



PROPELLER

ROYAL VICTORIAN MOTOR YACHT CLUB | ESTABLISHED 1904

INSIDE

RVMYC Chat

Opening Day

Spring Racing

Lunch



Club News

A warm welcome to the Club.



Daniel Argento



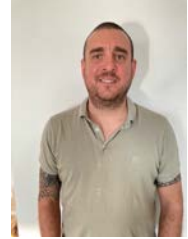
Kim Cuccia



David McKinlay



David Pryor



Peter Rose

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sat 2nd Dec, 2023,
2:00pm departure**

Meet on the Lawn at the RVMYC to embark on the **NEW MEMBER CRUISE TO THE DOCKLANDS**

Open to boat-owners & non boat-owners.
BYO Drinks on the cruise.

Make a reservation for dinner in the Club Bistro, where you can continue to discover new friendships.
Book through the office by 30/11/23

\$125 per platter (serves 2) includes a glass of wine p/p

RVMYC Seafood Celebration supplied by Gem Pier Seafoods, Williamstown
Friday 17th November, 6pm

All Your Favorites including: 1/2 Cray, 1/2 Moreton Bay bug, Prawns, Scallops, Oysters, Mussels, Chargrilled Calamari, Pickled Octopus

Platters must be pre-ordered. Closing date Wed 15th Nov. No walk-up orders will be available on the day.

Limited Numbers - Order Now via the office: admin@rvmyc.com.au

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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.

ADVERTISE IN THE PROPELLER

Did you know that you can advertise in this newsletter from as little as \$38 an edition for a business card size ad?

Editions are published bi-monthly and circulated to members and friends.
Business Card Size: \$202.00pa Qtr Page:\$434.00 1/2 Page: \$621.00pa.

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 Members,

It has been an extremely busy time for the Club since my last report in September with Club Functions which included our time-honoured Opening Day, the Spring Racing Lunch and a host of other member events such as Grand Final Day, Melbourne Cup Day and the Fishing Competition.

Our main event of the year, Opening Day went off with a bang as usual. We were fortunate enough to get a break in the weather to enjoy the day in a relaxed atmosphere with some 109 members patronising the event. Once again, our guest speaker was Captain Ainsley Morthorpe, CSM RAN, Commanding Officer of HMAS Cerberus who was kind enough to attend, being one of his last events prior to retiring. Our resident Vicar, Reverend Elizabeth Murray from Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Williamstown gave a customary blessing of the fleet for a safe and bountiful 120th boating season, whilst the Naval Cadets and the Victorian Scottish Pipes & Drums band always bring a traditional flare to the event. After months in the planning, the Spring Racing Lunch was a resounding success. We were

blessed with sensational weather to greet award winning racehorse trainer, Ciaron Maher holding the 2023 Lexus Melbourne Cup aloft as he cruised down the middle of the marina in Marco's tender to present the trophy to the Committee and members patronising the event. Over 190 Members and guests attended the event, including the Right Honourable Melissa Horne, Member for Williamstown. Members and guests enjoyed an entertaining day filled with celebrity guests, a phantom race call, raffle prizes and amazing auction items, donated by our exceptionally generous members and friends. After enjoying a delicious three course lunch prepared by Petar and his team, everyone adjourned upstairs to enjoy the music out on the balcony and continue on the party.

Special thanks to Greg Miles, our MC extraordinaire, John Burgess and my wife Susan, together with their respective Hospitality and Events Sub-Committees for all their hard work to create a truly memorable day. Amongst our events, we also scheduled a boating time trial, which unfortunately had to be abandoned

on account of a lack of entries.

There was a glitch with the booking system, whereby many members weren't aware of how to book for this time trial via the website. This will be rectified to ensure a more streamlined and informative way to enter for next time.

Just a reminder to members that the holiday season is just around the corner, so it is paramount that all boat owners take the time to check your safety equipment and address any maintenance issues prior to planning any trips or cruises on the water, to ensure a safe and enjoyable summer.

Finally, the Committee would like to thank boat owners for being so patient and obliging whilst the marina works have been undertaken at the Club and to everyone involved throughout this process, which will see it completed in the next few days.

Have fun and safe boating,

Simon

Opening of the 120th Boating Season





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.

But did you check the oil, transmission or hydraulic fluid...did you book that service?

With summer now in full swing - don't wreck that perfect day with preventable mechanical problems, call Mariner Engineering to get your boat or yacht into shape.



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A Lifetime on the Waterfront

Story by John Marks



John Woolley preserving a long-line at Hastings Western Port Historical Soc. 2023

An early start is usually a good move, but it didn't work out quite so well for John Woolley.

John commenced work aged thirteen years, commercially fishing with his father at Hastings but due to Jock's tough approach to the training process, the partnership soon foundered. John then took an apprenticeship with local boat builder Jack Lierich.

When the business closed, John moved to Williamstown, and secured a start with JJ Savage and Sons. City life wasn't working out so well for young John, plus his wages barely covered the board and lodging at the Old Royal in Nelson Place. Savages pay was seven pounds five shillings per week, and the Old Royal charged John five pounds two shillings. Mind you this was around 1960.

The other problems at Savages were the stern and unrelenting pressure from the foreman, and the arduous

job of retrieving the wayward goat when it often escaped. The goat also worked at Savages. Its job was keeping the weeds down around the slipway rail lines.

Then back to Stony Point fishing and crewing on various boats with the De Fina brothers Tony and Joe. One of De Fina's boats the Marconi was converted for private use and spent years on our marina before being sold and moved along.

John had gained experience as a fisherman and boat builder, but his next job was in maritime construction, which lasted many years with contractors and harbour authorities around Western Port, French Island and Stony Point.



This work involved dredging, pile driving, crewing on dredges and launches, and wharf construction. John liked the work and the variety and achieved some maritime qualifications.

Colin Duncan ran livestock on French Island and needed a practical method to access the

"mainland". John worked on the Maribrnyng River converting a barge which became the French Island vehicle ferry. Later he drove the stock transport truck on and off



the Island.

After an injury caused by blasting for harbour work in Western Port, John left the Ports and Harbours and opened a fruit shop "just to be different". The shop provided fruit and vegetables to the locals but mainly to the maritime industry including overseas oil tankers.

Even with John's contacts, competition from the big operators was stiff. The competition he could cope with but being paid 90 days and longer after paying the growers and suppliers up front soon drove him out.

Then back to the boats. John's next job was driving "line" boats which helped dock the tankers, then as skipper on a workboat doing every task for Dillingham Constructions. When this finished, John worked on the HMAS Cerberus wharf reconstruction, but he had a feeling about going to sea.

The Seaman's Union offered only crewing on oil rig tenders or dredging, so after some delay John crewed on a dredge called Crocodile dredging in Western Port to create a swing basin for Lysaght Steel. Most construction contracts worked to a time scale, and when the dredging job finished John, ever the opportunist, boarded the oil rig tender Smit Lloyd 33 at short notice.



This job lasted four years. John then graduated to coastal shipping, crewing on the Esso Gippsland, and then the Lysaght Endeavour.

Quote John: "After this job I resigned from the shipping industry and went back to fishing with a local Hastings fisherman. Very romantic and bringing back memories, but still smelly, cold, wet and poor pay". Then back to small business, with building maintenance and a



12month contract with Esso. Soon the going got a bit tough, and twice John landed a foreman stevedore position, but twice he lost it to seniority, so back to the Seaman's Union and back to sea.

John joined ships on the Australian coast, then on rig tenders in Bass Strait and the Northwest Shelf in Western Australia. The next

few years saw John in a variety of construction jobs, including work on a new wharf for the ill-fated Port Welshpool Sea Cat, for K V Johnsons carried out some renovation work on our marina,

and a wake for the late Kevin Johnson was recently held here in our clubhouse.

John recently contacted RVMYC, chasing details for the Marconi, as he was following up on all the De Fina boats. Jarmila from the RVMYC office discovered he was a mine of information and suggested a visit to the Club.

We met John in the clubhouse, as well as a friend of his, Heather Arnold.

Heather and her late husband (also a John) owned the fine steel cruiser Woringerong, which was once here at the club.

John Woolley is now 80 years old, still sprightly, energetic and outgoing.

What a pleasure and experience to hear him blast up on all the old stories.



Spring Racing Lunch

featuring the Lexus Melbourne Cup

The Spring Racing Lunch is one of the highlights of the RVMYC year, and this year the SRL was one of the most spectacular lunches in the history of the event. The RVMYC Committee applied to be a key venue to host the Lexus Melbourne Cup and were successful in their bid. With this amazing coup, the Committee, the relevant Sub-Committees and staff combined together to create a memorable day.

The Lexus Melbourne Cup was transported to the Club with winning trainer Ciaron Maher, VRC Security

detail and Marco Sampaio the Skipper of the tender. Marco kept the boat steady, and the visitors dry and all were met with lots of cheering and clapping.

Once the event began, Greg Miles took the reins as MC, entertaining the guests with wit and humour, whilst interviewing a range of racing royalty, commencing with Ciaron Maher. This was followed by an interview with Joe McGrath, then Joey Agresta.


Guests were also treated to a phantom call by our very own Ethan Mills.

There were many magnificent items donated for auction, including specially crafted jewellery by Matt Wynne, a hat piece by Possum Ball Millinery, boots by Harold Boot Company, Bag Queen, Hampers By Keza and a cruise donated by Leanne and Ben Koutoukidis, and a stay in Port Stephens. A big thank you to Lou Rendina for acting as auctioneer on the day, and to all the other volunteers that assisted!






More photos on Page 11

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RVMYCHAT!

with Dearn Price



What is your connection to RVMYC and Williamstown?

I am a Partner member, with my husband John Anastassiou being a Full member. I lived in Williamstown for a mere 8 years, having moved over from the East-side (some say the dark side). I've always loved Williamstown – it feels like a separate town to Melbourne and I just love being by the water.



What do you like most about the club?

The people we have met have been fun and we enjoy bumping into them in Queenscliff. The club has the best view in Melbourne and the location, obviously excellent. We had John's significant birthday celebration at the club

in 2022 and it was a fabulous evening.

How and why did you become involved in boating?

My parents always had boats in Queensland and in their later years, they spent 6 months a year in Europe, on their Dutch Vlet, based out of a small town near Leiden. I used to join them as often as I could.



Quite simply – I love being on the water and I hope to also spend 6 months a year in Europe when the time comes. Now we have Salmakis (Greek goddess of idleness and vanity - and also the name of the Gulet in Turkey where our romance started!!) and we look forward to spending more time on her when we are back in Australia.

What's been your most unusual/unique experience?

We are currently living in Rauma, Finland – where John is heavily involved in building the two new Spirit of Tasmania

ships. This is a 3 year project and it's incredibly exciting to be on the 'support team'.



Living in Finland is really different and we are really enjoying it. We've been up to Lapland in -16°, ridden in a reindeer-led sleigh; experiencing the sauna culture (we have one in the apartment); I'm learning Finnish while John builds ships.

The Spirit of Tasmania website has a live cam and updates on the ship build if anyone is interested in knowing more.



Favourite restaurant?

Well, I have a few favourites. Remvi for the Greek food and Pier Farm for the view, both in Williamstown, The Stokehouse, St Kilda and Olo in Helsinki.

Tell me something about yourself that people would not be aware of?

I'm a Commonwealth Authorised Marriage Celebrant. I recently married 2 very close friends (in Australia) which was such an honour and I look forward to performing more ceremonies when we're back in late 2024. I also do boat naming

ceremonies!! <https://decelebrant.com.au/>

Favourite holiday destination?

Greece – specifically Lefkada which is known as the "Caribbean of the Sea" due to its exotic landscape, and Kefalonia islands, which is where 'Captain Corelli's Mandolin' was filmed.

High seas, bay, river or lake?

Bay for the (often) calmness and serenity so I can stare at the water in peace and then



put a good meal together for all the guests.



What motivates you?

Travelling to beautiful destinations by the water and if I'm not travelling, planning the next trip to beautiful destinations by the water.



Spring Racing... did someone say "Group photo!!"??





Diary update & classifieds

FREE ADVERTISING SPACE

MEMBERS BAR TRADING HOURS



Wednesday - Bar open 5.00pm
Bistro open 6.00pm
MEMBERS NIGHT

Friday - Bistro open 5.30pm dinner
STEAK NIGHT - \$27.50

Saturday - Bar open 12.00pm
Bistro open 12.00pm to 2.30pm
Bistro open 5.30pm dinner
PARMA & POT - ONLY \$20

Sunday - Bar open 12.00pm
Bistro open 12.00pm to 2.30pm.
ROAST OF THE DAY - \$30



Members Draw!

Wednesdays at 7pm

Fishing Licences

Fishing licences are available from the Club office: 3 year licence \$108.10

1 year licence \$39.90;

28 day licence \$22.70

3 day licence \$10

Members can use their accounts to pay.

NOTE: Seniors cardholders do not require a fishing licence

NOVEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
			Bar & Bistro Open from 5pm		Bar Bistro open for dinner. It's Steak Night!!		
					2		4
5	6	7			9	Seafood Night	Bar & Bistro Open for Lunch & Dinner.
Wine & Cheese Afternoon	13	14			16		
19	20	21		23	24		
King Charles III Time Trial							
	27	28		30			

Calendar of Events

November

Sunday 12th - Miss Australia Cup

Sunday 12th - Wine & Cheese Afternoon

Friday 17th - Seafood Celebration Night

Sunday 26th - King Charles III Time Trial

December

Saturday 2nd - New Member Cruise

Wednesday 20th - Christmas Dinner

Sunday 31st - NYE White Party

BE SURE TO CHECK THE WEDNESDAY WRAP,

FACEBOOK & RVMYC WEBSITE

FOR UPDATES

RVMYC OFFICE HOURS

Mon & Tues 8-3

Wed, Thurs 8-5

Friday 9-5

Account Enquiries: admin@rvmyc.com.au

DECEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			Bar & Bistro Open from 5pm		Bar & Bistro open for dinner	New Member Cruise
						7
Sunday Roast of the Day Bar & Bistro Open	4	5				
	11	12	Xmas Dinner & Final Members Draw	14		
	18			21		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
NYE White Party						