



Name: Niesje Hees

Year first nominated for Membership of RBYC: 1991

Membership Term: Senior Member since 1993

Membership Status: Senior Member

Professional Background:

Following a long career as a Technology Management Professional, I decided to retire in 2018, which has provided me with more time for sailing and participation in yacht club and other sailing committee activities. I have had roles as a Program Director, Project Manager, General Manager and Management consultant, and acted in senior roles in a variety of industries including Financial Services, Utilities, Defence, Health and Transport.

Sailing experience:

I have been sailing the whole of my adult life, including 20,000 miles of cruising on my own boat, ocean racing, performance handicap racing, and one design racing. I have owned an Etchells for 21 years and enjoy regular club racing. I have also enjoyed assisting with organising regattas (the 2020 Etchells National and State Championships) and acting as an on-water volunteer.

RBYC Committee Experience:

I have had eight years of experience on the RBYC General Committee and took a break from this last year. During my time on GC I assisted with the development of the Club's Strategic Plan. I am currently the chair of the Inclusion and Diversity Advisory Group (IDAG) and have had 10 years as Secretary of the Etchells Melbourne Fleet. For the past two years I have been National Secretary for the International Etchells Class Association of Australia and am part of an International Etchells audit working group. I am keen to re-join the RBYC General Committee and leverage my committee and professional experience to support the club going forward.

Personal Objectives:

RBYC has done well to weather COVID-19, with a growing membership and several major challenges on the way to being resolved, including the pier repairs and the dredging. While the pandemic will continue to pose major restrictions, the club can continue to find new ways of engaging all sectors of the membership while at the same time implementing initiatives in accordance with the Strategic Plan. The sailing program is key to this, with agility as much of a requirement as planning. The challenge is to progress the Strategy through well-developed initiatives, while remaining responsive to the external environment and the changing requirements of members.