



# PROPELLER

ROYAL VICTORIAN MOTOR YACHT CLUB | ESTABLISHED 1904

## INSIDE

RVMYC Chat

Yarraola

Commodore's Report

Who will be the winner of this month's Propeller Award?? Enter now



**Winner of the July**  
Propeller Award  
Photo competition  
Dean Robinson

**Winner of the August**  
Propeller Award  
Photo competition  
Sue Zacharis



## SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP OFFER

If you are currently a member of the Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club (RVMYC) in any category other than a Full Member, the club is offering a limited-time opportunity to upgrade your membership to Full Member status without the usual \$1,100 nomination fee. This special offer is available from 1st to 31st October 2024.

In addition to waiving the nomination fee, the club is offering the upgrade with a prorated payment of the difference between your current membership fees and the Full Membership fees. This means you'll only pay the remaining portion of the Full Membership fee based on the time left in the membership year, making the upgrade even more affordable.

Becoming a Full Member comes with exclusive benefits, including:

- Voting rights at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and other key decisions.
- Eligibility to hold a position on the committee, influencing the future direction of the club.
- Priority access to marina berths.
- Expanded access to club facilities and events.

This offer presents a fantastic opportunity to fully immerse yourself in the RVMYC community, enjoy the full range of privileges, and be a part of the key decision-making processes. Take advantage of this special promotion and upgrade to Full Membership during this limited window!

Regards  
RVMYC Committee



# From the Commodore's Deck

Dear Members,

I would like to start by thanking you, the members, all for your support in these first couple of months as our new team adjust to our new roles and strategies on the direction of the club. I would like to thank the committee for their unwavering focus on the keeping the club moving forward.

Over the last couple of months we have discussed many changes to our F&B which we have started to put into play.

Firstly ordering at the bar and tapping on for every purchase. This initiative has been welcomed by most, however we still have more work to do for all meals to arrive at the same time. This move has almost removed the amount of time our Admin staff spend on fixing accounts during the week and the F&B area capturing all sales.

We have just employed a second Chef Mario Spiteri to assist Petar for all our services. This will give us consistency and less reliance on Substitute Labour, and lower our risk profile if our Chef was to fall ill or was to go on holidays.

We are looking at appointing a person as Bar Manager very soon, so watch this space.

On August 16th we had the 2024 AFL Premiership Cup Luncheon. We had 120 Members and guests enjoy a great day of food, drink and

speakers.

The day started off with Craig Turton from 100 Words Org, giving us a talk about Men's Mental Health. I think I can speak for most who were in that room, and say it was very confronting with the statistics that he delivered. We then moved on to the main event, Mike Sheahan who interviewed 2 champions of the game Alex Marcou and Vin Cattoggio with some very entertaining stories. It was a great day, and very entertaining. We managed to raise \$3000 for Men's Mental Health, so well done to the membership for your support. A big thank you to the Events Committee for putting on a wonderful day, and member Melissa Azzopardi for arranging the 2024 Premiership Cup for the club.

Speaking about events, we have the Melbourne Cup coming to the club in less than a month's time, on 11th October. This is a must come to event. Get in early as tickets are selling out fast. We have the 2024 Lexus Melbourne Cup and two Champion horses from the living legends Prince of Penzance and Twilight Payment. So please grab a ticket and come along to get a photo with the cup and a Melbourne Cup winning Horse.

Saturday October 5th is Opening Day. This is a day where we celebrate the Opening of our 121st Boating Season, and for any member that

has not been to one before, do yourself a favour and come down and enjoy the celebrations. We have the amazing Victoria Scottish Pipe Band, TS Voyager Naval Cadets and the blessing of the fleet. Jump on to a boat for the sail past, then come back for a cocktail style event with live music.

We have had our first of three information sessions in regards to constitutional changes to the club which was well attended, with some great questions. We have two more coming up, 25th September and 2nd of October from 5.30 – 6.30 pm. Please come down have a listen, ask a question as we will need you to vote on these changes.

Thank you all again

Happy Boating RVMYC Community

Regards  
Ben Koutoukidis  
RVMYC Commodore.

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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.*

### Danger Danger

Story by Nathan Mullins

Nathan is a Member of the RVMYC, & the husband of Helen in the office. Nathan recently travelled to Gaza for the United Nations.



I have been fortunate enough to have worked for the United Nations as a Consultant for a number of years travelling to various countries such as South Sudan, Nigeria and Liberia for the World Food Programme.

Between May and July 2024 I travelled to Gaza. I was contracted by the United Nations, WFP, to try to provide security management for food importation and distribution activities.

The situation looked very much like you see on the news - dire. Gaza is a patch of land on the edge of the Mediterranean Sea, 40km long and 10km wide at its



So the Gaza Strip is about 40km long. The red line is a military checkpoint set up by Israeli soldiers to restrict movement. Any move above that line goes into the Gaza City area. That's...

widest point. To the north and east lies Israel, and to the south is Egypt.

A high level conflict dating back to October 2023 escalated, and the ensuing offensive cut Gaza in two. This led to a humanitarian disaster and the obvious involvement of the United Nations.



My role was to attempt to safely navigate the ongoing bombing operations and ground war, to co-ordinate a large logistical operation (food importation and distribution). The job was very complex and involved negotiation with all sides in the conflict - Gazans, Hamas and the Israeli Defence Force. At numerous times the situation was even more dire for the inhabitants of Gaza, with food becoming scarce due to restrictions and military actions. At any one time there is only a surplus of a few day's food for Gaza's 2.2 million inhabitants. The cost of the continuing escalations for the general inhabitants of Gaza, is huge. Around 40,000 people have been killed, 80% of all buildings



destroyed, all public services such as water, sewerage and power generation are destroyed and most road infrastructure is badly damaged. Hospitals and schools don't operate and there is no semblance of a 'normal' life, for the average Gazan. This will continue until a negotiated settlement for peace, which will happen in the next few months. It was a privilege for me to be involved in the operations with the United Nations and, particularly, professionally interesting. It was challenging and dangerous and important and taught me many lessons while I taught locals a few skills and lessons myself.



I have a long involvement in military operations and seeing warfare, IMAX size, with full Dolby surround sound is always awe inspiring and at the same time, awful.



What life looks like for Gazan's after that, is uncertain, but reconstruction must also begin to rehouse 2.2 million people. This will be a 20 year project and I believe, during that time, Gazans will have had enough of war.

afforded to us, by current Australians and those who went before us and laid the foundations for our prosperity and peace.



Peace, sovereignty, statehood and equality are illusive across the Levant and unlikely to be realized in the medium term. These experiences always remind me to cherish the peace and security we have and enjoy the freedoms and opportunities



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?

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# RVMYCHAT!

With Glenn Preusker



*Glenn Preusker, founder and managing director of Splashdown, the portable toilet hire company featured in Australia's iconic comedy movie "Kenny", has been a member at RVMYC for 17 years.*

*He and wife Jenny (also a member) are regular visitors to the club and enjoy coming along to functions or simply relaxing in the bar or the bistro with family or friends. His RVMYC membership is just one of the ways they indulge their love of the water and boating.*

**When and why did you join the club?**

Initially Peter Coffey (a long standing RVMYC member) introduced me to the Club and encouraged me to join. I'd always had an interest in boating and love of the sea so that's what got me in the door in 2007.

**Do you have any other connection to Williamstown ?**

I lived most of my younger years in the Western suburbs and have fond memories of when I was 7 years old and my grandfather bought me a tiny little rowboat. We used to squeeze in together and explore all the boats on their moorings around Williamstown. My love of the water probably

started then.

Later I began my apprenticeship at my grandfather's plumbing business in Footscray.

**What do you like most about our Club?**

One of the good things about the RVMYC, apart from the location, is the opportunity it provides for Jenny and me to meet new and like-minded people: people who enjoy boating, love the sea, and have their own passions and interests as well. It's so good to share time with other club members and discover what we have in common.



It's such a stunning location as well so it's a great place to bring friends and family to socialize.

**Tell us about your involvement in boating**

I started fishing for flathead with my father when I was about 7 and haven't looked back since. After squeezing into my rowboat with grand-dad I tried sailing in a Sabot - but I turned it over too often. I've had some sort of motorboat ever since then, mostly for fishing. I first fished for snapper and whiting in Port Philip and Westernport in my parent's Pongrass Waverider. Later I

got my own Savage Escort and ventured offshore at Narooma. We tried to chase marlin - but only managed to snare some tuna. We had more success when we scaled up to a Haines Hunter 635 and could go out further and stay overnight. After that I had a couple of Sea Rays and a walkaround Trophy. Now I have a New Zealand made Surtees fishing boat.

Whilst I don't have as much time as I would like to take her out these days, I do try to take fishing holidays as often as I can. I am looking forward to a trip Horizontal Falls this winter.

**What's been your most memorable/unique boating experience?**

I've had a lot of fun offshore fishing in some brilliant places. Chasing (again not catching) Rooster Fish in Los Cabos Mexico was an adventure and the waters off Broome are another of my favourites.

However, one of my fishing highlights has to be the time I caught six marlin in one day on our own Haines Hunter. That was pretty special.



**What motivates you when you're not boating?**

Family is a huge motivation for me. Our 3 children all work in the business but we also try to do other things together when we can, with all the grandchildren as well. We have a beach house on Philip Island, and I love it when we are all down there together.

I also enjoy supporting the Bulldogs – especially when they are winning, which they are at the moment. They tie you back to your roots in Footscray.

**Tell us something about yourself that people may not be aware of**

My parents were heavily involved in Salvation Army when I was a kid so I learned the cornet and played in the junior band for a short while. I didn't keep it up though. I'd rather go fishing than to band practice.



**Favourite holiday experience?**

Apart from fishing holidays? Cruising - of course. Jenny and I love cruising on bigger boats and have travelled through the Mediterranean, the Caribbean and many other places. Italy and Croatia are fabulous and Israel and Egypt were fascinating.

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## Yarrola renovations

Story by Neil Langford with contributions by John Marks



*Neil Langford:*

The refit started with a desire to bring the boat back to reliable working order, to simplify the operation and restore the structural integrity of the boat. Like all restorations it has grown as the fabric of the vessel was exposed.

In the US, the renovation or re-building of an old timber boat is common. Us Australians seem reluctant by comparison, especially considering labour and materials cost.

Passing MV Yarrola in the yard during over a few weeks (months?) it was easy to wonder at the extent of work that was carried out on this classic vessel. Yarrola was built sixty years ago in NSW by noted builder Mick Nesbit, for professional fishing. Yarrola is well built with blue gum planking below the waterline and oregon above. Decks are also of oregon, overlaid with plywood and then teak trim.

Current work was led by local shipwright Ferdi Darley and staff, Neil Langford and long-time



For the shipwright's work, we started with removal and replacement of the wheelhouse roof, which was leaking badly. Stage 2 was removal and restoration of the foredeck, including new Burmese teak decking. The third stage, currently underway, is removal and restoration of the teak deck on the aft coach roof. A final stage is planned for late next year, refurbishing the aft and side decks. New thermal insulation is installed under all the new decking. Deck beams are repaired or replaced where needed and new plywood fixed in place before being fibreglassed with epoxy resins.

Once the wheelhouse was watertight we commenced the electrical refit, stripping out most of the original installation and replacing with new cable and systems. A new 24volt house battery bank and inverter / charger system with solar panels

caretaker Graham Signorini. Neighbouring Penfold Marine has also contributed.

were planned, complimented with new AC & DC switchboards and electrical management. New control panels were designed and produced for the helm and electrical control areas.

We pulled the mast and rigging early in the project, which is presently being refurbished in Ferdi Darley's shed. New spreaders, navigation lights and radar are being fitted.

A bow thruster has been installed, powered by its own 24volt battery bank.



The Gardner 6LX diesel has received plenty of love - an overhaul of the freshwater cooling systems, pumps and heat exchangers etc. New start batteries and electrical cabling, alarm cabling and voltage regulator system. The bilge pumping system has been upgraded and overhauled, with new pumps and sensors.



Other works included removal and treatment of asbestos insulation in the engine room, which added its own special brand of joy to the project.

During the recent haulout we stripped the hull back to bare timber, re-caulked and replaced some thru hull fittings. New transducers were fitted and the steering was serviced.



The galley will receive a small makeover, and internal light fittings have been improved. Of

course we're painting the vessel, redoing the varnish and re-coating internal surfaces - in itself a lot of work. We plan to have the boat in service by December this year, with a cruise to Hobart planned for February. The owners are looking forward to plenty of relaxed and comfortable cruising in the future.

Ferdi briefly commented that he was pleased to be working on

this lovely boat, and has congratulated the Tyrrell family on the decision to renovate Yarrola.

Past and life member Harry Tyrrell acquired Yarrola in earlier days, and engaged a shipwright for the re-

build and conversion, this said to have taken five years. Harry's wife bought the new Gardner

6LX marine engine as a birthday present. Harry and family cruised Yarrola for many years, with regular service and maintenance carried out by Graham.

Since Harry's passing, Yarrola is now owned by the couple's daughter Alexandra. Alex has commissioned the current work, which should allow Yarrola to live along for another sixty years.

Yarrola will visit Hobart next February for the AWBF. John Marks and crew will also attend in Pelican if the AWBF staff advise acceptance. Peter Clarke in Renaissance will hopefully also get a guernsey. Thinking of tagging along? Applications close soon.....



## AFL Cup Luncheon August 2024

The AFL Luncheon was held on Friday 16th August, with funds raised contributing to 100 Words supporting Men's Mental Health. Craig Turton spoke to the attendees on behalf of 100 Words, and certainly gave everyone a better awareness of this important issue.

We were also lucky to be graced with the presence of Mike Sheahan and two AFL greats, Alex Marcou and Vin Cattoggio, who had the crowd in stitches as they relayed stories of onfield antics. It was a great event organised by the Leanne and the Events Sub-Committee.



## Upcoming Event

**OPENING DAY** Saturday 5th October

FOR THE PURPOSE OF CATERING, BOOKINGS FOR LUNCH AFTER THE SAIL PAST NEED TO BE FINALISED BY MON 30TH SEPT  
 INFO@RVMYC.COM.AU  
 9393 2888

**Lunch Cost**  
 Members Price \$85 and Guests Price \$95  
 Includes stand up cocktail, style with substantial finger food & entertainment by Darren Constable in the function room.  
 COMPLIMENTARY BEER, WINE, SOFT DRINKS between 2-3pm followed by drinks at bar prices

**OPENING DAY** Saturday 5th October

**121st Season Official Program:**  
 11:30am - Members & Guests Arrive  
 12:00pm - Official Opening Ceremony  
 12:30pm - Depart for Fleet Sail Past  
 2:00pm - Lunch & entertainment

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# Diary update & classifieds

FREE ADVERTISING SPACE



## Members Draw!

Wednesdays at 7pm

### MEMBERS BAR TRADING HOURS



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

Friday - Bistro open 6.00pm dinner  
**Jag the Joker/STEAK NIGHT**

Saturday - Bar open 12.00pm  
Bistro open 12.00pm to 2.30pm  
Bistro open 6.00pm dinner

Sunday - Bar open 12.00pm  
Bistro open 12.00pm to 2.30pm.  
**ROAST OF THE DAY**

## Fishing Licences

Fishing licences are no longer available at the club. These can now be purchased online through Fisheries Victoria.

NOTE: Seniors cardholders do not require a fishing licence

## Calendar of Events

### September

- Saturday 1st Father's Day Lunch
- Friday 20th - Champagne Dame Dinner
- Saturday 28th - Grand Final Celebrations

### October

- Saturday 5th - Opening of the Boating Season
- Friday 11th - Spring Racing Lunch
- Friday 18th-Saturday 19th Fishing Comp

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

### RVMYC OFFICE HOURS

Mon & Tues 8-3  
Wed,Thurs,Frid 9-5

Account Enquiries: [admin@rvmyc.com.au](mailto:admin@rvmyc.com.au)

### DUTY OFFICER

SEPTEMBER

22nd - 23rd Ken Warren  
29th -30th Dean Robinson

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[admin@rvmyc.com.au](mailto:admin@rvmyc.com.au)  
[www.rvmyc.com.au](http://www.rvmyc.com.au)

2024 SEPTEMBER						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	Bar & Bistro Open from 5pm	5	Jag the Joker  Bingo every 2nd week from 3rd May	7
8	9	10		12		Bar & Bistro Open Lunch & Dinner.
15	16	17		19		AFL GRAND FINAL
22	23	24		26		
29	30					

2024 OCTOBER						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	Bar & Bistro Open from 5pm	3	4	Opening of the Boating Season
Sunday Roast of the Day	7	8		10	Spring Racing Lunch	12
	14	15		17	Bar & Bistro open for dinner	19
	21	22		24		26
	28	29		31		