



**Name:** Niesje Hees

**Year first nominated for Membership of RBYC:** 1991

**Membership Term:** Senior Member since 1993

**Membership Status:** Senior Member

**Professional Background:**

I have held positions as a Program Director, Project Manager, General Manager and Management consultant in a variety of industries including Financial Services, Utilities, Defence, Health and Transport. I retired in 2018, allowing me to focus on sailing related volunteer roles. I returned to the workforce for 8 months in 2020, to work for an Aged Care provider during the COVID-19 crisis.

**Sailing experience:**

My sailing experience includes 20,000 miles of cruising on my own boat, ocean racing, performance handicap racing, and one design racing. I got involved in sailing in my twenties, and it has been a major part of my life ever since. As an Etchells owner for 23 years, I enjoy regular club racing both as skipper on my Etchells and as keelboat crew. I have been part of regatta organising teams (such as Etchells National and State Championships) and acted as an on-water volunteer. I continue to be an active sailor as both skipper and crew, as well as a volunteer at major regattas.

**RBYC Committee Experience:**

I have held the position of Commodore for the past year, following 9 years on General Committee. I have also been Secretary of the Etchells Melbourne Fleet for the past 12 years and National Secretary for the International Etchells Class Association of Australia for 4 years, which has included involvement in several international committees.

**Personal Objectives:**

The past year as Commodore has been extremely fulfilling and I feel fortunate to have had the time to commit to the role. It has been both challenging and satisfying to work to implement the Strategic Plan I helped put into place while on General Committee, and working closely with committees, members and staff in supporting and promoting our wonderful club.

There are several critical projects currently in train; including the finalisation of the seabed lease, acquisition of a permit to undertake dredging of the marina, and the forecourt development to improve access to the club. As well as seeing these to completion, I look forward to an exciting sailing season ahead.

It is important that new members find the club welcoming, and that long standing members have reason to maintain pride in their club. We are an important part of the community, and I will continue working to maintain strong relationships with other clubs and sailing organisations, as well as community groups and government agencies. My goal is that Royal Brighton Yacht Club is a welcoming and inclusive place for all who love sailing, and all who want to enjoy our rich history and magnificent waterfront location.