

# SAILING & BOATING



This season has been one of the biggest years for sailing regattas and events in a long time at RGYC, with the Yacht Club hosting 10 regattas and passage race destination for the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria, Mornington Yacht Club and Sandringham Yacht Club. These regattas have been requested by our membership, who have coordinated the planning and organisation of these events, including rallying our regular volunteer base, and bringing friends and family in to assist as well. Over 280, or one quarter of our membership volunteered at the club last year! There has been plenty of action round the Club, and this has contributed to 2016/17 being one of the most successful seasons for the Club in a number of years. Winning the Victorian Yacht Club of the Year is a great recognition of this effort.

## Festival of Sails

With Festival of Sails being run over four days, and with a change of the dates due to the Cadel Evans cycling event, entry numbers were down slightly, but there was a strong presence as usual from our Club. Top performances include:

Poco Loco – Cam Rae and his team were able to take out the Super 11 Australian Championships, winning both the AMS and Performance divisions.

Bad Influence – Michael Bakker and Jeff Wolff - first overall in Division 1 of the Cruising with Spinnaker.

Larriken 2 – Darren Pickering - first overall in Performance Racing

Lupa Wylo – Geoff Sadler - first in the Classic Yacht Division

Flying Circus – Kim Clarke - second overall in the S80 Division.

Phoenix – Brenton & Jen Carnell - second

overall in Cruising AMS, under both AMS and EHC Division.

Valiant – Gerry O'Brien - second overall in Division 2 of Cruising with Spinnaker.

Kavala – Dave Ruffin - second in the Multihulls OMR

Cardinal Puff – Jeremy Capon - second in Classic Yacht Division

Buck – Stirling Parker and Gary Foley - second in Performance Racing

6 Foot 10 – Geoff Baum - third in Cruising Non Spinnaker Division

Maatsyker – Bill & Julie Newman - third in the Classic Yacht Division.

Well done to all involved, and with the 175th Anniversary Passage Race coming up this season, it will be a Festival of Sails not to be missed.

## Crew Competing Away

There has been plenty of representation of RGYC boats and members at other regattas around Australia including major offshore racing like the Sydney – Hobart and Melbourne to Hobart. Others participated in Cowes week in England and Victorian, Australian and World Championships in a range of Off the Beach and keelboat classes.

## Alpha Course

The number of participants out sailing was similar to the previous years. Congratulations to all the race winners.

With over 50 sailors coming through our Keelboat training courses, skippers are encouraged to welcome these new sailors to our Club, and get them out on the water.

## Off the Beach

Participation was extremely strong, with two full divisions for Cadets, a strong racing and Green Fleet in the Optimists, and a strong presence from the Laser group. There will be enough boats to be able to start a new division, and relaunch the Cam Dawson Perpetual Cup for Lasers.

The Wednesday Twilights were well attended, with the Off the Beach Committee looking to extend this for the coming season.

## Power Boats

The power boat group were extremely unlucky with the weather this year and were only able to get two NavRallies completed. There has been plenty of feedback on what

the Powerboat community would like to participate in at RGYC, and will extend its traditional NavRally and fishing competition events to include destination cruising with other yachts and powerboats. Members are looking to host visitors from other clubs who are interested in reciprocating at destinations like Westernport Bay and the Gippsland Lakes.

## Cruising

Cruising sailors have been very active this year, with a number of boats participating in the Van Diemen's Land Circumnavigation of Tasmania, being conducted by the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania supported by RGYC. All accounts have been that our members had a great time, with Stuart Dickson and Bill Newman providing a Cruising Dinner presentation to RGYC members. Others have travelled north for winter, several participating in regattas along the Queensland coast.

## Sailing Academy

The Sailing Academy has been a huge success for RGYC, culminating with the award of Victorian Discover Sailing Centre of the Year. We have put record numbers of both junior sailors and adults through the Academy. Our focus now is to help these new sailors and families to become regular participants at the club.

## Into the Future

There are many opportunities and challenges for our Club as we move into the 2017/18 season.

Festival of Sails is going to be one of the best yet, with the Passage Race to be held on Australia Day for the 175th anniversary of the first race in 1844.

The Sailing Academy has an opportunity to replace its ageing keelboat training vessel, and needs the full support of members to realise the vision to fund a modern J/70 fleet.

New racing and cruising opportunities are also being put forward, including destination cruising, match racing, and new ways are being discussed to attract the wider community of Geelong to our great Club.

## Brenton Carnell

*Chairman  
Sailing & Boating Committee*