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Photography provided by Salty Dingo, Tom Smeaton and Royal Geelong Yacht Club.



WELCOME

Established in 1859, Royal Geelong Yacht Club is one of the oldest sailing clubs in Australia and is situated in the heart of the City of Geelong.

Our exquisite setting and great facilities ensure that members and guests enjoy the best a yacht club can offer in an exceptional location, just 200 metres from entertainment, restaurants, accommodation, supermarket and specialty shops.

RGYC offers a complete range of activities for all abilities of sailor and non-sailor, male and female, young and not so young, from World Championship and Olympic hopefuls, to those who simply want to go out on the water for fun, relaxation and adventure.

The Club offers training programs for all generations: juniors, youth and adults: including Discover Sailing introduction experiences, twilight sailing, how to crew on dinghies, keelboats and powerboats plus our 'Learn To Sail' Sailing Academy courses. Qualification courses for navigation, powerboat handling, radio operators certification and various safety courses are also regularly scheduled.

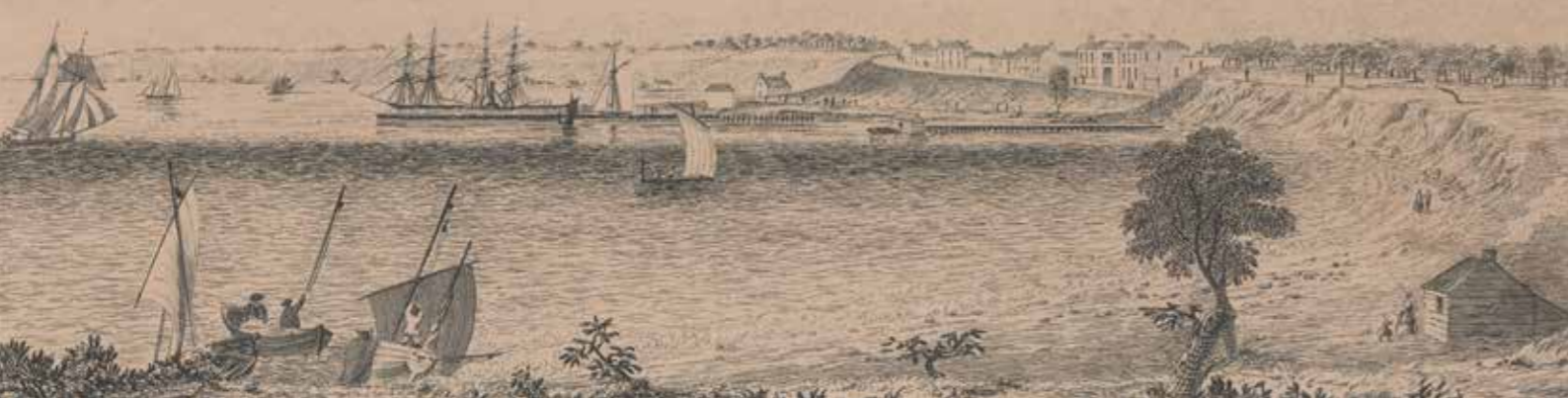
Royal Geelong Yacht Club is a leader in regatta and event management. We organize and host the annual Festival of Sails, biennial Wooden Boat Festival of Geelong, as well as World, National and State Championship yacht racing.

We invite you, your friends and family to join in the fun here at RGYC, where we truly have something for everyone.

There are also a wide range of social activities and events as well as an onsite café and Member's Bar for those simply want to socialise.

RGYC was named the 2020 Australian Sailing Club of the Year and Community Clubs Victoria 'Regional Community Club of the Year' 2020. In 2021, RGYC achieved a 4 Gold Anchor rating in the Marina Industries Association Gold Anchor International Rating Scheme.





OUR EARLY HISTORY

Royal Geelong Yacht Club is located on land of the Wadawurrung people who have inhabited it for over 25,000 years.

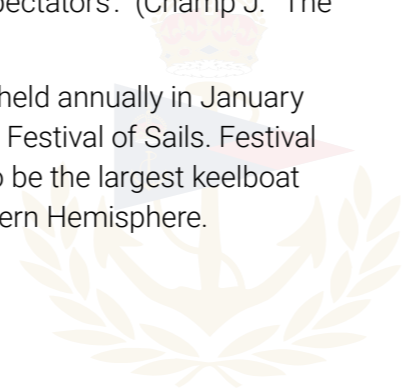
The great navigator and cartographer Matthew Flinders met several of the local people when he visited the area in May 1802.

“When Matthew Flinders climbed the You Yangs in 1802 he gazed down on what we now know as Corio Bay. Flinders was, of course, a sailor but little did he realise that what he was looking at was, within a comparatively short space of time, to become recognised as one of the finest aquatic amphitheatres in the world.”

Corio Bay’s 30 square kilometre inner harbour – with deep water right up to the shoreline and high ground to the west and to the south – created a superb venue for participants in aquatic sports and for their spectators.

“It was probably the sight of ship’s gigs and long boats running between ship and shore which prompted the idea of aquatic competition in the harbour at Geelong and there is a report in the Geelong Advertiser of a regatta being held on March 20, 1844 – ‘the various races went off in a manner which called forth the admiration of the assembled spectators.’” (Champ J. “The Wind is Free”).

This regatta is now held annually in January and is known as the Festival of Sails. Festival of Sails continues to be the largest keelboat regatta in the Southern Hemisphere.



There were thirteen Geelong Annual Regattas between 1844 and 1859, at which point the name Geelong Yacht Club was adopted. The first meeting of the Committee of the newly formed yacht club took place at Macks Hotel on an unspecified date in May 1859, with Captain McPherson – who was later to be appointed Commodore – in the chair.

After an initial attempt in 1903 to become Royal Geelong Yacht Club, eventually Royal status was granted to the Club in 1924.

.....
ROYAL WARRANT

By Admiralty warrant of 27th March 1924, the privilege of wearing the Blue Ensign of Her Majesty’s Navy with the Club Pennant was extended to yachts of this Club.

Patron: Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria



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FACILITIES

Royal Geelong Yacht Club offers members and visitors safe and affordable long term or casual boat storage in the north-facing Marina in a bay of protected waters.

The RGYC clubhouse offers a comfortable home for members and non-members. Clubhouse visitors can enjoy a 180-degree panoramic vista of Corio Bay to Port Phillip Bay and beyond.

- Protected north-facing marina
- 280 wet berths, including 28 floating berths
- 20 hard stand berths
- Visitor berthing
- Wangim Walk - the 440m long wave attenuator providing marina protection and additional short-term berthing
- Boat storage
- CCTV monitoring & card access security gates
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Moving to our BRAND NEW WORKSHOP in June 2024:
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NEW FACILITIES

Our Club has been working over the past few years to undertake a major redevelopment of our off-water and on-water facilities.

The Geelong Waterfront Safe Harbour Precinct Project is the most significant development of the Club since its inception and construction of our original building and marina.

With the collaborative funding support of the Australian Government, Victorian Government and City of Greater Geelong, this major project is well under way.

Once completed, Members will be able to enjoy state of the art facilities on our brilliant North facing waterfront. **To see more information, please visit gwshp.com.au.**



BECOME A MEMBER

Our Club is dedicated to fostering sailing by providing exceptional experiences, which transcend the water's edge, fostering a sense of camaraderie and community, where people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds can thrive on their sailing journey.

Are you looking for a place to call yours? Royal Geelong Yacht Club provides affordable opportunities for you to learn to sail and participate in fun and active events. Become a member of a club that has the warmth of a welcoming family environment.

The Club offers a number of different onwater activities including full competitive and social sailing programs, comprehensive Learn to Sail Courses for all, and Cruising and Power Boat activities. Most importantly, you don't have to own a boat to participate and enjoy what the Club has to offer.

Alternatively, just enjoy our great location and facilities on the prime waterfront location!



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MEMBER BENEFITS

RGYC Members enjoy rewarding experiences both on and off the water.

Our social calendar is packed with events for all the family to enjoy and good food and good company are guaranteed.

- Member discount on food, beverage and facility hire
- Priority access to major events including the annual Festival of Sails
- Invitation to an extensive social calendar of events
- Opportunities to participate in a range of on-water events
- Free use of the Club BBQ facilities
- Free wi-fi in the RGYC clubhouse
- Discounts and special deals from RGYC partners
- Reciprocal rights at select yacht clubs around Australia and overseas
- Individual Australian Sailing membership which includes insurance and other benefits





MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES

Membership Classifications at a Glance

GOLD

GOLD membership is for vessel owners and/or Members wishing to be eligible to vote, who race or use the Club facilities, slipway, yard or marina to service, berth or store their vessel.

Gold members may participate in all Club racing, boating and social events and enjoy the full benefits of membership including discounts, facility use and reciprocal club rights.

Gold members may vote in elections of Board members, at Annual General Meetings, Special General Meetings and may also apply for appointment as a member of the Board and/or Flag Officer of the Association.

SILVER

SILVER membership is for people aged 25 years and over, for participation in all Club racing, boating and social events. Members of this category receive the full benefits of membership including discounts, facility use and reciprocal club rights.

Members of this category are not eligible to own a vessel on the Club register or vote.

BRONZE

BRONZE membership is for persons aged 18 to 25 years, for participation in all Club racing, boating and social events. Bronze members may own a vessel (Off The Beach or dinghy). Members of this category are not eligible to vote.

BLUE

BLUE membership is for people aged 5 to 17 years. Blue members may participate in Club racing, boating and social events. Blue members may own a vessel (Off The Beach or dinghy). Members of this category are not eligible to vote.

NB: 50% fee rebates are available on application for full-time students, apprentices and trainees for Gold, Silver and Bronze categories.





VISITORS

Visitors are always made very welcome at Royal Geelong Yacht Club, both on the water and in the clubhouse and the Café.

Many of our members started their sailing lives as curious first-time visitors but were so captivated by the friendly atmosphere and the facilities available, that they soon became a part of the Club themselves with a new circle of friends.

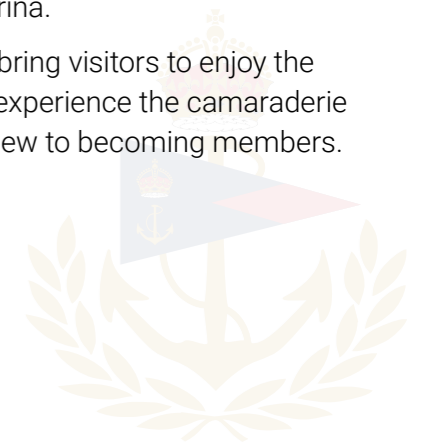
If you are a not yet a member, we would be delighted to offer you an opportunity to experience the thrill of sailing in our Wednesday Twilight races.

The Twilight Series is an enjoyable summer social sailing event. Participants love to relax on their boats or in the clubhouse after sailing is finished.

The first step to enjoying a Twilight race is to register your interest and sign up for a SailPass via the club website or by contacting the club office and speaking with one of our friendly staff members. Continue your sailing journey by registering for one the many Learn to Sail courses the club offers.

Visitors and public are welcome in The Yot Café to enjoy a coffee or meal on the deck overlooking the marina.

Members can also bring visitors to enjoy the Member's Bar and experience the camaraderie at the Club with a view to becoming members.





SAILING PROGRAM

Competitive sailing is held all year round and is available to all members and prospective members.

The Club provides a diverse range of yacht and dinghy racing events. The midweek highlight of the Summer sailing season is the TLC Aged Care Twilight Series.

Weekend racing is provided for keelboats in both the Leura Park Estate Summer Series and the Davidsons Winter Series, with a range of courses from windward/leeward to passage style races. The Off The Beach dinghies and catamaran classes compete in the Deakin University Series.

There are events for those learning to sail right through to the elite level. There are always plenty of opportunities to crew on boats if you don't have your own, for anyone from beginner to experienced.

We have Member boats that compete in State and National Championships as well as major regattas such as Festival of Sails and Hamilton Island Race week, and major races including ORCV Melbourne-Hobart and Rolex Sydney-Hobart.





RGYC SAILING ACADEMY

The Royal Geelong Yacht Club Sailing Academy provides the opportunity to experience a variety of Learn to Sail courses for all experience levels.

Enjoy the picturesque views of Corio Bay while learning or developing your sailing skills within a safe and protected environment close to the Club.

The Academy has qualified instructors and a variety of training boats which allows it to offer both dinghy (small boat) sailing as well as bigger keelboat options, so there is something for everyone. RGYC are expert providers with carefully planned courses and a focus on safety to ensure that everyone learns within a fun, friendly and safe environment. RGYC also has a fantastic Sailability program as we pride ourselves on being an all-inclusive Club.

Courses available include:

Dinghy Courses for Adults (18+)

We offer beginner as well as more advanced racing options.

Tackers 1, 2 & 3 + Green Fleet (6-12yrs)

These courses are designed for children who want to learn progressively in a fun, safe and exciting environment.

(Continued Page 24)



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Keelboat Courses

From basic crewing, through helming and race training these are offered on our small keelboats.

School & Community Sessions

RGYC offer tailored programs for individual introduction to sailing sessions or short courses for school and community groups.



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CRUISING GROUP

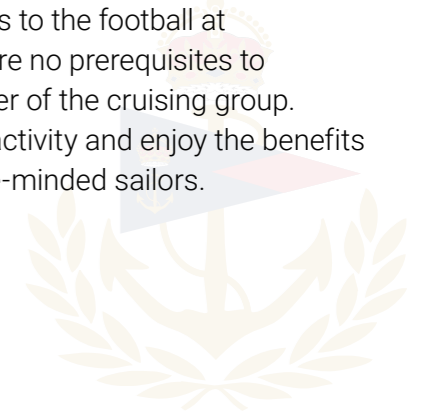
If you want to cruise, we've got the group for you. It's all about fun, adventure and shared experiences for our vibrant cruising group.

The RGYC Cruising Group meets for regular dinners from March through to November. The dinners are themed and often have a guest speaker scheduled. Topics range from cruises undertaken by members to technical aspects of yachting and boating including passage planning and engine maintenance. All RGYC members and their guests are welcome to attend.

The Cruising Group often arrange extended cruises for those interested. Past cruises have included visiting the Gippsland Lakes, Top of Tassie, Hobart and Flinders Island.

These trips are structured to assist new boaters venture further afield with the safety of more experienced members. RGYC also partner with RYCT to organise the biennial Van Diemen's Land Cruise (VDLC) which circumnavigates Tasmania as a cruise in company with yachts from around Australia and the World.

Other short cruises are arranged at short notice for an overnight at a nearby anchorage or destination when schedules and weather permit, such as trips to the football at Docklands. There are no prerequisites to becoming a member of the cruising group. Simply attend any activity and enjoy the benefits of being around like-minded sailors.



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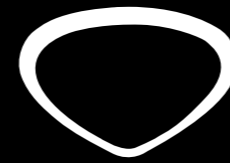


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POWER BOATS

Royal Geelong Yacht Club is home to over 45 powerboats and has an active powerboat community. The division caters for both social and competitive power boating.

RGYC Power Boat group hosts tours and a series of NavRallies (Navigation Rallies), a competition where boats must nominate their boat speed and, on the day, proceed around the course at their nominated speed passing positions at specified times. Points are lost for being too early or too late at the various positions on the course.

There are no pre-requisites to becoming a member of the power boat group - simply attend any activity and enjoy the benefits of being around a boating community.



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MAJOR EVENTS

Royal Geelong Yacht Club's ideal location on Corio Bay provides superb sailing conditions all year round.

Reliable breezes and protected waters ensure smooth water sailing with minimal impact from swell and tides.

RGYC is a location of choice for internationally recognised sailing classes seeking world class facilities and the perfect bay to host their championships.

The Regatta Management team includes nationally accredited Race Officers and Jurors, supported by staff and volunteers with significant regatta experience.

Our fleet of course boats includes purposely configured race management boats fitted with the latest B&G wind instruments and Icom radios, inflatable RHIBs for safety and support, jury and media. On shore, RGYC can provide weighing and measuring facilities, wi-fi connectivity, post-race BBQ and catering plus presentation functions for more than 150 people.

In addition to the Festival of Sails keelboat regatta, RGYC also hosts the biennial Wooden Boat Festival of Geelong - an iconic event attracting more than 100 classic and contemporary timber vessels, including tall ships to the waters of Corio Bay.

Royal Geelong Yacht Club is well known and highly regarded for hosting many National and World Championships, including Etchells, Sydney 38s, Melges 24, International 14 and Viper World Championships. In the summer of 2019/2020, RGYC presented its Summer of Sailing program of events, which included the Cadet Australian Championship, the Olympic 49er, 49erFX and Nacra 17 World Championships, and the Laser Masters Oceania Championship. The Club has welcomed many competitors from around the country and the world who have made our Club their home.





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FESTIVAL OF SAILS

The Festival of Sails combines history with tradition; heritage with technology; tactics with teamwork; while music and the smell of fine food wafts across the bay from a festival of shore based entertainment.

First held in 1844, the Festival of Sails has consistently attracted the highest calibre of sailing craft and crew, family and friends, attracting over 100,000 visitors every January.

In 1997, the successful merger of the Geelong Waterfront Festival and the Royal Geelong Yacht Club's historic Australia Day Regatta saw the beginning of a new Victorian Major Event – the Festival of Sails. The Festival of Sails is strongly supported by the Government of Victoria and the City of Greater Geelong along with many other business partners.

Despite numerous name changes over the years, thanks to generous corporate support, the essence of the event has remained true, as the largest annual yachting regatta in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Festival of Sails has evolved over many years culminating in its current position as the foremost competitive annual keelboat regatta in Australia.

The event has consistently attracted both exciting yachts and a public keen to soak up the essence of the event. Royal Geelong Yacht Club takes great pride in its role as host of a regatta whose reputation for high quality racing and great entertainment expands each year.

There is something for everyone at the Festival of Sails.



For more details, visit the dedicated Festival of Sails website at www.festivalofsails.com.au

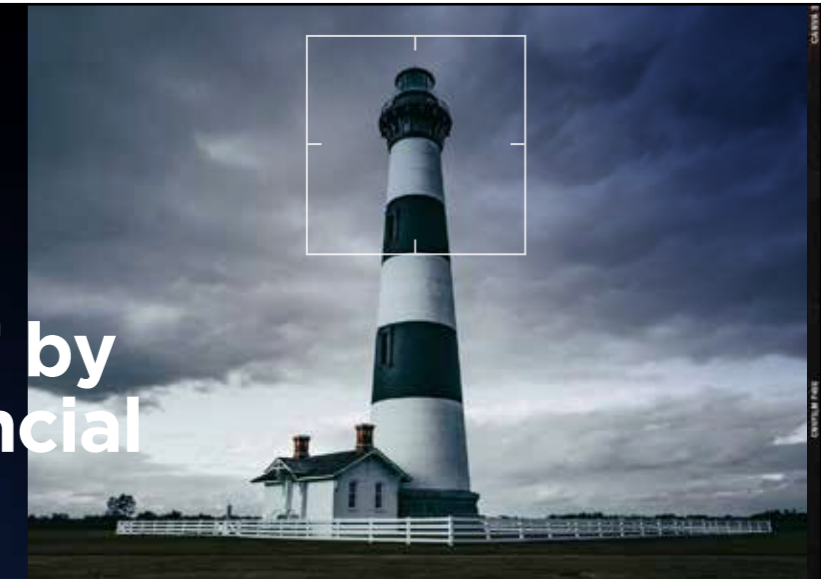


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**WOODEN
BOAT
FESTIVAL**
VICTORIA 2026

The biennial Victorian Wooden Boat Festival sees an array of wooden boats arrive from all over the country to parade and compete.

The event, previously the Wooden Boat Festival of Geelong displays the craftsmanship and passion of wooden boat owners and enthusiasts.

The Wooden Boat Festival provides a unique chance for visitors to see first-hand some of the most historic wooden boats in Australia and the spectacular sight of classic yachts sailing into Corio Bay thanks to the reintroduction of the Passage Races from Portarlington to Geelong.

With a Grand Parade of Boats, wooden boat builders demonstrating traditional crafts like caulking and steam bending timber and lots of entertainment on dry land such as the Royal Australian Navy Band, tall ship exhibitions and experiences, and the St Ayles Skiff rowing competition, it is an event not to be missed.

For more details, visit the dedicated Wooden Boat Festival website at www.victorianwoodenboatfestival.com.au





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WORLD-CLASS EVENTS

RGYC hosted an unparalleled event season during the summer of 2019-20 – the delivery of the largest number of events in our Club's proud 163-year history.

Our Club has a long-standing reputation for delivering high quality events through its annual Festival of Sails and biennial Wooden Boat Festival of Geelong. Through the success and growth of these festivals, we have proven our capacity to deliver complex events and so we now attract more world class events to the Club.

The summer of 2019/20 saw the culmination of many years of hard work and planning come together in the delivery of a variety of National and World Championship events in addition to our regular activities. The events included the Cadet National Championship, the 49er, 49erFX, Nacra 17 Oceania Championships and World Championships and the Laser Masters Oceania and Australian Championship and World Championship. The program was so significant that we created its own brand – the RGYC '2020 Summer of Sailing'. Successfully delivering these world class events brings significant economic benefit and profile to Geelong as an event destination attracting future events such as the recent Fireball World Championships in 2024.





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VOLUNTEERS

Without our Volunteers, RGYC would not be able to operate as successfully as it does – across all major events and Club activity.

Their contribution is vital to ensure a successful and well-organised Club environment and without them there would not be the extensive sailing calendar that members enjoy each year.

Volunteering is a great way to keep yourself busy, use your existing skills and learn new ones.

These are just some of the important positions filled at the Club by its dedicated band of volunteers.

There is always a need for a Race Officer (person in charge of conducting the racing), a driver and crew for the Start Boat which marshals the race and for the Safety Boat, which looks after the welfare of the competitors, as well as people to lay the marks, record the finishing times and collate the results.

On-shore roles include radio operators, judges and first-aiders, while instructors, assistants, coaches and support staff are always needed to help deliver the numerous courses provided each year by the Sail Training Academy.

The Club offers support and provides courses to help volunteers gain the qualifications needed to fill all these responsible roles.

Other opportunities for volunteers exist in the Sailability section, in the yard and marina and in the Club's major sailing regattas.



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SPECIAL EVENTS

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Contact The Yot Café to organise your tailored function with spectacular food and beverages for the occasion, via the RGYC Office on (03) 5229 3705 or email info@rgyc.com.au.



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**PARTNERING
WITH RGYC**

Partnering with RGYC provides your business with the opportunity to strategically position your brand, connect with our members and visitors, and develop relationships with other sponsors and partners of the Club.

RGYC utilises both traditional and digital media (including major events and our significant social media reach) to facilitate communication with our members, commercial partners and the broader community. Our major events present the perfect opportunity to showcase your brand to many thousands of visitors to the Geelong waterfront and RGYC.

Many businesses sponsor RGYC and we value their contribution to fostering community involvement at the Club, and for helping us to support and develop new generations of sailors.

In turn, our sponsorship partners benefit from marketing their businesses to a growing membership of people who share a passion for being outdoors. As such, our Club is focused on developing long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships.

If you are interested in partnering with RGYC, the Festival of Sails or the Wooden Boat Festival or for further information visit our website www.rgyc.com.au.



HOW TO FIND US

BY TRAIN

Trains from interstate and capital cities arrive at Melbourne's Southern Cross Station allowing easy ongoing connections to Geelong, with a travel time of approximately an hour. See www.vline.com.au for further timetable and ticketing information.

BY BUS

Daily bus services are available from interstate to Melbourne and connections to Geelong can be made via rail or connecting shuttle services.

BY FERRY

For those travelling from the other side of Port Phillip Bay, you can catch the Port Phillip Ferry across from Docklands Melbourne directly to the Geelong waterfront. This is a short walking distance to RGYC. Check their site for timetables: www.portphillipferries.com.au

The Peninsula Searoad Ferry also provides a car and passenger ferry service connecting the Mornington Peninsula to the Bellarine Peninsula. The service runs hourly from 7am to 7pm, every day. Geelong is a 30-minute drive from the ferry disembarking point at Queenscliff. Ticket information is available at www.searoad.com.au.

BY AIR

For those travelling from Interstate, flights are available to Avalon or Tullamarine airports, with connections to Geelong available by hire car, train or airport buses.



CONTACT US

We look forward to welcoming you to Royal Geelong Yacht Club. If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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Phone

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Marina Enquiries

Marina Manager: 0418 524 867

Email

info@rgyc.com.au

Web

www.rgyc.com.au

Social Media

Keep up to date with all the latest news from the Club by liking us on Facebook and following us on Instagram:

- ▶ [facebook.com/royalgeelongyachtclub](https://www.facebook.com/royalgeelongyachtclub)
(search - @royalgeelongyachtclub)
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