

SAILING AND BOATING COMMITTEE REPORT

2015/2016



2015/16 has been another successful season for RGYC in all of our on water activities. Participation in cruising and powerboating has continued to increase and numbers of yachts entered for racing has marginally increased. With the slight increase in racing numbers we managed to maintain a 3rd Division on Alpha course and it is hoped that with continued growth in the Corio Cruisers that we may introduce two divisions in this competition.

The Davidson's Winter series attracted good numbers with some very tight racing with countbacks in both Division 1 and Division 2 to determine a series winner.

This year saw the establishment of a number of strategic groups charged with the task of researching and seeking strategies to drive greater participation in many areas of sailing, racing, cruising and powerboating. We hope to recognize emerging trends and interests in sailing and boating which will contribute to increased membership and participation. The strategic groups include senior keelboat sailing, senior and junior OTB, and powerboats.

Women in Sailing has continued to grow and the sailors have had a Pacer racing series and a number competed in the Commodore's challenge at Sandringham Yacht Club and the Australian Women's Keelboat Regatta hosted by the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron in St.Kilda.

VOLUNTEERS:

Our dedicated volunteers have again provided all the competitors with another year of great service. Without the volunteers our regular racing programs and many others such as the Festival of Sails would never happen. Sailing and Boating continues to encourage volunteers and members to participate in training in all areas of race management. Volunteer numbers across all clubs have been in a state of decline and it is a challenge for us all to source

new people and train and mentor them in their roles. Hopefully the Board's Volunteer Committee along with all club members, can implement new programs and strategies to facilitate recruitment of new volunteers.

SAFETY AUDITING:

The RGYC's pilot of Equipment and Safety Auditing during the 2014-15 has continued and members enthusiastically embraced the program. As the first club in Victoria to introduce a formal auditing program for club racing and cruising we have demonstrated to Victorian and interstate clubs the value of such a program. Skippers' and crews' awareness of their equipment, and how it is stored, and used, has been substantially improved. Skippers and crews who have participated in the equipment audits will no doubt be better protected from the many risks when either racing or cruising on the water.

The club has continued our partnership with Yachtsafe, and Mal Eaton and his team of volunteer equipment auditors are to be congratulated and thanked for their good work before and during the season.

OFF THE BEACH AND TRAINING

The OTB group continues to be active and vibrant with many great programs attracting good numbers of entrants. The OTB Working Group is commended for continuing to develop our programs for senior and junior sailors and participation in general.

Racing divisions such as Lasers and 29ers have increased in numbers and the Cadets have again competed in two divisions over the entire season.

RGYC will be represented at the Cadet Worlds in Buenos Aires in December this year by Dominic Randall and Elliott Hughes. We wish them well for this regatta and the Board and members will continue to provide as much support as possible.

The Open Bic World Championship was held in Quiberon France, in July. RGYC member Michael Parks was a member of the Australian team which won the Teams Racing World Championship.

Our thanks again go to RGYC Life Member Tony Bull, for his great work as the Australian National Cadet Coach. His dedication to coaching our junior sailors is a huge commitment of his time and the club again thanks him for his dedication and efforts with our sailors.

POWER BOATS

The Powerboat group has grown over a number of years and has a great program of Nav Rallies and social events. It is clearly an area which RGYC can

develop further and with the arrival of more power boats at the club this year, participation in the Nav Rallies will continue to increase.

This year the powerboat group has held seven Nav Rallies and all have been well attended. It is hoped more yachts will participate in the Nav Rallies.

CRUISING

The cruising group continues to grow and the club now has a clear focus to foster greater participation in cruising for those who do not choose to race. The racing division of the Corio Cruisers has maintained its growth and it is hoped that the new cruising boats which have entered the club recently may commence racing in this division.

In many other clubs and regattas the real growth area is within cruising and RGYC will continue to support this growth.

THE FUTURE:

We need to:

- Foster greater participation in all aspects of the on water activities, namely sailing racing, powerboats, cruising, senior and junior OTB. We also need to continue to organize fun social events which involves boats, but is not part of the racing program
- Continue introducing and training race officers and volunteers
- Reinforce the importance of training as a form of improving water safety and encourage safety awareness.
- Facilitate and encourage junior sailors to continue their sailing in both Senior OTB and keelboat sailing.
- Continue to plan and develop policies, schedules, sailing documents to ensure we improve our member satisfaction.

After nearly six years as the Chair of Sailing and Boating I will be standing down and fellow Board member Brenton Carnell will be taking on this role. I will be remaining on the Sailing and Boating Committee and I wish Brenton every success in his new role. He has many good ideas and plans and I have no doubt he will make a great success of it.

Finally, I would like to thank the entire committee and club staff, for their great work and support over many years.

Phillip Francis

*Chairman - Sailing and Boating Committee
Rear Commodore*