

General Manager's Report

I feel very honoured to be able to write a piece for the 150th Anniversary Corinthian, being my first. Looking back (at only 12 months) I didn't think I would be able to say to you now how much I have enjoyed the past year. It is fair to say that the Club in September 2008 was faced with some significant challenges in areas such as catering, marketing and PR, communication, member services and marina infrastructure. It is also fair to say, I believe, that member morale was rather low.

Having said that, I also believed that it was the best Yacht Club on the Bay and all it needed was a little TLC and a lot of communication. The Club is like a nice old yacht, one you can spy the beautiful lines on from a mile away, no matter how bad the varnish looks.

So it has been a year of investment and hard work and a lot of fun. None of this could have been achieved without the fantastic staff and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all, the office staff, kitchen and bar staff and the marina boys. I would also like to mention that we would not have achieved half of what we did without the volunteers' willing assistance whenever asked.

I now believe we have turned a significant corner. I hope you agree and that your Club has become a place that you enjoy being at just that little bit more. There is still a great deal of work to be done and I look forward to another exciting year as the General Manager.

Some of the major changes to the Club since October 2008 include;

- Extended north floating arm
- Replacement of eye bolts, springs and shackles throughout marina
- New Fuel Facility (Thanks to Harry Farnell)
- New waterfront grass and path and tiling
- Implementation of Member Magic and Marina Magic in front office
- 150th Anniversary sculpture
- New Café, Member Dining and Function marketing
- Bi-fold doors on the front of the Club House and Cadet Shed
- Fireplace and couch area in members' bar
- New furniture
- Refurbished and extended mast crane (Thanks to Ken Allen)



Aerobatic pilot killed in crash

Regular Skandia Geelong Week entertainer, Peter 'Pip' Borrmann, 54, was tragically killed on 25th February 2009, whilst flying in his new Pitts Samson aircraft near his home town of Shepparton, Victoria.

Pip was renowned for his incredible aerobatic stunts and featured twice at Skandia Geelong Week this year. His performances always managed to surprise, particularly as he commentated on his own stunts whilst in the pilot seat. Pip first featured on the Skandia Geelong Week program in 2001 and since then has been the one constant to have been retained year in year out.

He was one of Australia's top aerobatic pilots, thrilling audiences nationally and internationally with his hair-raising maneuvers. Pip's motto had always been, "Why be ordinary when you can be extraordinary!"

Pip was scheduled to unveil his new plane at the upcoming Australian International Airshow at Avalon in March.

Our thoughts and condolences are with the Borrmann family. He will be sadly missed.

Royal Geelong Yacht Club Commodore Graeme Ritchie has committed to a minute's silence at next year's event to commemorate Pip's longstanding involvement with the regatta.

