

Stuart Dickson

Personal

Married to Pamela for 47 years and have two adult children and Two beautiful granddaughters, I am now 74 years old.

History at the Royal Geelong Yacht Club

1983 – Joined the Royal Geelong Yacht Club and commenced sailing on Thunderbirds. (Maybe)

1984 – Began ocean racing with Geoff Woods and sailed several seasons off shore and around the bay.

1986 – Joined the crew of the newly launched Bundaberg built and owned by Past Commodore: John Kint. Sailed for about six years on Bungy one and two, including 6 Melbourne Hobart's and numerous off shore races.

1990 – Commenced construction of my own yacht a cold moulded timber Adams 40. Patternmaker was finally launched in 2011 and now enjoy cruising and racing. We have now completed three VDL Cruises of Tasmania.

1995 – Joined the OTB committee when my son started sailing Cadets. Managed the rescue boat roster and ran the Cadet canteen with my wife Pam for two years. Served on the OTB Committee for about 5 years in total.

2004 – Asked to join the newly formed Wooden Boat Festival Committee and assisted in organising the inaugural festival in 2005.

2004 – Awarded the WH Thacker Perpetual Shield for the Best Club Member.

2005 – Took over as Chairman of the Wooden Boat Festival Committee. Over this fifteen year period I was involved in the organisation of all 9 festivals, 2020 was the 9th.

2010 – Returned to Ocean Racing and completed my first Sydney Hobart on ex Geelong boat Somoya.

2010 – Again awarded the WH Thacker Perpetual Shield.

2010 – Elected as an Ordinary Member of the Board.

2011 – Seconded as Treasurer from Ordinary Member of the Board.

2013 – Seconded as Ordinary Member of the Board, served until 2015.

2015 – Re elected as Ordinary Member of the Board. During this time I still chaired the WBF Committee and sat on the Major Events Sub Committee.

2017 – Elected as Vice Commodore RGYC.

2019 – Chairman of the Festival of Sails and the chairman of the 2020 WBF Committee. Currently sit on the PCG and PWG for the GWSHP, the Finance and Governance sub committees. Involved also with the building of the St Ayles Skiff Community Project.

2020 – Elected as Commodore of the RGYC.

Major 2020/21 Achievements:-

- Opening of the Wangim Walk and new Floating Pens.
- Completion to 70% Design of the RGYC OTB/VSS Project.
- Winning Australian and Victorian Sailing Club of the Year
- Winning the Australian and Victorian Sport Promotion Award..
- Investigating Membership Restructure.
- Developing a Policy to improve Gender Equality across all aspects of the club.
- Opening of new YOT Cafe.

Major 2021/22 Achievements & Challenges:-

- RGYC has finished the year in an extremely Strong Financial Position.
- Completion to 100% Design of the RGYC OTB/VSS Project.
- Winning Clubs Victoria – Regional Club of the Year
- Gaining Third place in the Tourism Victoria Awards – Major Events
- Membership Restructure to a point of going to members for approval.
- Seeing an almost normal 2022 FOS & WBF after Covid.
- Working with our Local Politicians and Stake holders to get our project under way.
- Involved in forming a Business Plan for the RGYC to run the Yot Cafe/Bistro.
- Engaging with Community Organizations : Geelong Youth Engagement, Making Waves Foundation,

2022 – Two year term due to expire August.

I am very proud of what we as a club have achieved as a club over the past 2 years in what have been extremely difficult times and I congratulate all involved. Thank you to the Board our Volunteers and our Staff who have supported me. I have only recently decided to re stand as Commodore for 2022-23. It has been very difficult decision but I feel the right thing to do, as there is a lot of unfinished business. I have been heavily involved with all our new initiatives and projects and feel committed to see them completed. I believe the RGYC has a very bright future and exciting times ahead. I am confident the new building will be underway shortly, and there is a possibility for stage two gaining some momentum and of course we have the Commonwealth Games and National & World Championships coming to Geelong. It is still a possibility that Sailing will be included in the Games and we are still working hard to support Australian Sailing in their push, we should hear the outcome post Birmingham Games.

Other Interests

I have had an almost life-long association with the Surf Life Saving movement thru the Ocean Grove and Anglesea clubs. I have a love of classic sports cars and boat building. In a previously life was a trainer with the Modewarre Football Club for five years and now a passionate bike rider. Was a member of the Belmont High School Council for six years and President for two; and a past member of the Geelong Business Club.(15 years.)

My time at the RGYC has been a wonderful experience, thru sailing I have seen many great places, made lifetime friendships and enjoyed the fantastic sport of sailing. I have recently retired from full time work giving me time to continue on a more responsible roll at our great club.

Stuart Dickson

0417378860

stuart.dickson47@gmail.com