



Commodore's Comments

AROUND THE CLUB

The year is flying along with activities at the Squadron in full swing. Since my last Commodore's comments, two cruises and a Nav Rally have been held in perfect boating weather. Fishing generally has been very good on Port Phillip; however our Fishing Director is not too happy as strong wind warnings forced the cancellation of some fishing events. Don't worry, Macca, your luck will change. A successful Tribute Band afternoon was held. The Parma night on the third Thursday evening of each month is growing in popularity. The jackpot for the Members' Draw on a Friday evening is rapidly growing, but remember you have to be there to collect if your number comes up. Over 100 members attended the working bee and as usual many hands made light work of many tasks around our grounds. Club activities are bubbling along very well.

However it would be even better if we saw more members and their families and friends at the Club. Spend your levy now whilst the Club house is a bit quieter over the winter period, rather than leaving it to the hectic period of January and February next year. It's your Club – enjoy it – support it.

SAFE HARBOUR

Again, little has changed since the last update in On Deck as we are still waiting for reports on preliminary studies on environmental and marine issues relating to the project. We had expected to have all required reports completed by the end of March, however the Authorities in their wisdom recently requested some further reports which slowed the process down. Speed is not as important as making sure we get all our documentation right for the Authorities. Some of the reports required by the Authorities are Aboriginal heritage, Australian heritage, cliff geomorphology, coastal processes, marine ecology and fossil assessment, and a collection of elevations, site cross section and a perspective of the site. The good news is that we are progressing and to date the experts have not found any "showstoppers" to the project.

These reports are being prepared as our next step in the planning process is a request to the Planning Minister that we do not need to do an Environmental Effects

Study (EES). Under the Boating Coastal Action Plan, BMYS is classed as a local facility and does not need to undertake an EES, however, we must still make application to the Minister not to do so.

We expect to lodge the Application to the Minister mid-May and to receive the permission not to do an EES mid-June. Our next step, after clearing with the Minister, is to proceed to preparation of an Application for a planning permit with Bayside City Council.

NEW MEMBERS

Recently, following individual interviews with a Director and a group induction (information) evening, thirty-six new members were admitted as members to the Squadron. Our attrition rate for each of the last two years has been about 5% of members which is down from about 10% a few years ago. After the induction we still have over fifty people on our waiting list for membership which means a lengthy wait for membership for some people.

LADIES COCKTAIL PARTY

The Commodore's wife invites all female members and members' partners to the Ladies Cocktail Party on Saturday 1st August 2009 at 6.00 pm at the Clubhouse. Would all male members please hand the enclosed brochure in On Deck to their lady and encourage them to book early as it is a fun night and an excellent way to meet other ladies.

Remember the downstairs bar is open for "male Chauffeurs" and great bar meals are available upstairs for all women and men from 8.00 pm.

OUR 50TH YEAR

This year marks the 50th year of our Squadron. Compilation of the book celebrating our 50 years has been completed by Shirley Videon and is with the publisher for printing. After much hard work by Shirley and many other people, the book is a great tribute to all the members who over the years have built the Squadron to the successful club it is today. Members will receive a copy of the Book.

Big celebrations of our 50th year will take place at our Sail Past (opening day) weekend in October.