

Opening Day for Season 2008 - 2009.

On Saturday, October 4th, the Royal Geelong Yacht Club launched the Club's 2008 - 09 summer sailing season.

In perfect sunshine and a light breeze, guests arrived through the guard of honour mounted by Naval Cadets of Geelong's own unit of Naval Cadets assembled at the entrance.

Following the reception by the Commodore, Vice Commodore John Kint, extended a welcome to all guests and members assembled on the seaward side of the club for the official formalities.

Amongst the guests were the Mayor of the City of Greater Geelong Councillor Bruce Harwood and his wife Jen, Commodores and representatives of Mornington, Geelong Trailable and Portarlington Yacht Clubs, Flag Officers, Committee of Management, Past Commodores and Honorary Life Members of RGYC.

The Vice Commodore, John Kint, then introduced RGYC Commodore, Graeme Ritchie, who welcomed guest of honour, Andrew Plympton, President of Yachting Australia. The Commodore spoke of the achievements of the Royal Geelong Yacht Club in being named 'Yachting Victoria's 'Club of the Year' and also in winning Yachting Australia's Sports Promotion award.

The Commodore also spoke of the forthcoming celebrations of the RGYC's 150th anniversary and of the internal staff changes that augured well for another successful season.

The Alpha and Bravo Race Management teams who would be responsible for the on water events were announced and were presented to the assembly.

Two members received commendations for services to the club. They were Ruth Plummer for her work assembling the history of the club and Stuart Dickson as chairman of the very successful Wooden Boat Festival.

Commodore Ritchie also included belated awards to recipients who were unable to attend Presentations in May, for the 2007/08 season. Murray Mitchelhill was the recipient of the Verfurth Perpetual Trophy for the member selected as having done the most for yachting during the season. Bobby Carroll, the William Smith Trophy for the best prepared, found and maintained boat 'Duchess of Melbourne' and Bravo Race Officer Rob Lyle in being awarded the W H Thacker Memorial Shield, for the most enthusiastic club member for season 2007/08.

The Mayor of the COGG responded with many kind words to the members and the club. This was followed by the breaking of the RGYC burgee at the masthead by the guest of honour, the President of Yachting Australia, Andrew Plympton.

Thus, the sailing season was launched!

The Reverend Neil Webb blessed the fleet and cast a cross into the sea.

Following the inspection of the Cadet fleet, all guests proceeded to sea for the official 'Sail Past'.

Out on the water, yachts and other craft of the club sailed past the official vessel dipping the Blue Ensign, or the national flag in the age old ceremony of saluting their Commodore who, as the 'Sail Past Directions' clearly put it - 'The Commodore will be reasonably perpendicular - - - - -' And I like the term - - - 'reasonably' !!.

Bob Appleton.



Ocean Skins



French Connection



Commodore Graeme Ritchie, Vice Commodore John Kint & Rear Commodore Andrew Nelson



Alpha and Bravo Race Management



Stardust



Valiant



Murray Mitchelhill



Robert Carroll



Rob Lyle

