



**ROYAL BRIGHTON YACHT CLUB INCORPORATED A0018674M
253 ESPLANADE, MIDDLE BRIGHTON. VIC. 3186
HALF YEARLY GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
TUESDAY 21ST MARCH 2023 at 7:00PM**

MINUTES

1. NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Rule 32 & Rule 36, the Half Yearly General Meeting of Members will be held in the Bayview room at RBYC on Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

Attendees:

Commodore Niesje Hees, Vice Commodore Peter Demura, Rear Commodore Peter Gebhardt, Honorary Treasurer Murray Cowdell, Nick Barber, Cath Hurley, Neil Sargeant, Marnie Irving, Past Commodore Alan Woodward, Past Commodore Wendy Luck, Kim Luck, Rod McKenna, Mary-Alice Tedstone HLM, Past Commodore Paul Jackson, Glen Ferguson, Past Commodore David Bingham, Chris Sand, Pam Merritt, Will Merritt, Past Commodore Paul Pascoe, Jennifer Pascoe, Robina Smith, Brenton Smith, Greg Wallace, Grant Dunoon, Patrick Purcell, Peter Austin HLM, Andrew Merrett, Kalpana Raghunathan, Greg Blanch, Rod McKenna, Greg Walch, Grant Dunoon, Margaret Neeson, Simon Tedstone, Cary Cook, Amanda Jackson, Susan Leaper, Martha Garkel, Jan Ferguson, Lou Irving, Andrew Poulton, Terry Spasevski.

2. APOLOGIES

Club Captain Brett Heath, Charles Stanton, Alan Hume, Gary Tishler, Denis McConnell, Chris McConnell, Warsama Bulhan, Peter Coleman, Don Richmond, Caroline Killick, Phil Bedlington, Miriam Cherry, Past Commodore Ron Davies, Past Commodore Peter Strain, Bronwyn McIlveen, Susie Strain, Tony Garvey, Ron Clarke, Rosemary Colahan, David James, Lynette Bingham, David Dyring, Michael Read.

3. OBITUARIES

Darren Eberhard
Ian Mather
Don Tibbits OAM

A minute's silence was observed.

4. MINUTES

Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM held 20th September 2022

Business arising from the Annual General Meeting held 20th September 2022 – Nil

MOTION That the previous minutes be accepted.
MOVED: Patrick Purcell **SECONDED:** Paul Pascoe **CARRIED**

5. COMMODORE'S REPORT

The Commodores report attached was taken as read. A summary of current activities was delivered. These activities focus on the strategic pillars that the Committee are work towards delivering.

MOTION That the report be accepted.
MOVED: Kim Luck **SECONDED:** Paul Jackson **CARRIED**

6. FINANCE REPORT

The Treasurer's report attached was taken as read.

Notable items include:

- Comparison of year on year affected by Government Grants during 2021/22
- Shortage of kitchen labour and our use of contracted labour to maintain operating hours
- Upcoming necessary maintenance works.
- Short term deposits, investing cash at bank.
- The Finance Sub Committee were thanked for their work over the year.

MOTION That the report be accepted.

Moved: Christopher Sand **Seconded:** Kim Luck **CARRIED**

7. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sailing – taken as read, as Club Captain Brett Heath was an apology Peter Gebhardt spoke to the Sailing report. Highlighted were the participation rates of RBYC boats and sailors across the summer and the successes of boats in the report.

Simon Tedstone asked if replacements for the 2 vacant sailing office positions were being sought. Niesje Hees responded that Mohammed has been employed to replace Laura and that we were advertising for a Sailing Co-ordinator.

MOTION That the report be accepted.

Moved: Patrick Purcell **Seconded:** Rod McKenna **CARRIED**

Membership - Cath Hurley - Taken as read.

MOTION That the report be accepted.

Moved: Murray Cowdell **Seconded:** Kalpana Raghunathan **CARRIED**

Assets -

MOTION That the report be accepted.

Moved: Murray Cowdell **Seconded:** Kalpana Raghunathan **CARRIED**

Cruising Group -

MOTION That the report be accepted.

Moved: Will Merritt **Seconded:** Patrick Purcell **CARRIED**

Aquatic -

MOTION That the report be accepted.

Moved: Grant Dunoon **Seconded:** Kalpana Raghunathan **CARRIED**

Cleaner Sailing –

MOTION That the report be accepted.

Moved: Mary-Alice Tedstone **Seconded:** Simon Tedstone **CARRIED**

IDAG -

MOTION That the report be accepted.

Moved: Paul Pascoe **Seconded:** Lou Irving **CARRIED**

Social -

MOTION That the report be accepted.

Moved: Alan Woodward **Seconded:** Kalpana Raghunathan **CARRIED**

8. Business on Notice – No notices received

9. RECEIVE ANY NOTICE OF MOTION

MOTION

That the Club appoints Auditors, Ashfords Pty Ltd, for the 2022-23 financial year.

MOVED: Murray Cowdell SECONDED: Kim Luck CARRIED

10. Presentation of 40 Year Membership Medallions to Jan Ferguson, Past Commodore Wendy Luck & Mary-Alice Tedstone HLM.

Note: Medallions are usually presented to members at the AGM. However, an exception is being made for these three women members on the 40th anniversary of women being accepted as senior members of RBYC.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS –

Alan Woodward congratulated the Flag Officers, Committee & Administration for navigating the club through the difficult covid years.

By Order of the General Committee

March 2023

RBYC HALF YEARLY GENERAL MEETING – COMMODORE’S REPORT

Over the past six months the General Committee, subcommittees and staff have worked to progress initiatives in all areas of the RBYC Strategic Plan.

Sailing Pathways

It has been a rich and varied sailing season with active fleets across One Design, OTB and keelboats. The Club Captain’s Sailing Sub-committee report highlights successes in ocean racing, windward leeward, and “around the sticks racing”, as well as training programs for all ages. The Cruising Group has run several successful events on and off the water. Some sailboat and power boat owners choose to sail or cruise in isolation while others cruise in company, using the club as a destination after a day on the water. Several members have enjoyed using their boats through support of the “Sailing Lifts your Spirits” program, a wonderful initiative that rewards our skippers and crews as much as their guests, the healthcare workers who look after us. We look forward to the rest of the sailing season, including the popular BLISS regatta.

It is true that there are several boats languishing in the marina, and it would be terrific to see their owners out on the water and making greater use of their club. Our upcoming keelboat program is intended to train crew. We are hopeful this will assist skippers and crew to enjoy the benefits of sailing on our beautiful bay. People’s priorities change, and we will continue to listen to our members and keep in touch with their preferences, while promoting the programs and events we have in place.

The opportunity to partner with other clubs is explored on an ongoing basis. Through the monthly Club Captains and Commodores meetings chaired by Australian Sailing we share experiences and build opportunities for joint initiatives. It is in all our interests to pool our resources to promote the joys of sailing in an environment of competing leisure activities.

Membership

Membership continues to grow in all categories, as can be seen in the Membership report. Over the next six months we will be focused on converting members to active sailing crew and aiming to increase our crew membership numbers.

At the same time, we have come to celebrate our non-sailing membership categories. The Iceberger report provides a good sense of the comraderie and vibrancy of that group. It’s wonderful that sailors and swimmers have become better acquainted, which can only be good for the club as a whole.

The Social subcommittee has done an excellent job of running events that appeal to all members. The subcommittee report provides a summary of events that have been enjoyed over the past six months, and many of these will become a regular feature of the club’s calendar. The club’s 150th anniversary will provide a great opportunity for club members to celebrate.

Marina, Beach and Hardstand

We are conscious of our responsibility in managing the major assets which are the cornerstone of our club. Maintaining excellent and mutually beneficial relationships with government bodies and community organisations is essential to retaining our fortunate position as a premier yacht club in an enviable location. We are aware of our role within the broader harbour precinct, and the importance of having a seat at the table in discussions with other clubs and authorities.

Considerable progress was made last year in renewal of our seabed lease. This then stalled for six months due to limited resources and staff turnover at Parks Victoria. Negotiations have recommenced, as mentioned in the Assets report. While our lease expires in April 2023, we are fortunate that the delay has no immediate consequences for us. The new lease must be resolved well before any major infrastructure work progresses, including the eventual replacement of the wave attenuator. Our objective is to have the lease renegotiated during 2023.

RBYC HALF YEARLY GENERAL MEETING – COMMODORE’S REPORT

A priority for the club is dredging inside the marina. We have been told our current permit does not cover this and are in the process of ensuring the correct permit is put in place, as well as assessing proposals from dredging contractors.

I’d like to thank the members of the Assets subcommittee and the Marina and Attenuator advisory group for their expert advice on all matters associated with the marina and hardstand, including maintenance, medium term projects and longer-term strategy.

It is essential that current and future committees continue to put funds aside for the costly replacement of the attenuator, whether that be with a breakwater extension or other type of wave barrier, as well as the potential expansion or redesign of the marina.

An important ongoing consideration is our responsibility with respect to sustainable sailing. The Cleaner Sailing subcommittee has reported on initiatives under its remit, and all areas of the club must head the guidance of sporting bodies and agencies in this respect.

Clubhouse

Clubhouse projects need to consider the benefits to members as well as the marketability of our function spaces. The replacement of carpet is a big improvement, but it is recognized that ongoing cleaning and maintenance is essential to ensure the clubhouse is worthy of a premier club. Over the next six months there will be an increased focus on improvements in the regular maintenance schedule, which has been hampered by a shortage of skilled resources and contractors.

The Assets report mentions the planning work associated with the circular driveway, which is tentatively planned for the winter of 2024. This will be a beneficial addition to our club.

Catering and Functions

The Club restaurant is a popular link to the community as well as a benefit to members. As explained in the finance report, the turnover for the restaurant and for functions has improved but costs have increased. Cost containment is a priority, while at the same time finding ways of attracting a larger number of members, of both our club and the community, to our facilities. Feedback lets us know we have a terrific location and warm atmosphere, and we are keen to leverage this more successfully. I am confident the effort is worthwhile. Our friendly staff are appreciated by members and visitors, and we are keen to foster a caring club culture as well as a sustainable business.

Community

Strong community links are essential for us. We aspire to be a welcoming and inclusive part of the neighborhood. Many who have lived in the local area for decades have recently joined the club, not realizing previously that this was possible.

The Inclusion and Diversity advisory group is exploring ways to attract new members to the club from a variety of backgrounds. At the same time we need to be good neighbours, and are keen to support local initiatives. The Australia Day swim and Rotary recycle regatta are examples of ways we can help support worthwhile events.

Shared Values

Our unifying strategic pillar asks us to be respectful of each other. As a growing and increasingly diverse club we become richer and stronger. Through appreciating the experience and backgrounds of others, we will benefit personally and prosper as a vibrant club.

Lastly, I congratulate the first three RBYC women members who are being given their 40 year membership medallions at this half yearly meeting. This is a major milestone to celebrate.

Niesje Hees – Commodore, March 2023

ROYAL BRIGHTON YACHT CLUB INC.
FINANCE REPORT to MEMBERS

For the 6 months ended

31 December 2022

Dear Members

I present the Financial Report to Members for the six months ending 31 December 2022.

Financial Performance

The financial performance of the Club for the 6 months ended 31 December 2022 is laid out in the following pages. The Club shows a net operating surplus of \$279k and a deficit of \$257k. A comparison with last year is less meaningful due to COVID enforced shutdowns and support provided by the government. The corresponding period last year showed a net operating surplus of \$493K and a net deficit of \$60k.

The Club's Revenue is above budget by \$122K. The Club recorded a 23% increase in gross profit. All areas of the club recorded improved revenue. Marina occupancy has improved, catering revenue has returned to pre COVID levels, membership is significantly up and with no COVID lock downs there has been greater participation in sailing & OTB training programs.

In the six months to December 2022, total expenses were \$1,901k compared with \$1,276, for the corresponding period in 2021. Operating expenses were generally similar to last year with the exception of employment costs and repairs and maintenance. Despite the efforts to improve labor utilization and cost control, the rise in employment costs is due to the need to employ agency staff to fill the gaps in the operations of the catering department. Monthly total employment costs as a percentage of total income averaged 43% during the half year ended December 2022. For the previous six months the average was 44%.

The half yearly Surplus/(Deficit) of (\$257K) was significantly higher than last year's deficit of \$60k due to full operation without government subsidies. Expenditure planned for the next six months includes the installation of the new gate to the hard stand and dredging inside the marina. To take advantage of higher interest rates, a substantial cash amount has been invested in short term investments.

Royal Brighton Yacht Club Inc. Income & Expenditure Statement Six months ended 31st December 2022	HY23 \$'000	HY22 \$'000	Variance \$'000
Marina & Hardstand Income (net)	570	523	47
Member Subscription Income	420	380	40
Bar & Catering Income	1,582	724	858
Sailing & OTB Income	104	81	23
Yard & Franchise Income	26	16	10
Sponsorship & Donations	1	33	(31)
Other Income	39	307	(268)
Income	2,742	2,065	677
Bar & Catering Cost of Sales	563	296	267
Gross Profit	2,179	1,769	410
Equipment, Repairs & Maintenance	122	169	(47)
Property, Rent, Rates & Maintenance	168	96	72
Sailing Expenses	36	25	11
Staff Costs & Contractors	1,264	769	495
Administration and other expenses	311	217	94
Expenditure	1,901	1,276	625
Net Operating Surplus (before Interest Depreciation & Amortisation)	279	493	(214)
Depreciation & Amortisation	506	521	(15)
Net Interest Expense/ (Income)	30	32	(2)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(257)	(60)	(197)

Catering

Improved conditions have seen the catering revenue double from last year's result, returning to pre COVID levels. This improvement has been offset by the increased cost of goods and higher labour costs, driven by a frequent need to use agency staff for key positions.

Club management have seen improved labour market conditions, resulting in a reduction in contract labour throughout the year. As these conditions continue to improve the catering profit margin will correspondingly improve. A core focus of club management is to improve the profit margin of the catering and function division.

The table below shows that the gross profit margin for the bar and catering operations has improved to 10% compared with -20%, for the same period last year. Again, last year's result was impacted by COVID shutdowns.

Gross Profit – Bar & Catering	HY23	HY22	Variance
Six Month Ended December 2022 (HY23)	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Club Bar & Catering Income	1,185	632	553
Private function Income	397	93	304
Cost of Goods Sold	(563)	(296)	(267)
Direct Cost Inc. Staff	(863)	(575)	(288)
Gross Profit	154	-146	300
Gross Margin %	10%	-20%	
Hospitality Grants attributed to Catering	N/A	165	
Gross Profit adjusted to Hospitality Grants	N/A	19	
Gross Profit Margin Adjusted for Hospitality Grants %	10%	3%	

Please note that this table includes cost of goods and labour costs. A fuller breakdown of the club's operations by department will be presented in the Annual Report

Marina & Hardstand, Membership and Sailing

There was an improvement in the marina occupancy, and this is reflected in a \$47k increase in the income in the six months to December 2022 when compared to the previous corresponding period. Marina occupancy during the half year, averaged 78% (last year 75%) and of the 26 vacancies, 25 were club owned pens. Hardstand utilisation averaged 99 percent. This is the same as last year. OTB storage is full. Every endeavour is being made to fill all pens. Marina revenue for the next 6 months will be strong due to the return of all pens to club ownership and higher occupancy rate.

Membership continues to grow. At the end of December 2022, the Club had 1624 members compared to the previous period in 2021 of 1526. Full details of all the categories can be found in the membership report.

Sailing & OTB income has increased by \$23k for the six-month period. This is due to popularity of the sailing programs especially the adult learn to sail programs.

Cash flows

During the six months ended December 2022 the cash balance increased by \$436k.

Royal Brighton Yacht Club Inc.

Cash Flow* **HY23** **HY22**
Six months ended 31 December 2022 ("HY23) **'000** **'000**

Operating Income	279	493
Less: Net Interest Expense	(30)	(32)
Net Working Capital (increase)/Decrease	492	188
Net Cash Generated by operating activities	740	649
Cash Flow from Investing activities		
Payments for other leasehold Improvements, plant & equipment (net of trade In)	(60)	(45)
Net Cash used in investing activities	(60)	(45)
Cash flow from financing activities		
Bank Loan Drawn/ (repaid) - Olympic Restaurant Members Loans	176	179
Net Received/(Repaid)	71	128
Net Equipment Loan Drawn/(Repaid)	71	128
Net Financing Generated by financial activities	247	307
Opening Balance	1,428	1,128
Net change in cash flow	434	297
Closing balance for the period	1,861	1,425

Please note that these numbers are in no way reflective of audited financial results but are sourced directly from management accounts.

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure for the six months to December 31st totalled \$60K for the following items:

- Clubroom carpet replacement \$38k
- Hardstand equipment \$2K
- New Pfd's \$5k
- Permits for Capital works \$15k

Royal Brighton Yacht Club Inc.

Balance Sheet*

31 December 2022 ("HY23)

HY23

'000

HY22

'000

Current Assets		
Cash And Cash Equivalent	1,861	1425
Trade and other receivables	419	288
Inventory	104	66
Other current assents	89	119
Total current Asses	2,474	1898
Non-Current Assets		
Plant & Equipment	5,415	6373
Intangibles	15	
Total Non-Current Assets	5,430	6373
Total Assets	7,904	8271
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	602	361
Provisions	148	115
Borrowings	209	225
Other Liabilities	1,107	1068
Total Current Liabilities	2,066	1769
Non -Current Liabilities		
provisions	51	31
Borrowings	476	876
Other Liabilities	572	665
Total Non-Current Liabilities	1,099	1572
Total liabilities	3,166	3341
Net Assets	4,739	4,930

Accumulated Surplus

4,776

4,770

Yachting foundation

18

18

Members Reserve

202

202

Net Surplus /(deficit) for the period

(257)

(60)

Members Funds

4,739

4,930

Please note that these numbers are in no way reflective of audited financial results but are sourced directly from management accounts.

Conclusion

The last six months have seen increased activity at the club. The main challenges have been escalating costs and availability of skilled labour. Over the next six months, it will be important to contain costs while ensuring essential maintenance is completed and approved projects move ahead.

The Club has a healthy bank balance and has taken out some short-term investments. The improved cash position allows the Club to invest in our assets. Short term capital projects include:

- Installation of the new gate to the hard stand
- Marina dredging planned for later this year
- Progressing the circular driveway
- Planned replacement of race management vessels

At the same time, it will be important to set aside funds for the eventual replacement of the wave attenuator.

I would also like to thank the clubs Finance Committee consisting of Commodore, Vice Commodore, Club Captain and Keith Badger.

Regards

Murray Cowdell
Honorary Treasurer
6th March 2023

Note: All figures presented in this report are based on management accounts and have not been audited.

Sailing Report - Half Yearly General Meeting of Members – 2023

Great to be back to start the season with a fully-fledged opening day. Our new Commodore – Niesje – organised spectacular weather – and club members turned out in force. So many boats from all areas of the club participated. It was fantastic.

The club kicked off its large sailing program in October which sees keelboat, One Design and OTB racing and training.

RBVC Racing Program 22-23

Wednesday	1330	Keelboat	Hearnes' Heroes
	1805	Keelboat, Etchells, VXOne & Dragon	Spring Twilight Extras Fleet
	1815	Keelboat, Etchells, VXOne & Dragon	Spring Twilight Pursuit - No Extras
Thursday	1800	OTB	OTB - Sprint training
Saturday	1300	Keelboat	Saturday Racing
	1330	One Design	One Design Racing - Etchells, VXOne, 2.4mR & Dragon
Sunday	0900	OTB	Junior & Youth Training
	1400	OTB	OTB - Fleet racing

The Brighton Keelboat championship continued this year racing in Division 1, 2 and Ingénue.

RBVC participation in keelboat regattas has been at its highest for a long time. Locally the Cock of the Bay, and Festival of Sails we had many competitors with great results.

In ocean racing, we had 2 competitors in the Sydney to Hobart. Rush and Cyan Moon. Congratulations to Cyan Moon who won the PHS division.

We had 8 entrants in the 50th Melbourne to Hobart.

Lincoln Week regatta saw Reverie win Div 2 on AMS & PHS. They also came 2nd in The Australian Keelboat Championships in IRC.

OTB racing on Sunday afternoon has resumed this season. Great to see so many boats out enjoying the racing. Thursday OTB twilight sailing has continued from last season with many sailors honing their skills and enjoying the social side with dinner afterwards.

The One design fleet on Saturdays saw the Etchells, 2.4mR, Dragons and VxOnes enjoying the camaraderie and close racing each week.

The Sunday junior and youth program participation has grown. We had 3 crews at the Stonehaven Cup held at RMYS and 7 Opti sailors at their Victorian state championships.

This season, we have had a full schedule of training programs - Tackers, Out there and Adult learn to sail. Big thanks to our OTB coordinator Laura for her hard work. I have included a report from Laura highlighting how the club program has progressed. Our Sunday morning program is full and our Sunday afternoon race training program has grown to include: 13 green fleet opti's, 5 youth racing squad and 13 29er training students. Growth is so good that we purchased 2 more racing Optis for the green fleet. A strong junior & youth program will lead to a strong club.

The club has just purchased a keelboat in preparation for our first Australian Sailing keelboat training course to be offered later this season. Our boating manager Colin has been working diligently to get all the components required to get this started. An exciting time at RBYC, with the adult training courses offered in both OTB & keelboats.

RBYC members have had great results at the many one design & OTB nationals and state championships held this season. Many national and state champions. Congratulations to all who competed.

The club has had a busy regatta season, with more still to come – thanks to all volunteers who make these possible

- Sail Melbourne
- RS100 National Championships
- Etchells 2023 Victorian State Championships
- VX-ONE 2023 Victorian State Championship
- George Mac Regatta 2023
- BLISS

Thanks to all members for getting involved and making RBYC such a friendly and fun place to sail.

Most importantly I would like to thank all our volunteers, race management team, jurors and staff who have worked diligently to ensure RBYC's club programs and regattas have gone ahead and given our members a chance to enjoy sailing. For this, we are extremely grateful.

Many thanks to the Sailing committee: Marnie Irving, Glen Ferguson, Tony Cuschieri, Paul Pascoe, Peter Robson, Rod McKenna, Peter Gebhardt, Phil Bedlington, Colin Burgess, Chad Humphrey

*March 2023
Brett Heath, Club Captain*

RBYC Strongly Represented at Victorian Opti State Championships



For the first time in what seems like a while, we are proud to be able to report on our junior representatives who attended their very first state championships over the long weekend in Mornington! RBYC sent off 7 brave sailors and parents into the wild that was the 78-boat regatta, with 1 sailor in the intermediate fleet, and 6 in green fleet. Using a combination of chartered club boats and recently purchased own boats, we would like to commend the team on just how well they took ownership and responsibility of their equipment. Reports from the regatta note that the Brighton team took on all the challenges presented to them with a smile and eagerness to learn more, something alone that should be celebrated above results!

The transition from the protection of club programs to competing at intrastate regattas is a big one, requiring a new level of parent engagement as well as a step up in financial and time commitment. A Massive well done must be extended beyond the sailors but also to the parent group for taking a really big step into a world that some of them know absolutely nothing about – Great work.

It is exciting to see the success of the club green fleet program be able to support a group through this experience and have them all come back excited for more – a true credit to our green fleet coaches and the coaches of the foundational levels that got them here.

We look forwards to seeing our smiling assassins get better and better as time goes on and we can't wait to see what they can achieve at their next event.

Intermediate

- Zelig Goussard - 19th

Green Fleet

- Charlie Sam's – 9th
- William Marburg – 10th
- Terry Ding – 13th
- Alex Zhang – 14th
- Harmony Lucas – 17th
- Theodore Altson – 18th

*March 2023
Laura Thompson, OTB coordinator*

RBYC Membership

Half Yearly Report – March 2023

The General Committee emphasizes that membership is a core pillar of our strategy and a key focus of the entire GC.

Membership numbers at the club have continued to grow in all categories. Each new member has been interviewed by a GC member by way of welcome to the club.

There was an increase in membership numbers of 6.5% in December 2022 compared with December 2021.

- Total member numbers as of 30 Dec 2022 were 1625 compared with 1526 as of 30 Dec 2021, an increase of 99 members. This is continuing to grow in the first two months of 2023, with 1677 members by the end of February 2023.
- The percentage across membership categories compared to last year are similar, though it is recognized that the percentage of members eligible to vote in elections is gradually decreasing over time.
- It is clear we need to continue to promote crew membership to those on sail passes and that the benefits of membership need to be better promoted.
- The General Committee recognizes that member retention is as important as acquiring new members. Reasons for member resignation will be captured going forward.
- 73% of current members are Male and 27% Female compared with 74% male and 26% female at the same time last year.
- Approximately 25% of our members are under 45 years, which is the same as last year.

Membership category	2021	2022
Senior Members	39%	39%
Crew & Crew Plus	10%	9%
Youth / Jnr/	8%	9%
Intermediate	7%	6%
Social	22%	24%
Gym	5%	4%
Aquatic	7%	8%
Other	1%	1%

ASSETS

The Assets subcommittee along with the Marina and Attenuator advisory group has advised and progressed the following projects over the past 6 months.

New Carpet

- installed in Functions rooms and Members bar.

Marina Gate replacement

- Now scheduled to be undertaken by Gate Automation Systems in late March 2023 after a comparison of providers. Gate Automation Systems have visited the site to take measurements for the shop drawings.

Dredging in marina planned for this coming winter

- Quotes received from two contractors – further detail is required to enable the contract to be awarded and for planning purposes (given the need to move boats during the dredging)
- Water Technology is undertaking soil samples and analysis as a pre-requisite to extending our dredging permit to enable dredging inside the marina

Circular Driveway

- Noting lead times from planning and permits, a working group has been set up (Neil Sargeant, Nick Barber, John Mooney, Peter Strain). Will consider options and obtain quotes.

Comparison of options for attenuator replacement (wavescreen vs breakwater extension).

- Quotation has been received but will wait until seabed lease is further progressed before investing in this work.
- Wave study has been completed

Race Management and rescue boats Asset Management Planning has been undertaken.

- Priority is Redeemer Replacement
- Investigating “lease vs buy” for rhibs

Marina Maintenance

- more collars installed
- Attenuator has survived strong northerlies with no damage

Seabed Lease

- Parks Victoria has re-engaged and has indicated a new plan from the Surveyor General will be available by the end of March, which will enable Lease negotiations to progress.

Assets Subcommittee

Niesje Hees, Peter Strain, John Mooney, Kalpana Raghunathan, Murray Cowdell, Andrew Merrett, Malcolm Mitchell

Marina and Attenuator Advisory Panel

John Mooney, Peter Strain, Bryan Drummond, John Paterson, Geoff Brewster, Phil Hall, Andrew McGowan, Niesje Hees

March 2023

Cruising Group Half Yearly Report 2023

Cruising group activities have continued to rebound, though this has taken some time after the restrictions of the Covid 19 Pandemic over the last year or two.

Cruising Group membership and participation is holding steady with a couple of new boats balancing the boats who have left.

There have been some changes in the makeup of the cruising group subcommittee in the last year or so with Paul Jenkins, Pamela Merrit and Jennie Collins moving on.

The group currently consists of: Chairperson Geoff Brewster, Secretary Terry Frankham, Newsletter Editor Barbara Burns. Committee members Rob Hurrell, Peter Strain Sue Drummond Peter Gebhardt and Rod Cuthbert.

The committee continues to meet in person at the club monthly with phone calls, emails, and increasingly, the social media platform "WhatsApp" being employed to maintain communications between meetings.

Cruising Group Newsletter

Arguably the newsletter has been fundamental to the fabric of the cruising group since its inception some 31 years ago. At a recent forum dinner, a "straw poll" was taken to see if members wanted the cruising group newsletter to continue, or should it be folded into the weekly club on-line newsletter. The response was an overwhelming vote to continue the newsletter. Cruising Group members are encouraged to contribute articles and information to assist the editor Barbara Burns to keep this going.

Monthly Forum Dinners

The monthly forum dinner is an important part of the cruising group fabric and it pleasing to see the function is showing signs of being revitalized from the bad old Covid days; there is an encouraging increase in the number of events and the numbers attending.

Topics for the dinner have included talks on canal boating in France, descriptions of trips to the Kimberly Coast and so far in 2023 Robina & Brenton Smiths presentation of their trip "Beyond the Barrier".

Upcoming speakers include author Christiaan de Beukelaer on his book "Trade Winds", A Voyage to a Sustainable Future for Shipping and Wayne Seaward and crew of Cyan Moon presenting on their recent Rolex Sydney to Hobart race success.

A bit further out the cruising group has accepted an offer by Don Walker and his wife to present a dissertation on their planned 13-night Patagonian Fjords of Chile cruise - starting in Ushuaia and finishing in Valparaiso.

Annual Events

The **Annual Christmas Hardstand Party** was held on 10th December, around 25 people turned up and enjoyed the weather god's presentation of a near perfect evening.

Appalling weather, with the consequence of little or no interest caused the **Annual Frostbite Cruise** slated for June (2022) to be cancelled: maybe the weather in 2023 will be better and more interest generated. Three boats Saffron, Chakana and Aquacadabra will dodge the decision to go on the frostbite cruise by being in New Caledonia in June.

The **Annual Cruise of Mr. Bass's Strait** happened as always in February 2023. There was increased participation in the cruise this year with 7 boats sailing on the adventure. The boats which ventured out into what turned out to be a windy 2 weeks were; Kirra Kirra, Reliance, Why Knot, Chakana, Aquacadabra, Y-Knot and Saffron.

The majority of the fleet got as far as Refuge Cove with 3 boats going on to Deal Island and Y-Knot getting all the way down to the Tamar.

The 31st Annual Birthday Cruise to RYCV turned out to be a road trip due very high winds but a good turn out once again enjoyed the hospitality of the RYCV.

The Annual Progressive Dinner was conducted in March and was a great success with good numbers turning out to enjoy a great evening in mild weather.

Geoffrey (Geoff) Brewster

RBVC Cruising Group Chair

Aquatic Report HY 2023

On behalf of the aquatic category and subcommittee I am pleased to submit this report on our recent activities.

The subcommittee has grown in number from five to eight, consisting of Stephanie Desira, Rupert Hugh Jones, Kerry Watson, Tony Ryan, Ralph O'Shaughnessy, Andrew Mulholland, Christina Wilhelm with Greg Wallace as Chair.

We would like to acknowledge the work of the previous Chairman Jack Hawkins and thank him for his contribution.

The committee meets regularly to discuss and address issues raised by members of the category.

Current topics on the agenda are; Changeroom conditions, club maintenance, water safety and swimming protocols, events – e.g. winter pier to pub, apparel – swimming caps, bathers and tops, Social Activities, interaction with RBYC GM. The committee maintains regular contact with the GM and Commodore.

As noted previously the category is experiencing a continual influx in members.

As of Feb '23 133 Members, and Feb 22 111, representing a numeric net growth of 22.

It should be noted there are numerous active swimming members who are within other categories of the club. Currently 225 RBYC members receive the fortnightly Iceberger Newsletter.

No doubt the effects of Covid have been a positive on members numbers as more swimmers discovered the benefits and delights of swimming in the bay and become aware of the facilities of the RBYC.

Active daily swimming numbers are growing, particular mornings – (Tuesday/Thursday) and weekend are becoming increasingly popular. The café is now a hive of activity from 700am through the support and patronage of the early morning swimmers.

As was flagged in the previous report there has been a return to our normal activities with both the John Locco Winter Classic and the Olsen Hopper Summer Championship being held. A further highlight event growing in popularity is the Winter Solstice Swim which has come about through the efforts of Sam Paynter.

Recently the category inducted 19 new icebergers for 2022. This is the largest induction of icebergers. The Inductees were recognised at an official function held at the club on the 3rd of March in the presence of the Commodore.

Whilst Iceberger is not a category within the membership basis it is a status achievable by active members of the club recognized with a designated number and honour board inscription.

Currently there are 184 icebergers.

The 2022 inductees are:

Bruce Whan	Toby Simmons	John O'Donoghue
Sophie Stanford	Martin Tobin	David Waters
Elizabeth Shen	Ralph O'Shaughnessy	Simon Williams

Maree Paris

Tom Naylor

John McSweeney

Hamish Rodgers-Wilson

David Williams

Natalie Michelli

Jarrold Harrington

Kristine Dalton

Richard Owen

Justine Gallacher

As part of the function the Iceberger of The Year/International Swimmer to the year was awarded to Ria Bleathman.

This award is given to the person seen to embody the highest qualities of iceberging through achievement contribution and involvement. It is decided by the subcommittee and is made annually.

As we enter more temperate conditions traditional iceberging will return and tans will fade replaced by steaming red torsos and chattering teeth. Safety briefings will be held with the management of hypothermia and cold climate activities foremost in the sub-committees activities.

I want to thank the RBYC and in particular Commodore Niesje Hees for the continued support of the aquatic category and the Brighton Iceberging community.

Greg Wallace

Chair Aquatic Subcommittee March 17, 2023

Cleaner Sailing Sub-Committee

Report to the 2023 Half Yearly General Meeting of the RBYC

An extract from the Terms of Reference for the CSC includes:

“The purpose of the Cleaner Sailing Sub-Committee is to provide a platform for initiatives, information, advice and views to the General Committee on matters relating to the environment and sustainable practices within the Club.

The role of the Cleaner Sailing Sub-Committee is to assist the GC to identify and promote projects, operations, and activities within the Club to improve the environmental capital, and long-term environmental well-being of the RBYC community.”

In FY23 the CSC has focused attention in the following projects:

1. The Clean Marina Australia Program.

This is part of an international movement to improve marina ecological management. The International Council of Marine Industry Associations (ICOMIA) was created in 2005 to help coordinate this movement. In Australia the Clean Marina Program is run by the Marina Industries Association.

With CSC assistance, the General Committee has now endorsed the program and through the Sailing Office is pursuing Level 3 accreditation under the scheme. Currently there is difficulty in achieving compliance with water runoff and containment from the hard stand. Negotiations are continuing.

2. Sailors for the Sea

This international organisation runs a program of regatta accreditation focusing on environmentally responsible operations. It includes such measures as minimalisation of paper by using digital NOR and SIs and avoiding single use of water bottles and other disposable items. The Club has already instituted some of the required changes. Such measures are important to all and especially to the new generation of sailors. Sail Melbourne incorporated many of these practices as the Club moves toward formal accreditation.

3. Life Jacket Recycling

RBYC has joined with the LifeBag organisation to recycle out of date life jackets to become a series of products including durable hand and shoulder bags. Proceeds of the scheme are to be donated to a number of organisations including the Volunteer Coast Guard Service. A yellow bin for donations is located in the lower car park. There has been an excellent response from both members and the LifeBag organisation.

4. Marina Flotsam Program

The prototype flotsam bin and scoop has been in place throughout the current season. The original scoop disappeared and has been replaced by the CSC Mark 2 scoop.

The program has been compromised by members using the bin as a general rubbish bin in spite of the attached signage. The success and development of the initiative will depend on the co-operation of members. Helpful feedback has been received formally from David Bingham along with a number of oral comments from members. If involvement from members can be achieved this pilot program could be expanded.

5. Sail Recycling

Club administration is examining the Sails to Shelter organisation as a possible solution to the reuse of old sails. Sails to Shelter repurposes sails to become shelter in distressed international communities. Doyle Sails has announced their support and partnership with Sails to Shelter. Other possibilities include www.sailcycleshop and www.sailexchange.com.au.

A suitable location for the new locker for the deposition of old sails has been identified and passed on to the Assets Committee and Club administration. The CSC believe this locker would be the key to successful sail recycling at RBYC.

6. Other projects include providing advice on the disposal of obsolete fire extinguishers, flares and EPIRBs. Lithium-ion battery recycling remains a world-wide problem.
7. Through Commodore Niesje Hees, the CSC has been approached by the ORCV Commodore Cyrus Allen and PhD Candidate Lillian Stewart of the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies at the University of Tasmania. The plan is to collaborate and leverage partner clubs across the bay.

CSC Committee:

CSC foundation member Kirsten Mitchell has left this committee to pursue her plans for further extensive travel adventures. The CSC thank her for her major contribution to the committee activities.

Most importantly I would like to acknowledge and thank the members of the CSC for their individual and group expertise and dedication to the CSC.

Those members are Jennifer Pascoe, Kirsten Mitchell, Peter Demura and Kalpana Raghunathan Merrett.

Andrew Merrett

Chairman,

RBYC Cleaner Sailing Sub-Committee

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY ADVISORY GROUP

The IDAG has met twice since the 2022 AGM and continues to be committed to ensuring new and longstanding members from diverse backgrounds feel welcome at RBYC.

The theme for International Women's Day this year was "Embrace Equity". The day was celebrated with a slide presentation showcasing female sailors, which ran all day in both the members bar and the café, recognising also that it has been 40 years since women were admitted to the club as senior members.

The IDAG encourages club members to consider celebrating other themed days.

Some statistical analysis has been done on member data to better understand membership trends. More work is required to be confident of the results, but this does provide the potential to analysis membership data based on geographic location, age and gender.

- Some postcodes have greater membership numbers, which is not directly related to distance from the club
- Not only is the average age increasing, but more older members are joining as new members. This includes active sailing memberships.
- Gender distribution is more even amongst younger members.

It has been 2 years since a membership survey was conducted. The IDAG will be recommending to General Committee that a similar survey is conducted to enable comparison with previous data. This will assist in driving recommendations to subcommittees.

Inclusion and Diversity Advisory Group

Niesje Hees, Cassandra Treagus, Lallie Leckey, Josh Stuchbery, Marike Kopponel (external advisor)

March 2023

Karen Johns

Social Sub Committee Chair

23 February 2023

Social Sub Committee Report

21st March 2023

Social Committee Members

Karen Johns, Chair

Margaret Rowe, Sub Chair

Cath Hurley General Committee Representative

Committee

Sue Cassidy

Karen McCloskey

Kenn Williamson

Jacqui Provos

George Henderson

Sue Drummond

Helen Schaffer

Joyce Cosgrove

With a nod to the valiant seafarers of the past, RBYC celebrated the opening of the sailing season for 2023 with a Viking theme. While no raiding or pillaging was reported, the RBYC Vikings celebrated the festivities of the day with enthusiasm and gusto!

With an objective of providing more variety and added value to Friday nights the social committee introduced themed nights, commencing with an introduction to a new brand of sailing gear and in addition to the members draw, a free ticket for a lucky door prize.

This initiative is being extended to recognise once a month the different groups that make up our club. I hope that many members will join the celebration on Friday 3rd March when the Iceburgers will induct 14 new members.

On Friday 16th December we wished Farewell and Fairwinds to RBYC boats and sailors that were competing in the Sydney to Hobart and Melbourne to Hobart races. We welcomed the ORCV commodore to the members bar which was buzzing with excitement as these sailors anticipated their upcoming challenge.

Our commodore welcomed these sailors back on Friday 10th February as we celebrated wins and participation of our community in the sailing events over the summer holiday period. This celebration included all classes, Keelboats, Etechells, VXOnes, Lasers, 420's, 470's, RS100's, Quests 2.4's and IQFoils.

In the lead up to Christmas we were involved in the Lighthouse Wishing Tree to raise money for homeless youth. Our generous members raised \$750, which was gratefully received by the foundation.

Our Return to Sailing Gilligan's Island event was affected by inclement weather, and was moved to the members bar. A few members took advantage of the availability of a barbecue on the evening.

Why not try a sailing themed cocktail. This month it's the Caprice, which is a nod to the Sailing Lifts your Spirits initiative. And don't forget to dress in green and drink green beer in the members bar on St. Patrick's Day, 17th March.