



## Alan Holmes with “Mars” & “Sallywag”

- Honorary Life Member

Alan Holmes was the well known editor and self confessed “Grub” of the Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club in the 1990’s through the early 2000’s.

Alan loved to scour the perimeters and depths of the membership in his undying efforts to uncover the truth and insider info of members odd activities and then reporting in depth with license to the amusement of all who read Swan News over at least 8 or more years.



Alan is now retired and an Honorary Life Member of QLYC, in his 80’s, was a very active and resourceful member of the club, maintaining a constant vigil on the overall activities of the club and its members over many years.

A scout and sailor at heart, Alan commenced his love of the sport sometime in his latter years following a family house move to Point Lonsdale from Woodend in the 1970’s and the purchase of a red hulled 125 skiff called MARS that he bought from a fellow in Geelong, dragging his young son Stephen along as he had sailed as crew and skipper in 125s with the YHA sailing group.

Alan quickly realised that he needed to adapt to the unique environment of tides and channels with being towed back to Queenscliff from the jaws of the Rip and almost walking back home on Swan Bay through the mud when tides stranded MARS. Even the Alma Doepell has not been the same since Alan and son almost collided with her in the bay.

Sailing with QLYC got to Alan in a number of races but the 125, with Alan at the helm, didn’t respond well with the fleet quickly gathering them up and waiting for his return much later than expected. It wasn’t good to be lapped on the first few outings!

Finally Alan purchased a trailer sailer in Sallywag, a 16 foot Hartley to which Alan fitted his own gadgets and ideas.

Alan was one who was fortunate to have sailed with a number of the original members of the Swan Bay Boat Club in Cec Anderson, Ray Raison, Alex Eagleson, Jack Golightly and Gil Allbutt.

He experienced crewing for Ron and Lex Wilks in Luff Affair and later with Bill and Betty Cosford in Trekka and Golden Lady.

Alan was never planning to be the world beater with QLYC and just went about his love of sailing with diligence, skill and consistency.

Alan showed so much promise in support of the club that his time as editor and Secretary of the club 1995 through 1998, he soon took on full time the position of editor.

Never one to duck for cover when asked, Alan has happily and willingly acted as Secretary and Treasurer, as well as a number of years as a committee member, whilst maintaining his avid pursuit of the news.

Kerry Packer would have been proud to have Alan as a staff member.

The serious story, comedy and cartoons as well as the twist of stories was Alan's art in providing a difference and regularity to Swan News on a monthly basis, without missing a beat.

Known by all and sundry across the local community, Alan has contributed in every way to all the groups which he invades marking out his special territory and helping in many different avenues including Cubs, Scouts, Seniors and Probus.

Even for the celebration of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday his family looked no further than to use his favorite clubhouse at QLYC for having his friends around and enjoy the friendship and surrounds.



Alan was not one for winning trophies or holding positions of seniority in the club, and crewing helped him refine his skills whilst he contributed to many well sought after victories in his career with other skippers.

Alan used his editorial and computer skills in the special 50 year celebrations of the QLYC assisting the late Cec Anderson and others to display material on the activities and achievements of the Swan Bay Boat Club and QLYC.





In recent times Alan stopped his active sailing and crewing preferring to maintain a somewhat low profile existence although he was still tempted to participate in the odd adventure when a couple of years ago Ken Hamilton took him out on Swan Rescue. This wasn't to be an adventure, when out in the Lonsdale Bight the sea kicked up rough and in the end Ken went over board attempting to

retrieve the anchor. They cut the rope and came home but Alan vowed never to go to sea again!!

As with so many others Alan, together with wife Val, have diligently worked across so many social and official areas of QLYC, over more than 20 years, to provide that special linking of members inside and outside of sailing, through news and gossip, that the club owes a special debt to the unique person that is Alan Holmes.

It was with the highest regard for Alan Holmes that QLYC conferred honorary life membership to him in 2003 for his contributing and achieving so much for the Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club over such a lengthy period in both active sports and administration through editorial discipline and performance.

This QLYC award complimented Alan on a task that exemplifies the dedication and unselfish behaviour of a sensational clubman for sailing within the Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club.

