



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club Inc.



"Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club"



www.qlyc.org.au

The Club

Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club is a sailing organisation, which has been on the shores of Swan Bay and the lower reaches of Port Philip Bay for over 100 years in various forms.

The club was established in the 1890's and after World War II, in 1947 it was reformed as the Swan Bay Boat Club, changing its name to Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club in 1972. Over the years it has contributed to a number of significant chapters in the history of Queenscliff and yachting during the intervening years.

We believe that this Club is probably one of the oldest sailing organisation in Victoria.



The Club House



The present club house which houses QLYC, rests on the shores of Swan Bay alongside King Street and was built by the original members of the club, their families and friends. The committee of QLYC voluntarily maintains this great venue for the enjoyment of members and community alike.

At high tide Swan Bay provides an ideal depth of water for dinghy and catamaran sailing along with kayaking and sailboarding. The Clubhouse remains the base for club social activities, as well as providing an ideal venue for various community activities.

The amenities of the club house include the open and congenial club rooms with views of Swan Bay to the north, a well-equipped kitchen, dining facilities, ample car parking, boat launching ramps, a grassed rigging area plus yacht storage pens.

The History of the Swan Bay Boat Club

The Swan Bay Boat Club was formed in the early 1900's although there are reports in the Queenscliff "Sentinel" of races and Regattas being held off the piers. It is probable races were between the early fishermen in their fishing boats.

On 14th March 1891 Queenscliff boats sailed to Belfast (Port Fairy) to attend a Regatta, indicating competitive sailing had been a long-time tradition in Queenscliff.



Prior to 1913 the Club sailed from a site on the foreshore of Swan Bay at the end of Stokes St, below the Primary School.



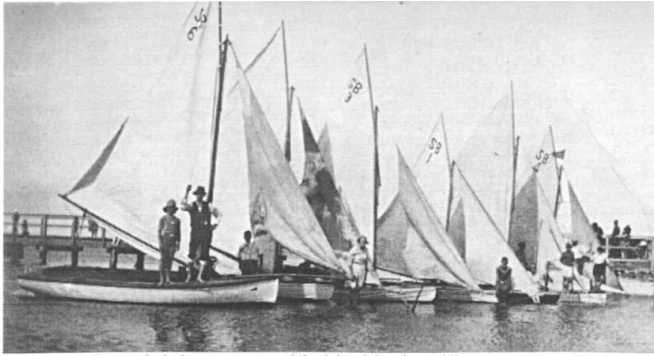
There were generally about 40 yachts moored to stakes and concrete blocks from below the school to near the present site of the Yacht Club.

In 1913 the Club moved to the area of the present Queenscliff Point Lonsdale Yacht Club. A boatshed and pier were built. Both were demolished during the 1930's.

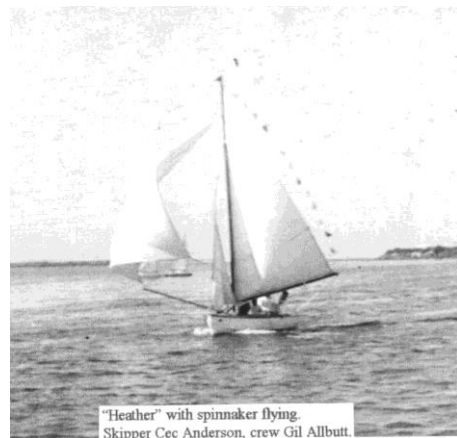
In 1913 there was six feet of water at the end of the pier.

Various types of boats were built or designed and built by their owners and local boat builders. Class and design names were not in vogue in those days. Our earliest photo is from 1912 of Jack Golightly Snr, then 12 years old in "Swan" a double ended, flat bottomed punt that he had built. This type of yacht was ideal for Swan Bay, in particular for races to McDonalds Jetty at the Northerly end of the bay.

From the 1920's through the 1930's, possibly stemming from the depression and World War 2, there was a waning of interest in Club yachting, although boat building and fishing remained part of the town.



January 1927, Club boats assembled inside the old Swan Island bridge. Note the water depth and the use of the "gaff" rigged sails. The coua boat influence.



"Heather" with spinnaker flying. Skipper Cec Anderson, crew Gil Allbutt.

About Easter 1947 a decision was made to revive the yacht club. The boat shed was built, a pier was constructed and the clubhouse was built between 1947 and 1949. The club was sailing a 15 ft yacht designed and built by Jack Golightly, called the Swan Class, which was a fully decked boat, similar to the Jubilee Class. Four Swan Class boats were on the Club register at that time.

The club also fostered the Rudder "Pup" class, as part of a plan to build up the junior membership of the club. The Pup was a 12ft ply boat and a total of 14 "Pups" were built by their owners, under club direction.



Opening Day 1950.

The club continued to grow through the 1950's using Yvonne Catamaran's and by 1962, there were nine members sailing this class.

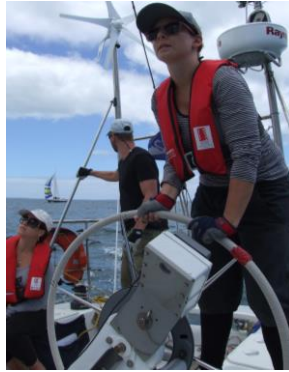
In 1958, Queenscliff High School made yachting a school sport with the "Sabot" as their chosen training yacht, supported by members of the then Swan Bay Boat Club.

"Sabot" competition within the Club then extended through the 1960's.

Quickcat and "C" Class Catamaran appeared and were raced by members and represented Australia with "Quest" in the "Little Americas Cup Challenge" against England.

By 1968, the trailer sailer had arrived and in 1972 the Club name was officially changed to the Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club.

Yacht Racing on Port Philip Bay



Yacht racing on Port Philip Bay and around the area of Queenscliff is an institution and QLYC continues to encourage the sporting and social aspects as part of the overall community collage, which delights the visitor to the area.

The challenges and rewards of sailing at the southern end of Port Philip Bay are many. The scenic backdrop to club events is unsurpassed. The shore lines of the Bellarine and Mornington Peninsulas are second to none.

Both these characteristics offer wind shelters which allow sailing when other venues in the Bay are unsailable.

The currents generated by the tidal stream through the Rip and the shipping channels combine to provide excellent tactical operations for sailors.

In recent years the club has seen the emergence of larger yachts combined with the re-emergence of the traditional Couta vessels racing in a mixed fleet.

Additionally, the club introduced a unique winter series racing a few years ago which provides for a crew based championship in which crew sail on a number of yachts over winter and compete through being on a winning yacht most number of times.



Annual Events

Annual trophy races which the club hosts for its members and visiting yachts include the following:

The Channels Race – this race provides a long race up the Coles Channel to the north of Queenscliff through to St Leonards pier and return. Commencing with a briefing at 10.30 the race is usually an all-day affair of approx 18 Nm.

Around Mud Islands Race – This was a Victorian State Championship race for trailable yachts and Cauta boats of approximately 20Nm in length, held in February each year and circumnavigates the Mud Islands group in the centre and lower reaches of Port Philip Bay. This is now reduced to a club race with an open invitation to other clubs to compete.



Champagne Stern Chaser –

This great annual race relies on a one-time handicapping by the club captain, over a specified time limit on the day, with each boat having a unique 'start time'. This results in a tight and lively finish, with many boats competing for line honours. Traditionally, champagne and nibbles were served during rafting up by all competitors in the old harbour after the race, where many stories of lost chances were shared.



Cole Cup (Race to Portsea) –

This race has a long history with the club and the trophy which was presented to the club dates from the 1930's when the original race was from Melbourne to Portsea via the South Channel. The current race provides a dash to Portsea pier from the start at Queenscliff via a number of specified marks in the South Channel to be rounded.

Lady Nelson Trophy –

This race commemorates the involvement of the "Lady Nelson" in the discovery of Port Phillip Bay and the trophy is a magnificent wooden framed portrait of the 60 Ton Brig. It is a highly sought trophy due to its imposing size and maritime history.



Irwin Trophy -

The Irwin trophy has a long history with the club and commemorates the memory of and sailing achievements of Bob Irwin ...Lindsay Irwin sailed his "Sparrow" from the Swan Bay Boat Club with great success in the 1940's...

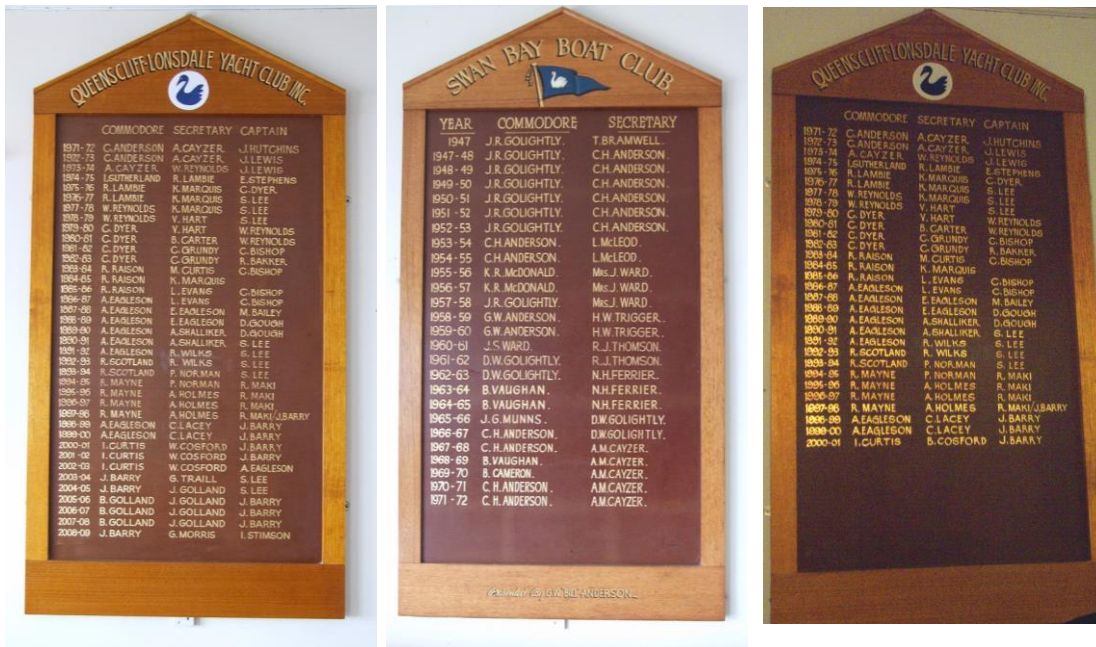
The race is an extended event around the channel marks of both the Western and Southern Shipping Channels of the bay and significantly is the last official race of the QLYC calendar year. Bob's son is a well-known sail maker and sailing champion in Melbourne.



The Commodores Cup -

A special race hosted by the Commodore followed by a Cocktail Party at the Clubhouse where winners and losers celebrate late into the night.

The Honour Boards – members past & present!



QLYC has much tradition combined with memories which are preserved in some of the Honour Boards, trophies and Honorary Life Members which adorn the walls of the club.

All club champions, life members, Flag Officers and members are respected by their presence at meetings and club events and have their place in QLYC history through these important memorabilia.

Honorary Life Governor & Life Members

QLYC is honoured to have long standing supporter Jack Golightly Snr (pictured right) as our Honorary Life Governor.



We also enjoy the ongoing dedicated support of the following Honorary Life Members:

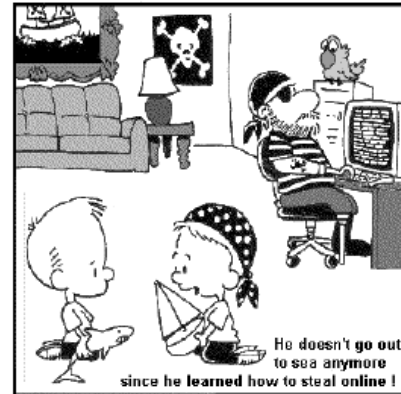
Alan Holmes & Alex Eagleson (2003), Bill Cosford (vale) & Bob Mayne (2006), Brian Golland & John Barry (2012), Colin Bishop & Steve Lee (2013), Jill Golland (2017) whose photographs adorn our Club House walls.

“Swan News” - The Newsletter & Website

For many years the club had a unique and topical monthly newsletter, “Swan News”, which was edited and produced by no other than the original ‘Grub’ in Alan Holmes. Swan News incorporated all that any club member would wish in reviews, gossip and rumours, racing results, committee chat, cartoons and photos of people, boats, social and special events.

As a regular review of the operations and on shore activities of QLYC, the newsletter was distributed to members, other clubs and the wider community, as part of the club's mission and endeavours to foster sailing as a sport and family activity.

This has been replaced in the past few years by the website in www.qlyc.org.au and now features reports on weekly activities, race results, photographs plus various articles of topical chatter on members and their activities.



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club

Annual Presentation Night

Saturday – May 17, 2014



The final event of the racing calendar in 2013-14 is the Annual Presentation Night of awards to the Skippers and crews, before we all drift off into winter after spending the past six months racing off Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale in great weather.



Around 70 members and friends gathered at the Lonsdale Golf Club for the night combining the evening with some very special guests and those dressed for the occasion.

The chatter and drinks preceding the official night ended with our Club Captain Steve Lee

calling everyone to eat, drink and cheer the recipients of the many trophies and awards.

Commodore Jill Golland welcomed all distinguished guests including Mayor Helene Cameron along with Honorary Life Members Bob Mayne, John Barry, Steve Lee, Colin Bishop and Brian Golland with a special note on the presence of Honorary Life



Governor and member Jack Golightly along with wife Audrey and the local Queenscliff Herald editor Carmel Murphy.



Table decorations were by each yacht crew along with some special burgee flags depicting club boats for skippers and crews including flags and paraphernalia of their seeking best table prize.

Jill presented a synopsis of an exciting centenary year of yacht racing in Queenscliff with thanks to many members who had enhanced and maintained the club, grounds and facilities with their contributions for all members and friends to enjoy.

Special presentations began with service appreciation awards to those dedicating their time





The Social Calendar

oriented club, founded on its and friends who both support with the club each week. The Club House plays a as our social hub where and friends regularly get every opportunity.

Annual "Opening Day", "Commodores Cocktail

"Presentation Night" plus New Year, Easter, Cup Day social gatherings and regular BBQ's.



Follow us on our Facebook page **"Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club"**



Socially, QLYC is a friendly, family members and sail

pivotal role members together at

Party",

Dinghy Sailing & Off the Beach (OTB) Activities



Dinghy racing was a weekly pastime of

The original sailing competitions and activities of the Swan Bay Boat Club centred on the building and sailing of small dinghies and racing in the area around the present club premises located on Swan Bay.



many of the young around Swan Bay and Queenscliff as an affordable sport at a local level.



QLYC offers OTB activities for all ages, with a variety of sailing and paddle craft including Lasers, Pacers, Catamarans, Canoes and Kayaks at our regular

“Discover Sailing” days, encouraging many to take up the sport.

Additionally, we offer “Discover Sailing” activities in our fleet of larger racing boats and between the two activities, over 250 juniors and adults have participated in learning or trying out sailing through valuable lessons given by our experienced club members November thru March each year.

The Sailing Calendar

QLYC’s sailing calendar is extensive, with the mentioned trophy races and weekly events attracting a complement of QLYC own boats plus visiting sailors from around the bay and sometimes more land locked areas of Bendigo, etc, where sailors sail the inland waters and lakes.

Weekly races are held from October through April each year and incorporate the Spring, Summer and Autumn Series of races for trophies.

Additionally, the major Trophy races are dispersed within these series to add some changes to racing beyond Queenscliff environs.

Shipping marks regularly utilised in the sailing courses include Queenscliff Approach, Tuckey 2, Drapers, Coles, Pope’s Eye, Wedge, Swan Spit, Caisson and the West and South Channel marks.

Add to these immoveable objects, the well-known tides of the Rip and some serious sailing has to be contemplated.

Race briefings are held at Noon most Saturdays under the auspice of the Officer of the Day (OOD), when courses, tides, weather and marks of the day’s race course are outlined to intending race participants with a race briefing in the harbour courtesy of QHPL.

Races usually commence at 1330 and conclude after 1600 with the OOD directing proceedings from the cockpit of our own QLYC Rescue vessel “Swan”.

All yachts competing in races must follow the AYF and Yachting Victoria rulings with adherence to Category 5 & 7 regulations regarding equipment and safety gear.

Cruising on Port Philip Bay

Club cruises are held over holiday periods and usually are daily returns or overnight dependant on distance and participants.

During past years visits have been to Mud Islands, Mornington, Portsea/Sorrento, Swan Bay, Docklands and even Williamstown.

Some photos of visits and jovial exploits are shown here:





All of our activities involve interaction with the natural beauty of our unique surrounds, accommodating wherever possible the participation of family, friends and community in this enjoyment.



QLYC is an inclusive club that encourages active participation for all, further fostered through our active relationships with many other sister clubs around the bay.

Our Burgee & Insignia



where it is exchanged as a sign of friendship and goodwill in yachting circles.

Our Burgee was developed by our early members to incorporate the Swan Bay origins of the club with the swans that inhabit the area.

As part of tradition, the club burgee is offered to all visiting sister club committee representatives and taken on official visits to other clubs



In 2001 the club has affirmed this Burgee to continue as the official flag of the club continuing the traditional link with the colourful history of the Club.
The insignia of the club has also been part of the tradition and awards of QLYC being the traditional insignia portrayed on the weekly trophy mug awarded to the winning yacht captain on the day.
Its use has been extended to use on official club apparel, membership cards and transfers etc.

Current Flag Officers & Committee 2017/18

Commodore – Dr. Colin Gibbs; **Vice Commodore** – Frank McMahon; **Rear Commodore** – Geoffrey Mathews; **Secretary** – Joanne Ritchie; **Treasurer** – John Barry;
Club Captain – Steve Lee; **Off The Beach Captain** - Geoffrey Mathews;
House Captain – Geoffrey Mathews;
Committee Members – Alison Roberts-Wray, Ian Campbell, Wendy Duncan, Bel Campbell, Geoff Cook and Tom Hinton.
Race Officers Bev and Ian Lee.

The Borough of Queenscliffe

QLYC enjoys the continuing support of the Borough of Queenscliffe through their perpetual trophy for Trailable Yachts in the “Around Mud Islands” race held in February each year.

The Borough’s trophy is presented at the annual presentation night activities in early May each year following the sailing season.

Borough of Queenscliffe



Membership Enquiries

For membership enquiries contact the Secretary at glyc@glyc.org.au or download a form from the website:

www.glyc.org.au

The club welcomes all enquiries, including visiting yachts and their crews and aspires to share local information to can make experiences at Queenscliff more enjoyable.

Please feel free to contact Geoffrey Mathews on 0418 832 425.