



RICHMOND YACHT CLUB

Mr President, fellow Officers, Committee and Club Members,

Welcome to the 121st Annual General Meeting of the Richmond Yacht Club. Thank you all for attending. In previous years, the Commodore and Secretary have presented separate reports, however it was decided following the 2024 AGM that this year's report, and future reports, on the Club's activities would be combined.

Racing

Our racing season this year was mostly successful, after previous years' bad luck in the form of contaminated water, cyclones and a worldwide pandemic. We saw fewer entrants into our Wednesday Night Series compared to the previous year, but more entrants in the Winter Series. Highlights of the season include the revamped 3x3 Summer Blast, in a pursuit-style format, and over 70 entrants to the Friday Night Special series.

Administration

The Club Administrator role was held by Sharon Hill until February of this year, when Kerry Bevan returned from maternity leave. On behalf of the all members, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to both Sharon and Kerry for their work this year.

Membership

Our membership numbers have increased marginally since 2022, reaching 291, however remain stubbornly below our late 2010s membership of around 330.

Membership Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
General	49	46	54	53	50
General Family	70 (35 couples)	72 (36 couples)	64 (32 couples)	62 (31 couples)	62 (31 couples)
Veteran	29	29	27	30	26
Veteran Family	16 (8 couples)	14 (7 couples)	14 (7 couples)	14 (7 couples)	8 (4 couples)
Associate	18	14	15	15	16
Associate Family	36 (18 Couples)	16 (8 Couples)	18 (9 Couples)	10 (5 Couples)	6 (3 couples)
Crew	78	63	57	79	99
Junior	1	0	0	0	1
Total Paid Members	297	254	249	263	268
Life Members	11 (incl 5 couples)	12 (incl 6 couples)	12	14 (incl 6 couples)	14 (incl 6 couples)
Honorary Members	14 (incl 2 couples)	14 (incl 2 couples)	14	12 (incl 2 couples)	9 (incl 2 couples)
Total Members	322	281	275	289	291

Incorporated Society Act

This Club is registered under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908, but must re-register under the 2022 Act by April 2026. At this year's AGM, our members will vote upon a new Constitution which is one step in this re-registration. Your Committee has put considerable work into this new Constitution and I encourage members to approve the proposal.

Building Operations

Our Club has seen two major updates this year: to the heaters and to the carpet. While both naturally involved considerable capital outlay, they also required considerable work behind the scenes to arrange. I thank Keith Bekker and David Cashmore for their efforts in this regard.

Health & Safety

Richmond Yacht Club is committed to maintaining high standards of Health and Safety and actively supports skippers in fulfilling their responsibilities. This year, we developed and published a safety plan alongside the crew briefing checklist. Both documents are available on the club's website, and we encourage all skippers and crew to review them.

We are pleased to report that no incidents—on water or on land—were recorded in connection with our racing program this year. However, we remind all members to report any incidents to the club to ensure ongoing safety for everyone involved.

Venue Hire and Bar

Hiring out the Clubhouse is an important source of revenue for the Club, and the focus has been on more Day Hires (with no bar) and fewer Evening Hires (with bar) - and then looking at Evening hires that have less 'party' characteristics. We have had growing success in finding regular hirers for both weekdays and weekends and through certain evenings.

One notable event this year was the Sail GP weekend, and this along with the range of functions, the regular post race openings have made for attractive bar takings. A number of members have stepped up to work behind the bar and also do Liquor Controller Qualifications (which allows us more flexibility with Evening hires) so thanks to all of these members.

To support our efforts in securing Day Hires, I encourage Club Members to spread the word to their friends, work colleagues and business associates, about the potential of Richmond Yacht Club for their business meetings, courses and off-site days. Feedback is always consistent that it is a great location, fantastic views and lots of parking.

Sponsorship

Our sponsors' ongoing generosity enables us to provide racing events and prizes for our skippers and crews, and we are immensely grateful for their support. I would like to take this opportunity at our AGM to thank them on the club's behalf.

This season at Richmond Yacht Club, sponsorship remained strong, allowing us to host races and post-race prize-giving events. Most support comes in the form of product and voucher prizes, while cash sponsorship helps fund promotions, event expenses, and additional prizes.

We are fortunate to have loyal sponsors, including CRC, New World Victoria Park, Sailutions, Burnsco, and Victoria Cruising Club (Friday Night Special). Route 66 enjoys continued backing from Burnsco, Safety at Sea/Kiwi Yachting, and Sailutions, with PredictWind, Ropeye, and Mariner Marine Insurance providing spot prizes.

We also appreciate the ongoing sponsorship of Coolstore Construction, Excel Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Floating Dock Service, Harken Fosters, Coastguard Boating Education, Safety at Sea, Musto, Marine Deals, YachtShare, and Mount Gay, which supports our tradition of awarding rum spot prizes.

This year we welcomed a new sponsor, SeamTech, who have provided crew bags as Summer and Winter spot prizes.

We deeply value our sponsors and look forward to continuing these partnerships while enhancing their promotion. I encourage all members to support our sponsors and mention Richmond Yacht Club when using their products and services.

Looking ahead

I feel pleased and encouraged by the work that the Committee has taken this year to help secure Richmond's future at Westhaven and I'm heartened to see the number of members who have been nominated to serve on the Committee this coming year. I would note, however, that every year it becomes harder to find members willing to step into the officer roles and I offer a gentle caution that the future of Richmond is most threatened not by sea-level rise, nor cyclones, nor local government, but rather eventually by no-one stepping forward to take on these crucial positions of flag officers, secretary and treasurer. I urge members to consider whether their skills and talents might one day serve the Club in one of these roles. My two years as Commodore have been challenging but fulfilling and I am happy knowing that I leave the flag in good hands. Thank you everyone for your attendance tonight and your support of the Club.

Chris Crone

Commodore 2023-25