

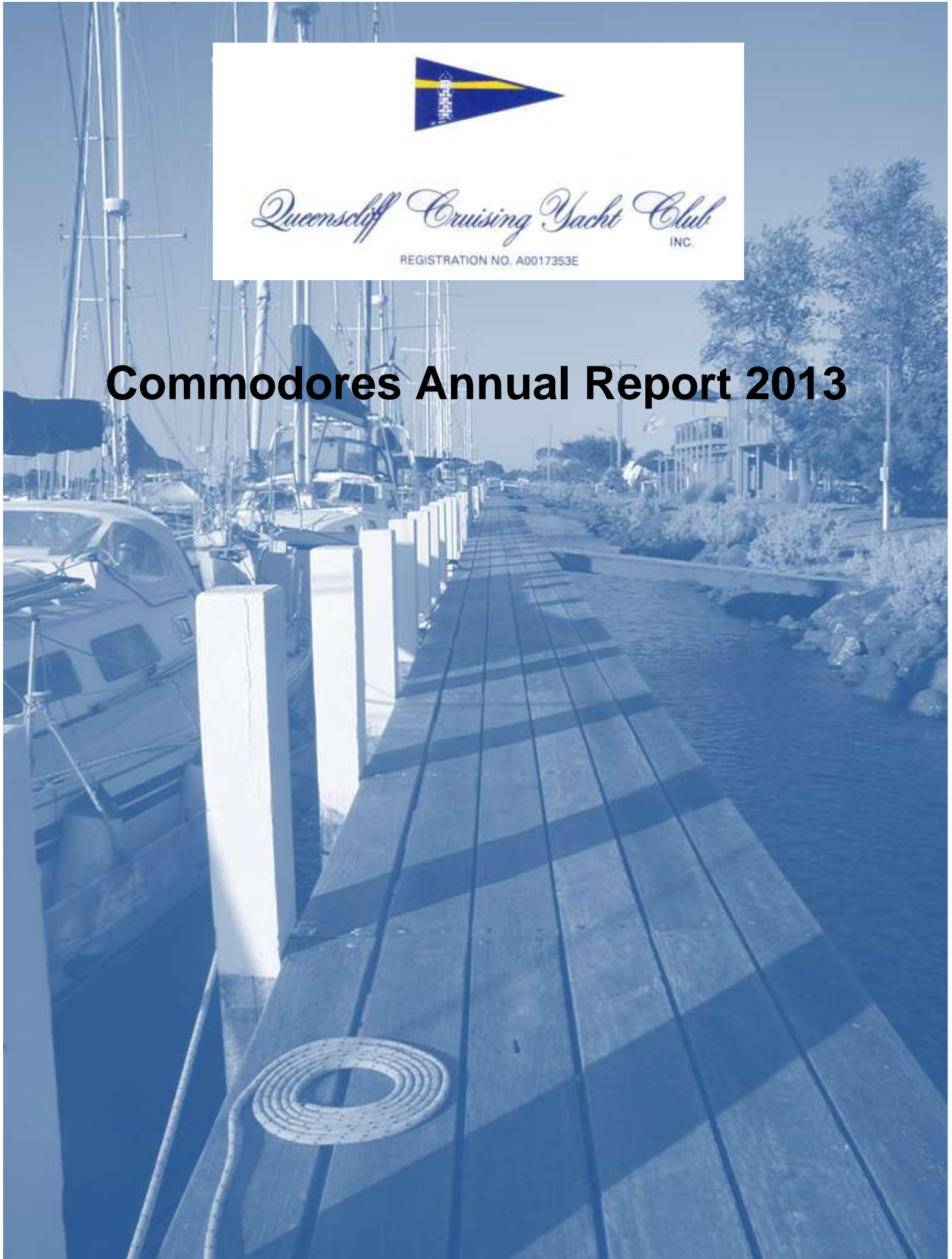


Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club

INC.

REGISTRATION NO. A0017353E

Commodores Annual Report 2013



Commodore's Annual Report 2013

Welcome everyone, members, friends, family and our Honorary Life Member and a personal thanks to you all for attending this AGM of QCYC on the occasion of our 51st Annual General Meeting. More importantly I report to you on our 50th year and the celebrations and events that surrounded a milestone in the history of QCYC.

Having been in the office for the past two years makes one consider all the efforts of members and committee in continuing to care for both the organisation and the facilities which give members and visitors a great deal of pleasure to visit.

It certainly is a privilege to lead a Club with such history and pride of place in Victorian yachting. The year has been busy and much has transpired, and indeed been achieved, by the Flag Officers, Committee and Members. My personal thanks and gratitude to all Committee Members for fabulous support as they took on all the tasks we were challenged with and came up with the goods in every instance. It was a delight to come to committee meetings!

Opening Day 2012-13

Opening Day was up to its usual standard with assistance once again from many members and a big vote of thanks to all the ladies who so generously give us a quality smorgasbord of delightful platters and allows us to satisfy our large number of special visitors and guests.

Father Peter Martin, our very own local Queenscliff pastor, again used the occasion to intensify experiences and bring us valuable and profound insights into the combination of celebration and remembrance around the Goorangai, local history and relevance of our heritage in sailing and boating. He was ably supported by Chaplain Barry Porter and our own member John McIntosh before casting his own local creation of the cross into the waters off the wharf in blessing the season opening.

Unfortunately we did not have the presence of Captain Kath Richards, our Patron from HMAS Cerberus as she was ill on the day but we delighted in hearing Cerberus' Commander Michael Oborn RAN who stood in Capt. Richard's stead recounting his own experiences in both the service and as a sailor and relating our club to his respect of QCYC's position as a club of sound standing in Victoria.

Again our local Maritime Museum representative Les Dusting provided a signal through the firing of his small cannon as Commander Mark Oborn broke the flag for opening of the season. Thanks to Les once again.

Christmas and New year Celebrations

As in past years we celebrated Christmas and New Year in style at the Club with a full house and wharf of Members and visitors including the usual "Prawns & Oysters" on New Year's Day. As expected, an overflowing Club saw a beautiful day and food put on again by our ladies supported by many male counterparts. The Committee thanks all who contributed to our favourite time during the holiday period.

Our January Opening of 50th year celebrations

And then, on Friday evening 18th January well over 100 members gathered at the club for a launch of the celebrations. Our thanks to security of Swan Island who manned the gate and allowed us a very late finish that night.

For all of the Members and friends who attended, this special celebration was fantastic and saw the launch of our special QCYC-labeled wines and a slide show of a trip through the ages and some of the events that QCYC is remembered for since its inception.

A quick synopsis of our history, put together with meticulous effort by past Commodore Darryl and Past Lady Commodore Betty Morrison was recounted by myself and Vice Commodore Roger Bennett to effectively launch the year's celebrations.

A superb effort and a night that will be remembered.

The Club overall in 2012-13

Everyone who has visited the Club in the past year will have seen and understood the development initiatives we are planning to undertake in and around this very special club and its premises in our lives.

Financially, through our good Treasurer, James Ide, you will see that we are in very good shape and continue to focus on balancing good amenities, members' activities and a community of active sailors along with many visitors.

We continue to grow and whilst we may be in difficult times with restricting time pressures, the Club and Members have served us well.

Individual visits to the Club by Members, has increased from near 1700 wharf -boat days to almost 1915 days in the past two years. Additionally we have seen an increase in visitors attending with and alongside Members from 460 to almost 700 in the same period.

Overall 223 boats berthed at QCYC with 80% (or 180) staying an average of 3 days with the overall average stay being 9 days.

The Club Property

Our property continues to be managed well and sighted as such by our managers in Parks many indigenous plantings in the past three years which are growing prolifically, especially thanks to some wet weather.

The causeway road has been very resilient in the past few years and whilst we experience significant tides and wind in July and August annually we have only seen slight damage during these times. Our expenditure has been significantly reduced in this area. The garden beds lined with saltbush alongside the causeway contribute to its stability and a more pleasant look to our access.

The access road to the east of the Clubhouse has improved traffic movement and drop off points for persons and supplies from vehicles have given us an openness we see at the front of the Club combined with lawn and our maturing plants around the buildings.

Major projects and Sub-Committees

Much concentration the past year has been on two major project issues:

Firstly we had a Sub-Committee, under the management of Vice Commodore Roger Bennett, working on the 50th Year Celebrations which has been enacted throughout 2013 with a small group working with Betty Morrison and combining the efforts of Commodore, Vice Commodore and Jonathan Crockett our Honorary Secretary. Betty took on the task of interviewing past Commodores and families to research our 50 years in ten year blocks.

Betty put together that wonderful 50th Anniversary Booklet that we launched at the 50th year luncheon at the Vue Grand Hotel in July and we combined that with the simultaneous launch of a DVD covering much of the history and photos that members have so generously given the club since its inception. My special thanks to Jonathan Crockett who despite limited knowledge of publishing did us all proud with the Anniversary Booklet ... a very big credit to Jonathan. Proves you are never too old to learn new tricks!!

The day was a brilliant success thanks most importantly again to the work of both our Lady Commodore Jill and Lady Vice Commodore Pam Bennett who diligently provided all the organisation and preparations for the day and indeed carried the day with very unique and topical table decorations, merchandise sales, auctions and more importantly a show bag for all to take away and enjoy at home. Our usual host in Bill Stubbs made a meal of it with interviews with three past Commodores and made the auctions a real hit but more importantly raising around \$2000 for Cottage by the Sea.

Indeed it would not have been a success without a few commercial donations that really allowed members wallets to open and gain some terrific results for themselves with hotel accommodation, wine package and framed prints with displays of our club.

Secondly we have a Sub-Group (not all committee), again under the management of Vice Commodore Roger Bennett, taking on the role of Building and Infrastructure which has taken an overall view of the Club house and its immediate surrounds toward a planned three year renovation of the fabric of the lounge, dining and recreational facilities. This group is coming up with a fairly comprehensive but annually managed plan to budget our way through ensuing improvements that will have longevity and allow us to expand for our larger visitations over holidays and special celebrations.

Wharf Upgrades

Our wharf, as our major asset, continues to be targeted for expenditure on an annual basis to ensure it is maintained with purpose and to current standards for the load and use we put upon it.

This year we have seen strengthening on the southern wharf, which was as a result of advice from consulting engineers combined with a small number of volunteers in the middle of winter....and this is continuing with the north wharf including plans to redeck the north wharf. We are already working on sourcing the necessary materials and this is in the hands of our Honorary Life Member Rex Prosser along with a number of volunteers who will assist. Special thanks to Rex and I might say ...to Anne for all their hours of work. There was a round of applause for Rex and Anne.

Our Bar and Upstairs Lounge

Our upstairs bar area and decking has seen many activities and continues to be well utilised even during the season specially with cruises visiting QCYC and taking advantage of the views and mixing this with each other's company.

Cruising Group

Fortunately we have not had any significant major incidents such as last year, with our activities, including cruising around QCYC in the past year.

The Goorangai race from Brighton before Opening Day was a good test and pleasant race those who raced will attest.

The November Cup weekend was a great success although on Sunday the basis of a quality long weekend convinced all to stay in port at QCYC and enjoy rather than venture across the bay.

The dinner at Royal Geelong Yacht Club on Saturday had almost 60 members and friends attend in a BBQ but with kind weather it was the place to be. Mal Billing has it organised again for this coming November.

Our planned Easter cruise to St Leonards was aborted in poor conditions but our good friends at St. Leonard's Yacht Club are promising to look after us this year in providing all amenities in a great relationship which will strengthen with further visits and exchanges.

And as always there were reciprocal visits between the Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron and Queenscliff, and we saw visits from

Royal Geelong Yacht Club for The RGYC Murray McAllister Perpetual Trophy,
Hobsons Bay Yacht Club following their race down the bay,
Royal Yacht Club of Victoria for the annual Phoenix Trophy Race,
Royal Brighton Yacht Club at the end of the Alan Robinson Race and the
Sandringham Yacht Club as part of their Benito's Treasure Race.

The Cruising Director in Mal Billings together with others seconded to the task has propelled some cruising activities and we are maintaining the effort to annually in February/March to get out there in Bass Strait and visit different locations.

Many thanks to Mal for a great job and congrats on his YV award for cruising including all the tasks undertaken between Sandringham and Queenscliff.

This last year again this was successful and was well supported by Royal Geelong and Sandringham yacht clubs. Additionally you can read an eventful account of Mal, Peter Geary and a few other intrepids who took on Tasmania's West Coast with success ... but the tale to be seen on the website is a must.

A number of other members and friends took on some if not all of the bi-annual Van Dieman's Land Circumnavigation on its 11th occasion and had some very good weather with sprinklings of other more formidable departures from the norm.

Working Bees

One of the things that is a large part of our volunteerism for all of us is the encouragement we get from all those of our members who turn up for working bees. There are only a couple a year and certainly the big one is coming up before Opening Day which will see the place turn into a social occasion over a BBQ to finish off. Many people see this as a once off to join with many old friends and have done so for many years. A tribute to all of us and volunteerism!

Orientation Days

The special orientation days continue to be a popular way we introduce new Members to the ins and outs of QCYC when we explain all the incidental items alongside the rules and regulations that govern our Club and attest to volunteerism as mentioned above. On each occasion we have seen somewhere near 15 and more new Members and their families attend and enjoy a BBQ lunch with us. The demonstration of our fire cart passes muster on each occasion and thankfully we have not found it necessary to use it in anger.

Newsletters and our Website

Again during this past twelve months we have authored a number of newsletters with topical information to make members aware of the goings on around the Club. As well as sending a number by "snail mail" (of which there are now only about 60), we are regularly publicising our activities and news about the Club through our website. The Committee and I thank our Past Commodore Ken Gayler for his role as Webmaster. This is important to us and hopefully to all Members in having information in one easily accessible spot without all that paper going around. I hope you enjoyed and read it with interest.

Yachting Victoria

As indicated last year this issue of membership is now dead and buried from the club's perspective. We are not continuing any dialog with YV and believe that there will be no representation from them.

Liquor License Changes

Many will remember that we indicated changes proposed in this area and indeed they were successful in passing through the Borough and Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation so that the "red line" of our license essentially contains all the grounds surrounding the club house and lawns ensuring we can safely and effectively manage this part of our responsibilities. This area now encompasses the mast to the water and north and south to the posts of the car park. Again we thank Jonathan Crockett for months of effort here and of course the obligatory excess payments to the Borough and Authorities to allow us to buy our way in.

Our Rules and By-Laws updated

Again, on behalf of all committee members I would thank Jonathan Crockett for his work in managing a big workload and keeping his eye on the ball continuously around our documentation, bylaws, rules and giving rise to changes, which you have seen as well, and ensuring the club maintains a sure footing in our policies. Much of this culminated in our Special General meeting mid year when we needed some focus on passing our modified Constitution before the authorities.

Jonathan's constant liaison with Past Commodore Ken Gayler who continues as our Web Master gives our Website presence and leverage when we discuss issues with our landlords in Parks Victoria and the Borough of Queenscliffe and insurers to name but a few.

On a Sad Note for the year

It was with sadness we heard of John "Curly" Robinson's passing in the last week of July after a long illness and incapacity. He was a champion of QCYC and its surrounds as well as resident for many years with the love of his life in Anna. On behalf of everyone we passed on our condolences to Anna and of course we duly toasted "Curly" at our celebration at the Vue Grand on the 21st July.

In Conclusion

I must personally thank our Lady Commodore Jill, my lovely wife, for her contribution to much of the success of what we have achieved this year particularly around the Xmas and New Year celebrations and the 50th luncheon in July when both her and Pam Bennett excelled themselves to make the 50th such a profound celebration for QCYC.

In a word this was a good year and thanks to all members, friends and families who stood together to make the year that was at QCYC even as we come to the conclusion of the 50th anniversary with our Opening Day in November.

Volunteerism is alive and well at QCYC in its absolutely unique position at the bottom of the bay! May it continue unabated!!

Thank you and fair sailing to you all.

Commodore Brian Golland
October 2013