



John M Barry
- **“Chrysalis” & “Sundance”**
- **Rear Commodore, 2012**

- Honorary Life Member



It is almost legendary when we talk about John M Barry around the annals of QLYC!

John started sailing at the age of 10 when he accepted an invitation to have a sail at Albert Park Lake in a friend Sabot dinghy.

The dunking that followed did not deter the lad, but sage advice from his parent “you had better learn to sail” set him on his nautical journey. Being of humble origins he was advised to find someone to teach him at little cost. A chance meeting with a Sea Scout led to him joining 1st Victorian Sea Scouts at Albert Park Lake, a tram ride from his home in Armadale.

The sea seemed to be in John’s blood as he became obsessed with things nautical. John joining the Naval Reserve with a fellow sea scout as a precursor to his attempt to get into the Naval College at Jarvis Bay.

The RAN thing did not happen but his reserve time assisted him in getting a position with the then Fisheries Division as a diver and field technician.

After a move to Queenscliff in 1980, John and his brothers purchased a 32ft charter boat to assist wife Kaye and his venture into running a guest house. The charter boat was to attract divers and fishermen to the business venture.

The charter boat “GULL” was constructed in the 60’s by Gill Allbutt, thus beginning an association with Gill that has lasted to the present.



The next boat was “Robby Duh, a savage dolphin, again a charter boat self drive. This boat featured in the series Sea Change’ as the main characters sorted out their relationship afloat in the last episode.

An interim dream of John’s was to build and sail a class yacht in the Melbourne to Osaka Yacht Race in the 90’s but due circumstance this did not eventuate.

In 1995 John purchased “Chrysalis”, a Castle 650 as a bare hull. This decision was based on there being one already in the club “Regardless” (owned by fellow competitor in Alex Eagleson), and the obvious advantages the Castle had for launching / retrieval and the best bang for bucks on the race course.

A spinnaker flying always meant JB was out there trying his hardest to gain advantage against the handicapper!!

Thus started a journey of significance as JB notched up many races in series with QLYC and appeared every year on stage at the presentation night surrounded by silverware or articles attesting his prowess on the waters around Queenscliff.



Amongst all his near twenty trophies gained over the years, the annual Mishap Award is amongst his favourite gained in 2003.

Amongst all that John pursued was contributing to the Victorian Castle Association in which he became quite involved taking on duties including being party to their Monthly Newsletter.

It was at John's instigation that he sought the committee to ensure that our past Life Governor and Honorary Life Member, Cec Anderson who gave so much to QLYC and previously the Swan Bay Boat club was rewarded for his work and dedication to our club.

In 2009 it seemed to be the time to put flesh to the dream of a large yacht. John purchased "Sundance" a Laurie Davidson 40, at Morton Bay (Qld) and sailed her to Queenscliff. Sundance had competed in many races along the Australian coast including two Sydney to Hobart races and two Brisbane to Gladstone races. Renovations are underway to transform her to a cruiser/racer and plans of heading offshore are in the dream phase with his plan to circumnavigate Tasmania in 2013 as the first of such adventures.

The club senior positions held by John are substantive including:

Club Captain – 1998-99, 1999-00, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08

Commodore – 2003-04, 2004-05, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11

Rear Commodore – 2011-12

John has captured many trophies and fought many races including,

Commodore's Cup – 2006-07, 2007-08, 2010-11

Easter Regatta – 2009-10, 2010-11

Champagne Stern Chaser – 1999-00, 2004-05

Around Mud Islands – 2011-12

Cole Cup to Portsea – 2008-09

Mishap Award – 2003-04

Open Champion CBH – 1998-99, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2007-08, 2008-09

Aggregate Club Champion – 2004-05, 2005-06, 2007-08, 2011-12

John Barry typifies the enthusiastic and active individual that we see in small clubs with a passion for sailing and assisting others to follow.

Never does a day go by when one of the committee or co sailors have a phone call from John to talk about some aspect of sailing.

Throughout his years of competitive sailing, John has sought to involve many others in the sport, to participate in events outside of QLYC, and to engender the spirit in those who have an interest to pursue the sport and particularly those who have crewed under this skipper.

Very few weekends go past and John is not out there participating be it for the joy of the action and the spirit of adventure or just to be in it!

And yet again, more recently, John was the instigator of our most recent Winter Series in 2010, 2011 and 2012, in which crew members were rewarded rather than skippers including sailing on different vessels. This is now part of our established and popular program.

It is with very great respect and admiration that John Barry was awarded Honorary Life Membership of QLYC with the hope of enjoying more years of his keenness for the sport of sailing and the club itself guided enthusiastically by his presence.

– **June 2012**

