Bistro menu, visit the RVMYC website

Members Draw!

Wednesdays at 7pm

- \$1750 7th September - Dearne Price NIA
- \$1800 14th September-Jessica Boxshall NIA
- \$1850, 21st September-Michael Cockcroft NIA
- \$1900, 28th Sept, **WINNER** Chris Ackerman
- \$500, 5th October - Jennifer Douglas NIA
- \$550, 12th October - John Beninato NIA
- \$600, 19th October - Christos Chiotelis NIA
- \$650, 26th October - Mark Freudenstein NIA

Fishing Licences

Fishing licences are available from the Club office or bar; 3 year licence \$103.95; 1 year licence \$38.40; 28 day licence \$21.85; 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

NOVEMBER

- November 1st - Melb Cup Public Holiday
- Sunday 13th Centenary Trophy Navrally
- Friday 18th - Docklands Weekend Away, 4pm
- Thursday 24th - Trivia Night, 7pm
- Friday 25th-26th - Fishing Competition

DECEMBER

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

2022 NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		Public holiday	Bar & Bistro Open from 5pm-9pm	Parma & Pot Counter Meals 5pm-10.30	Bar & Bistro Open for lunch & Dinner	Bar & Bistro Open lunch 12-2.30 Dinner 6-9pm
Bar & Bistro Open	7	8				
Centenary Trophy Navrally	14	15				
Bar & Bistro Open	21	22				
Bar & Bistro Open	28	29				

2022 DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			Bar & Bistro Open 5pm-9pm	Parma & Pot Counter Meals 5pm-10.30	Bar & Bistro Open for lunch 12-2.30 & Dinner 6-9pm	Bar & Bistro Open Lunch/ Dinner
Bar & Bistro Open	5	6				
Lunch 12-2.30 Bar 12-8pm	12	13				
	19	20				
25 XMAS DAY	26	27				

Duty Officers
F & B Staff