



## **Profile– Bob Mayne**

**– Honorary Life Member.**



A veteran yachtsman and typical quiet adventurer, Bob Mayne takes his sailing very seriously and is totally committed to achieving the very best with the modest style which only he exhibits.

Bob originally bought into a briquette and ice delivery operation in Hastings which he ran until 1969.

But also as a young man, Bob commenced his life long ambition as a teenage CFA volunteer, promoted to Captain of Hastings Brigade in 1967, joining the permanent staff in '69 and being stationed at Dandenong before quickly moving to Wangaratta ('71-74) and spending most of his working life at Geelong. He was promoted briefly to Officer In Charge at Belgrave before retiring to Point Lonsdale.

He still is actively part of the CFA volunteer contingent of the Wallington brigade.

Sailing took over a big part of Bob's life way back with his first sailing in an old heavy Sharpie at Hastings in 1953, when as part of a young group of sailors, formed the Hastings Yacht Club around that time.

Football and sailing were Bob's interests alongside the skirts that followed him around including Heather before they wed in 1956.

However Bob's prowess in the footy club impressed them so much that they made him a life member of the Club.

Typical of Bob, never one to focus on anything once he had mastered it, he dropped the Sharpie for a 12ft Kittycat Catamaran before then going on to build a 24ft Young (NZ) designed, 4 berth catamaran in 1965 thru 1968.

Bob held the fastest time for over 20 years and was a winner of the Hastings to Crawfish Rock race ...

Bob sold the yacht to Bernard Dowd of lingerie fame who spent a fortune on refurbishment before having it wrecked on the beach during a storm shortly thereafter.

Whilst at Wangaratta Bob sailed a Heron as a pastime but he never got very serious with racing at that point.

However when he and Heather moved to Geelong in '74 he purchased a TS16 called "Ebony" and spent time getting her equipped before competing with GTYC to race including the "Marley Point" and "Geelong to Queenscliff" races.

During this time he also crewed with Ken McAllister in his "Cole 23" for a few years.

In 1980 our adventurer Bob, set sail as crew with Geoff Woods on the "Ile Ola" a 50ft schooner, in racing from Geelong to Suva (Fiji) and return. Eager to achieve Bob purchased a Thunderbird "Tambo II" soon after in '85, loaning it to a USA group assisting in crewing it to a 4<sup>th</sup> place in the world titles in Geelong.



"Tambo II" and crew of David Cass and Barry Feaver gained a 2<sup>nd</sup> and two 3<sup>rds</sup> in the Victorian titles in 1988-89.

Bob also achieved Summer and Autumn Series and the Irwin Trophy in 1987/8 with Tambo II. His love affair lasted for 5 years with the Thunderbird selling her in 1991.

Three years later Bob was at it again and bought a Sonata 7 in "Iluka" and retained his reputation for winning further races with QLYC.

Again Bob and crew tackled the Victorian Sonata titles and came up 2<sup>nd</sup> in '92-3, and '95 and 3<sup>rd</sup> in '94.

He was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Victorian Trailable Passage Series 1994.



Bob jumped ship again buying another yacht in an RL24 in 1998 which he named "Rumline". This was a lighter and more trailable yacht used for touring as well as racing, and winning amongst other trophies, the QLYC Club Aggregate in '98-9.

Again after 3 years, Bob changed over the RL for an



Austral 20 "Impulse" which he bought direct from the builder in Adelaide. True to form he won the QLYC Club Aggregate and CBH in both 2001-2 and 2003-4.

Evidence of his competitive nature is the record of the titles Bob has commandeered over twenty odd years.

- 1988-90 Victorian Thunderbird Titles - a 2<sup>nd</sup> and twice 3<sup>rd</sup>,
- 1991-6 Victorian Sonata 7 Titles – 3 times 2<sup>nd</sup> and a 3<sup>rd</sup>,
- 1994 Around Mud Island – Winner Div 2 and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Passage Series,
- 1994 and 2002 Irwin Trophy
- 1995-6 Trailable Passage Series – 2<sup>nd</sup>,
- 1995-6 QLYC Winner Mishap Award - Iluka
- 1998-9 QLYC Club Champion Aggregate with Rumline,
- 1998-9 QLYC Winner Mishap Award - Rumline
- 2001-2 QLYC Winner Handicap & CBH with Impulse,
- 2003-4 QLYC Winner Handicap & CBH with Impulse.

Bob maintains his industrious behaviour, supported by a number of people of the club including Jack Golightly Jnr, another life member, who together have maintained the club in its best condition given the age and elements the club has endured.

### **Bob's misadventures!!**

It would not be fair if we didn't say something of the adventures and misadventures of Bob's sailing.....1999 was a very good year!!!

In Feb 1999 Bob was preparing for the Swan Bay race (or Mac's Jetty) and as we know Bob, known to all as a careful individual had completed some preparatory maintenance work on his boat during the week and was cheerfully driving away from home for the launch, when he noticed in his rear view mirror, the bow bobbing around on the trailer.

"Oh No! I've forgotten to clip the winch to the bow" said our Bob, and with the boat loose on the trailer....applying a little brake on the car and moving to the side of Jordan Rd, Bob noticed the boat moving forward on the trailer and starting to pass him!!

At this point the boat is bow down, off the trailer and into the bushes beside the road with the stern across and halfway down the trailer.

"Don't think I'll be sailing today!" was our Bob's explanation as he ran back to home, obviously expecting the effervescent Heather to wave the magic wand and instantly provide solace to the situation!!

Well, after 30 minutes of toil and with the help of some good intentioned neighbours, Bob has carefully pulled the boat back onto the trailer under the power of a four wheel drive with



having added a good few black marks to the bottom of the RL. Reliable Heather was caught on film walking away from the scene with the assisting plank of wood under her arm on her way back to the house to make the lunches for the day's sail!! Bravo was the word!!

And yet again in Autumn of 1999 or Black Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> March saw a number of major disasters strike the fleet. Our Bob, in the race, was struck by a large gust and as Rumline heels over with an unfortunate new crew member on the main, Bob finds himself laying the mainsail in the briny. This was bad enough, but made even worse by the fact that Bob had made the decision not to put the pin in the keel ....bad decision for the day in question and as Bob is thinking....She'll come back... there is a sickening thud as the keel slides back into the boat and over goes Rumline to dip the mast to the sea floor. All boats hear the call from Betty Cosford and Swan Rescue with Trekka are quickly on hand to assist the crew.

In the end Maud with Brett Almond and crew, together with Peter Norman and Jane Abbott succeed in getting Bob back safely to the pens.

Suffice to say that this was Bob's year with his name inscribed on the Mishap Award.

As with all good club officials, Bob has always had the support of Heather as his partner and co worker, in social events, sailing as crew, cruising and a real behind the scenes doer.

It is with the utmost regard for Bob Mayne that in 2005 the club awarded honorary life membership for his unfailing and quiet contribution with achieving so much for the Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club over such a lengthy period in active sailing, committee, flag officer, maintenance and support.

