

BOARD



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GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT 2014/15

The Royal Geelong Yacht Club has been a hive of activity over the past year.

Our club should be very proud of our reputation to host world and national level events. In particular, our highly skilled and very generous volunteers enable the RGYC to be an active participant on the world stage. Over the past twelve months we have conducted the International 14s World Championship, 2015 Festival of Sails, Multi Hull National Championship, Morris Finance Sydney 38 Regatta and the Rex Gorell Landrover Dinghy Supersail.

These events have been brilliantly organised by the club through the great skill and expertise of our Board, volunteers, members and staff.

The support of the Victorian State Government and the City of Greater Geelong is deeply appreciated. Their funding contribution for World Championships enables us to attract international regattas to Victoria, Geelong and our wonderful Corio Bay.

We were most pleased to have Minister John Eren recently announce that RGYC will host the 2017 Viper World Championship, to be held from 7-15 January 2017. A key element of our successful bid to host this event was the international reputation of the Festival of Sails and the opportunity for the World Championship to be part of our hallmark annual festival.

CLUB ON WATER ACTIVITY

The Victorian Regional Channels Authority Summer Twilight Series was once again extremely popular. We had an average of 60 visitors each Wednesday night for Twilight Sailing and Club Captain Greg Sinclair reports that this year

was highest average number of yacht on the water each Wednesday night that we have had for many a year.

Early this year we entered into a very welcome three year agreement with Rex Gorell Landrover as major sponsor of the Festival of Sails. Geelong Connected Communities also joined us in a partnership to sponsor the Shoreside component of the Festival of Sails and they have already renewed their agreement for the 2016 event.

Our sponsors of club sailing programs from last year also renewed their association with the club: Davidsons – Winter Series, Thomas Jewellers – Summer Series and Deakin Worldly – Sailing Academy. The Victorian Regional Channels Authority continued their long and loyal partnership with our club.

MEMBERSHIP

Net membership numbers grew by 4.5% on the previous year, with over 1200 members, being the highest on record. Our member retention rate of 90% is one of the highest in the state.

The Board has established a five year plan to gradually increase membership. Critical to this was the restructuring of membership categories to recruit the large number of people who would like to join the club as crew. It is most pleasing that members adopted the new membership changes at the Special General Meeting in March with the new categories of membership now fully operational.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENTS

Over the past year the Board has continued its focus on the major facility developments for the club. The Geelong Safe Harbour and Precinct Master Plan project continues as the major priority of

the City of Greater Geelong and the Royal Geelong Yacht Club.

Commodore Ian Murray once again worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that he club's interests are best served and that the project maintains momentum. The condition of our West Wall is the single most important focus of the Board.

We were successful in receiving funding from the State Government and City of Greater Geelong to support a Business Case for this project. We will need to work tirelessly to obtain funding from various Government bodies to turn the plans into reality.

Commodore Ian Murray's determined leadership has seen the achievement of many goals and critically, he leaves the club in a very sound financial position, (with over \$500,000 in term deposit and bank loan free)

Our staff continue to be proud and passionate in their various roles, sometimes under challenging circumstance. I thank each of them for their hard work and loyalty.

I thank the Board for their energy, commitment, advice and direction. We truly have a great band of elected Board Members who have the sustained growth and development of the club at heart.

Phil Clohesy

General Manager

