

Sailing Report - Half Yearly General Meeting of Members – 2025

The 2024/2025 sailing season began in earnest in October, with an enjoyable Opening Day Sail Past, Races, and 'Under the Sea' celebratory afternoon back at the clubhouse.

The wide variety of sailing activities offered by our club is indicative of our aim to foster inclusiveness, to collaborate with other clubs, and to do this in a way where attention is paid to safety.

At RBYC there is a regular schedule of racing for keelboats, One Design boats (Etchells, Dragons, VX-Ones and 2.4mRs etc), and Off The Beach boats (ILCAs, Optis, Quests and Foils etc) on most days of the weekends, and two afternoons and evenings during the week.

RBYC members have also participated, and shone, in racing organised by other clubs.

For example:

- ORCV (Ocean Racing Club of Victoria) Melbourne to Hobart as well as somewhat shorter races such as Melbourne to King Island.
- CYCA Sydney Hobart Race.
- Lincoln Week regatta
- PPWCS (Port Phillip Women's Championship Series). This will include our signature female skipper regatta BLISS in May.
- Geelong Festival of Sails.
- Cock of the Bay, and Petersville Regatta at Blairgowrie Yacht Club.
- Stonehaven Cup at RMYS

Sailing at RBYC also includes boats that sail without competing in organised racing. Sail boats, power boats, kiteboards, foils and paddleboards all have a place in the marina, on the hardstand, on the lawn and under the clubhouse.

They may sail within Port Phillip Bay or further afield. They may sail solo, or in a group such as 'Cruise in Company'.

'Sailing Lifts Your Spirits' provided an opportunity for health care workers to go out on members' keelboats on a Thursday evening in summer.

RBYC also runs regular training sessions, and coaching sessions, for adults, children and youth, including school holiday programmes.

RBYC also is the Organising Authority for numerous regattas.

2024/25 has seen us host numerous State & National Championships.

Two particular highlights bringing extraordinary talent to our club have been Sail Melbourne OTB regatta, run with the assistance of several other clubs, and the 2025 World Etchells Championship.

Regattas, and regular racing, place huge demands on both the Sailing Office and Volunteers.

Many members of RBYC contribute their time and their expertise. It is most rewarding to be part of such a team, but nevertheless, deserving of our grateful acknowledgement and thanks.

We encourage all members of RBYC to be involved in club activities.

Safety when sailing is of paramount importance. Protocols are in place but require regular practice and review. After the November storm requiring rescues across Port Phillip Bay, we are reviewing our safety protocols and risk management procedures.

My personal thanks to our Boating Manager Colin Burgess, and to the Sailing Committee; Glenn Ferguson, Paul Pascoe, Peter Robson, Rod McKenna, Peter Gebhardt, Geoff Adams, Michael O'Brien, Damon Cook and Brett Bowden

March 2025
Marnie Irving, Club Captain