



# Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

## Discover Sailing continues in 2016

– Sunday February 21, 2016

### Another perfect day for off the beach activities at the Club on Swan Bay.

After a huge night of celebrations at the Club House with the Benfell's Saturday wedding it was a bright and beautiful day that greeted us in preparing for another Discover Sailing Day on Swan Bay.



As previously the committee members and friends started early with getting things in order for our second last OTB day this year. Food, BBQ, umbrellas, shade, canoes and kayaks, club dinghies and all that goes with sailing and water sports were being assembled, checked and sorted out before the first visitors and sailors started arriving at 11 am.

Our consistent advertising in the local papers has revved up our enquiries and attendees as have the calls and emails to the club.

With our enhanced fleet of dinghies we now boast three Sparrows, a Spider, a Sabre, and a Pacer the club and our small team of committee under Geoffrey Mathews have been carefully rekitting them for launch and had them sitting on the lawn awaiting use.



And additionally we have a great fleet of YMCA canoes, Sea Scouts paddle boards and some miscellaneous craft for the adventurous who want something different in the way of water sports.

A further eight life jackets have been donated to the club recently by a Bellerive Yacht Club (Hobart) through one of their yachts "Good as it Gets" sailing

through Queenscliff, with skipper Ian Marshall lightening the load on his way to Tassie.

At 11am it is all under way with arrivals signing on and having some initiation before taking off with some of our experienced skippers as the rising tide assists launches.



Preparations also include ensuring our rescue boat (RIB) is placed, fitted and ready for use.

All visitors are duly impressed with our facilities, varied activities and enthusiasm for these special days of sport on Swan Bay.

As always Frank made sure the BBQ was ready with Jill whilst other club members sorted out the boat shed and assisted a few members with their own craft.

Our advertising with our burgee and flags flying appropriately on our flag pole show the passers-by the activity at the beach.

*(Signs were not out on the roadside as the local Borough Council prohibits advertising of our events on the roads leading to the club.)*



With skippers of dinghies assigned to Colin Bishop, John Barry, Ross Nitz, Dave Hatton and Colin Gibbs, our beach co-ordinator in Geoffrey is busy directing traffic around the front of the club house and on the lawn ensuring they were kitted in life jackets and ready to go.

Alex and Catherine were in control with assisting as people and families arrived. Alex sorted out the paperwork and registrations, ensuring all participants wore appropriate apparel for their adventure.



The work put in by our skippers was excellent as they continued well into lunch time before breaking for the traditional sausage, salad and drink.

The front deck of the club was crowded with visitors and friends under our shade and umbrellas and making the place inviting as lunch was taken.

Even our old friend Ross got out there and made light of some of the activities...top hat and all!



Attendances for the day were over 80 with all registering and quite a number indicating their preference to return and become members of our club.

We take pride in trying to manage all the youngsters and parents or guardians with getting out on the water and enjoying a discover sailing even though some minor blemishes of skill are soon mastered and the faces as they return show that we have had an impact.

The inflatable rescue boat "Cygnet", skippered by Brian and Frank looked after some wayward sailors and a couple of groundings on the sand banks further out in Swan Bay.



AND as is usual Frank McMahon, our 'master BBQ chef', ably assisted by Jill (in apron) took their role seriously ensuring everyone was supplied with sausages and that the salads were enjoyed as drinks and food seemed to disappear quickly and sausages eaten later into the afternoon.

The gentle 10 to 12 knot breeze was perfect post lunch especially for canoes whilst the more adventurous take a ride on a number of our dinghies on offer along with our skippers.

The afternoon is spent trying out or just lazing about with friends, family and members of the club as visitors left.

Many thanks to all who organised, helped and made the day a real success....



Our man Geoffrey was pleased with the outcome of the day and in his usual laid back style as we began the task of packing up...well done to all!

Again...also thanks to the Queenscliff Herald and our friends Carmel and Alan who continue to do a lot of publicity for our club ....the advert worked again... thanks...

***As always the anticipation of our next day which we have scheduled for .....***

***Sunday April 3 ... be there!!***

Please come and join with us for a great experience and almost no cost!

Special thanks to:

Skippers – John Barry, Colin Bishop, Dave Hatton, Colin Gibbs, Brian Golland, Geoffrey Mathews

Safety Officers – Frank McMahon and Brian Golland

Ground Crew – John Barry, Alex Eagleson, Brian Golland, Wendy Duncan

Rescue Crew – Frank McMahon (+BBQ), Jill Golland

Registrations – Alex Eagleson

Kitchen, meals and refreshments – Jill, Frank and Catherine

