



Queenscliff's Maritime Weekend

March 23 thru 25, 2012

A long weekend of activities for all – Queenscliff sailors bring home the bacon!! – (2nd Edition courtesy of SSCBC)



I feel like Paul Simon....."There were incidents and accidents....There were hints and allegations"

Friday.....

It all started on Friday night with "Fishy Tales" and for those who endured the long night there were stories and pics for everyone.

Our friends at the Maritime Museum through the committee with Les, June and Peter put on a show that encompassed drinks, great eats and better stories for all.

The Zanoni's took the big share with Cpt Dean and his pilot, ships and overseas scenes, with finally Lana's stories of the "Couta", led by a great story by Michael Golding of crossing Bass Strait in a "Couta".

Saturday.....

Saturday morning loomed with the story of a Fishing Trawler sunk off Point Nepean, before we all gathered at the harbour to witness and hear the "Blessing of the Fleet" under Les Dusting's leadership and Lewis Ferrier's "quota style" this year. Thanks to the Sea Scouts, Piper Eric Christie, Rev Charles Gallacher, and Father's Peter Martin and Michael Richardson along with the "Melodaires" who gave the crowd a taste of the 60's in song.



Look out for photos this week in the Bellarine Times by Mike Chambers.

A lunch of fish and chips for all entered crews, courtesy of QHPL and it was out to racing with a mixed fleet of Couta's, trailables and keel boats to run three separate courses in the bay off Queenscliff.

A serious Dave Cross looks on for inspiration as the race time nears!

Fishy Tales
In the boatshed
QUEENSCLIFFE
MARITIME MUSEUM
Friday 23 March 2012
7.00pm
Tickets \$15.00



Light supper provided
Cash bar

Mixed racing in this environment with swift tides caught many of the Sorrento competitors by surprise with obviously differing results to those expected in the three divisions of racing. The course consisted of at least one sausage and a triangle course with the windward leg first from the pier souwesterly to the top mark off to a gibe mark off Pope's Eye Pile and down to the start buoy.

This course was fairly long with starting at 1400 and finishing close to 1630.

An incident out on the course saw a couple of Couta's come together in collision but otherwise a clean event.

The only spinnaker for the day was courtesy of Steve Lee in Chinon with a good try but no champagne!!



At the Maritime Museum afterwards

for the presentations Tim Phillips of the Wooden Boat Shop together with Les Dusting, our Commodore Jill and SSCBC awarded the first Couta home in Div 2 to David Cross in Defiance (white jumper) who also claimed the Handicap honours for this division. Nicely done Dave!! (plus Barb and Tom of course!!)

Div 2 handicap others from QLYC, were 3rd Rosie, 7th Fancy, 8th Maud and a DNF to Drizabone.

Note: Maud was relegated to Div2 even though she is a Div1!! In Div 1 Romy from Sorrento took the line honours with Rip claiming 1st on handicap.

In Div 3 Tintagel and Colin Bishop with 2nd place taken out by Steve (aka "Sam") Lee (as referred to in the Sorrento presentation)

In the Keelboat division the only competitor won under the hand of Austin Swain on "Savant" albeit on the wrong course!



In capping off our successes the crews returned to the QCYC (Cruising Club) clubhouse for a round of drinks and a celebration BBQ.

Sunday.....

Sunday was a more sedate affair with Commodore Jill holding a crew briefing at the harbour early before crews and skippers went out for the annual memorial passage race from the Pier out into the Bight, around "Rosebud with Lewis Ferrier" and returning to finish at the "Pope's Eye Annulus".

However due to timing and the lacklustre wind and tide, the fleet opted to use the

"iron mainsail" (motor) to the rounding mark before sailing down to the Annulus. This race was called "Abandoned".

An incident between the races, with Paul Ingham as crew on Chinon, saw him with a "popped" knee and a painful injury requiring Steve Lee to quickly transport him to shore.

With time to spare, lunch was observed at the Annulus, before waiting for the ferry to start the annual "Race the Ferry".

The Ferry gave every starter 10 minutes start and as with a sternchaser all yachts started late on their times and pursued the ferry to little avail as the Skipper turned on a little speed and defeated the yachts by mere metres. Second was Chinon followed by Tintagel and Maud.

Credit is hereby given to Colin Bishop for his single handed racing on Sunday and arriving as a third place - nice one Colin!!

There was to be a finish boat provided by the Queenscliff Coast Guard **but...** just prior to the start sequence, with the Coast Guard close at hand, a Sorrento Charter Boat (Big Blue") ran itself up on the rocks of the Annulus, fairly severely, but was able to free itself



and was escorted back to Queenscliff and dry docked under surveillance of the Coast Guard. Our Commodore had predicted an event like this may happen at briefing, and we wish we had money on her advice with "CentreBet"!!!!

Worse still, the start buoy, under influence of the strong tide at the Wedge took off and resulted in a start between a moving buoy and the navigation marker on the Annulus!! Swan watched proceedings from a distance!!

Post the race, at the Maritime Museum ("we have to stop meeting like this!"), the presentations went ahead with all crews present together with another nice afternoon of savouries and a quiet drink provided courtesy of the staff and friends.

Matt McDonald of Sea Road Ferries, assisted by Les and Jill, handed out trophies to the Ferry and those involved in the weekend festivities as a thank you to all the efforts of preparation and execution over the three days.

And to top it off...Tom Fricke and "Drizabone" topped the incident table with a nasty gash in the side when pushed into a pontoon as the Pilot Boat left the harbour as Tom entered!!

The "Grub" as author of this article and the decision maker in the "Annual Mishap Award", is excited by all the weekend activities and so many points accumulation by so many toward this trophywould be to understate the obvious.....Keep it up Skippers.....awesome work by all mishapers!!

