



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

QCYC "Goorangai Memorial" Race Sat November 12, 2016

It was a different race from Royal Brighton to Queenscliff with surprising outcomes....but wot a race!

It was talked about for weeks at briefing and on the ether as to whether "Hughie" would allow this event to be held...

With so many events at so many clubs being cancelled due to high winds and storm warnings in recent weeks, it was a solid few who left Queenscliff to sail to Brighton on the Friday, although the forecasts looked promising for Saturday's race.

An enjoyable trip up for those who participated with Sundance, Imagine and Boomaroo taking in the sights of Port Phillip Bay and enjoying a Friday night at Sandringham and Brighton clubs before the race on Saturday.

There were seven (7) starters that sought out the starting line with a few more who had entered but not made the journey to the line.

Four of the starters were also competitors in last year's race and looking to improve their lot this year. They were Uluwatu, Dream Catcher, Marni and Happy Hour.



Entrants this year also included QLYC yachts Imagine, Sundance and Boomaroo who had taken Friday as a shakedown on

their way from Queenscliff in preparation.

Unfortunately, Doug Curlewis and his Clubman8 Kinsale3, had aborted the voyage from Queenscliff on Friday after weather warnings, so was a non-starter.

At 9.30am the race got underway courtesy of race officials at Royal Brighton Yacht Club and whilst the race certainly started it was only in very light winds and yachts vying for the line can in close proximity to each other during the start.

Both Imagine and Boomaroo came very close during the start providing skippers with some tense moments.

Post the start it was different courses for different horses as the fleet split with Uluwatu going more south easterly almost on a rhumb line with Sundance but she then moved westerly whilst others more westerly toward the West Channel.

Due to the light and fluky wind early in the race, it was spinnakers and larger headsails that prevailed and of course all competitors chasing the breeze. Boomaroo whilst holding a #1 also took the chance to hoist a yankee in an effort to hold her place with the fleet.

However nearing the West Channel Pile it was the wind both freshening and changing direction that saw competitors looking to sail changes and reefing as the heavier wind took to the fleet.

Out front it was Uluwatu leading from Imagine, ahead of Dream Catcher, Sundance, Marni with Boomaroo around 20 minutes astern of the fleet. Sundance was vying closely with Happy Hour but Sundance was making better of the challenge down the west channel.

Boomaroo had been hard at it and took some time out with a headsail change taking longer than expected but maintaining good speed.

Marni provided some competition to Sundance and the fleet earlier but settled for a more sedate run ahead of Boomaroo whilst Uluwatu maintained her lead but chased by Imagine before making tacks toward the finish at Queenscliff.



All yachts sailed



more easterly out of the West Channel but then required two tacks to make it back to the finish line which was between the QCYC Club House and the Port Creek Mark and no one able to hold to windward and make the line with less effort....this made life difficult with the Ferry giving some grief to a few finishing so close to their berth.

Life was tough toward the finish as the weather had worsened to over 30 knots from the south west off St Leonards and most competitors looked eagerly toward the finish at Queenscliff and the solace of QCYC club house and a quiet drink.

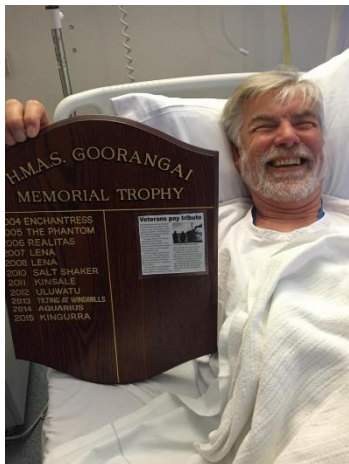
At the finish off Queenscliff, it was line honours for Uluwatu with Peter Geary and Mal Billings seeking better than their third placing in the 2015 event.



Unknown to competitors, Chris Laker Skipper of Imagine, had been laid low all day after feeling ill at the start of the race and was not improving as Imagine berthed with the crew calling an ambulance to attend and Chris was taken to Geelong for hospitalisation. Chris has remained in care at Geelong subsequently and tests being taken for remedial work by surgeons.

And on Boomaroo, skipper Tom Hinton had been feeling off colour toward the end of the race coming ashore and resting at the club house before going home after the results were announced. He also ended up in Geelong being hospitalised for tests next morning but has returned home on medication on Monday.

Wow.....!



And even the crew were excited and back in the hospital bed even the patient had a smile for the camera!!



Back at the club it was some while before results were calculated and checked and in the end it was Commodore John Mooney that announced the final classifications.



On handicap, it was the S&S34 "Boomaroo" with Tom Hinton, Alison and Suzie Alderson taking first place, And "Imagine" with Chris Laker and crew in second place and finally "Happy Hour" with Brendan Lee and crew in third place.

Others followed in Uluwatu, Dream Catcher with Richard Burgess, Sundance with John Barry and finally Marni with Ian Staley.

With both first and second placegetters needing some medical care this race has to be among the classics of the "Goorangai Memorial Race".

But, then again, it might have been the pressure of "clubmanship" with QLYC yachts taking the first two places!!

Well done to all competitors and congratulations for being part of this special race and to QCYC as the host club for such an important part of history.

QLYC Next Club Racing start: Is on....

SAT Nov 17th with the Champagne Stern Chaser Followed by the Commodore's Champagne Reception at the club house. AND ...We will announce results as well!

Meet at the harbour outside the QHPL Shed.....at Noon.

