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Bayside Trailable Yacht Club NEWSLETTER

January 2025

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BTYC Committee

Commodore	Vacant	
Past Commodore	Joan Rockliff	
Cruise Director	Vacant	
Treasurer	Kenton Lillecrapp	0418 422 099
Committee member	Shane Kenny	0418 553 946
Committee member	Tony Pitt	0408 514581
Secretary	Martin Jones	0419 475 962
Social secretary	Anne Lillecrapp	0438 116 665

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COMMODORE'S CORNER



Greetings from an empty chair!

Our position of Commodore is currently vacant. The Annual General Meeting held on September 15, 2024 was well patronised with 33 attendees. There were 11 apologies. While the meeting did appoint an incoming committee of five members, it failed to identify and appoint a Commodore.

It is a requirement of Consumer Affairs Victoria that an incorporated association such as our sailing club must, as a minimum, have a nominated chairperson (our Commodore) and a nominated secretary. Martin Jones is part of the incoming committee and has accepted the role of secretary, but the position of Commodore (chairperson) remains unfilled.

The other members of the incoming committee are Kenton Lillecrapp (Treasurer), Tony Pitt, Anne Lillecrapp and Shane Kenny. Joan Rockliff is also a committee member as Past Commodore.

Our club needs a Commodore and we will wait for that person to emerge and come forward. In the interim it will be business as usual.

Our club activities for the summer and autumn have commenced with a Christmas party at Hickinbotham

Winery at Dromana, and a land cruise through the High Country of north eastern Victoria and southern New South Wales. Both events were well attended. The sailing season is also underway with several Baysider boats already sailing together on the Gippsland Lakes.

The first sailing event for our club in the current season is scheduled for the long weekend in January, coinciding with Australia Day. The arrangements for registering for a club sail for this year are to contact Martin Jones and indicate that you intend to participate.

This first sail does not yet have a cruise coordinator so Martin will be looking to find someone among the intended participants that can fill this role. Also coming up are the planned sails in the waterways around Port Albert with Tony Pitt as cruise coordinator, and the extended cruise down the Lower Murray with Martin and Denise Jones leading this cruise.

Our WhatsApp group for BTYC is a new initiative that has been set up by Martin Jones and Jim Reynolds. It has proved to be extremely popular. If you had already downloaded Whatsapp to your telephone prior to October 2024, Martin and Jim would have just included you as part of the BTYC Whatsapp group when he was setting it up. If you are new to Whatsapp, Martin has probably sent you a message asking you to download the app from Whatsapp website so that he can include you.

If you haven't received any communication about BTYC Whatsapp and want to be part of the group chat, contact Martin and make arrangements to get your phone listed.

The popularity of the Whatsapp chat has been a little overwhelming at times, and some users had temporarily turned it off while we had the High Country land cruise. I think we were exceeding 30 communications a day on some days. It looks like we might need to set up a separate Whatsapp group with each extended cruise, so that the traffic can be controlled just to those participating in that activity.

In the meantime, enjoy the sailing season that is before us, and give some thought to who will be the next Commodore of BTYC.

MAST UP CRUISE LOWER MURRAY MARCH 18 TO MARCH 28 2025

By Martin Jones

Preparations are well underway for the Murray Bridge to Goolwa Cruise in March this year.

This is an opportunity to close the missing link for those who have done the Murray and Goolwa based cruises in the past. Subject to confirmation it looks like the cruise will run from 18 March until 28 March.

In preparation for this cruise, and together with Kenton, we visited likely stopping off spots by car, including meeting the Commodore and Manager at Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club and the Manager of the Murray Bridge Marina Camping and Caravan Park. The cruise is an out and return cruise. Crossing Lake Alexandrina can be problematic given maximum depths of 3 m and freshwater, so if we are unable to get a weather window, we might have to return to Murray Bridge. In March the weather is more stable and this is not expected to be an issue. The local rule is that if the windmills are turning at Wellington, you don't cross the Lake and it is recommended to leave just after first light. Most of the houseboats are not insured to cross Lake Alexandrina.

We visited likely stopping points at Duck's Hospital, Narrung, Milang, Wellington, including the somewhat defunct marina, and Clayton Bay Yacht Club. As part of the investigation, we took *Taylor Louise* from Murray Bridge down the channel south of Wellington to examine the fishing nets and how they can encroach on the channel. Of course, the fishing net identification rules were not entirely honoured either. The fishers breach the rules regarding the channel as in warmer weather the fish prefer the deeper/cooler water. We met the publican at Wellington and a few of the locals including the caravan park owner who can accommodate visitors for showers. The Hindmarsh Island Marina was very flash and unless needed for re-fuelling it is unlikely this will form part of the cruise. Meningie was a very pretty town, but the shore is

exposed to every wind except easterly, so getting caught out in Lake Albert is not advisable and will not form part of the cruise.

We had further discussions about locations such as Holmes Creek and Currency Creek as possible destinations and visited the berths at Finniss River. This was interesting as the water was very clear at the time and it appeared to be an attractive place to stop. However, when the water warms up it can suddenly spring a growth of duck weed somewhat unpredictably and so it is unlikely we will include that place on this trip. Instead, there is a possibility of a cruise through the lock past the Murray Mouth to the Coorong.

I should note that this cruise is suited to sailors experienced in difficult conditions and requires some basic navigational skills, given boats will be out of site of land in Lake Alexandrina.

If you think or intend to be part of this cruise, please make sure that I am aware of your intent if you haven't already done so. I am currently finalizing the details and need to know the likely number of participating boats and crew.

WHAT DOES THE BTYC COMMODORE NEED TO DO?

Our past Commodores have set a high bar, higher than it needs to be. For this our club is truly grateful, but it can be confronting to a potential incoming Commodore to think that they may need to do the same. They don't.

The responsibilities of the Commodore are fairly straightforward:

- Together with the Club Secretary, call club meetings and committee meetings
- Also together with the Club Secretary, determine the agenda of those meetings
- Chair the meetings
- Listen to and act as appropriate to ideas, concerns and issues from club members
- Provide leadership and vision for the future of the BTYC.

We need someone to take this on. There is ample opportunity for the individual to also put their own stamp on the role as well. Give it some thought!

LAND CRUISE REPORT

From the SEA to the SNOWY

Sunday November 24 to
Friday December 6

By Joan Rockliff

The cruise was attended by some members with us for the whole time and others joining us along the way. Our new members Liz Jones and Jan Savel were presented with their Club Burgee and Welcome on our first night. I regret not taking a photo of that event. Welcome Jan and Liz and thank you for your company; we hope you will join us for more cruising in the future.

Along with Liz and Jan were Joan and John Coombs, Sue and David Morrissey, Cath and Jim Reynolds, Anne and Kenton Lillecrapp, Susan and Grant Mathews, Linda and Peter Williams, an Ann and Brian Eno.

The first night was at Lakes Entrance with our Welcome Dinner in the Bowls Club. Next two nights at Mallacoota. Much activity there with gifted fish being cleaned by Cath and Jim and naughty pelicans stealing them along the way. Even though there were sentries planted to keep the pesky Pelicans away.



A cruise of the Mallacoota Lakes was taken by many of the Baysiders where we saw the Sea Eagles dive for fish. Plus some celebratory bubbles were shared.

Four nights were spent in delightful Tathra. Two hospital visits but all were well at the end of the day.

The last day poured with rain which was welcome to all and country. We spent many happy, happy hours, lunches and dinners out, together with all around sight seeing in this delightful area. The beaches, State parks, Cape Conran and a round trip to Bermagui were fabulous.



We spent one night in Cooma after the drive-up Brown Mountain. Then we started early the next morning to experience a group tour of the Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre which everyone enjoyed. The following drive to Tumut was quite hilly especially for anyone who took the extra trip to Cabramurra, one of the highest if not highest towns in Australia at 1488 meters elevation. The scenery along the route to Tumut was spectacular.



Two more nights were spent at Tumut. More happy hours, shopping and some resting after the hectic day's travelling. I must add that intrepid Cath Reynolds went on a trail ride. It was pouring with rain all day but the rain did not stop the smile on her face. A dinner out at the hotel with Thai food was a treat.



We had some wonderful caravan parks by rivers and lakes. This one at Tumut was no exception.

A delightful stopover at Tallangata for a night introduced us to *Sandy*, the only horse to come home to Australia from WW1 to his home in Tallangata; a happy but sad story.



Our last stop was Rutherglen for 3 nights. We were very busy with visits to Wineries and a whisky distillery, and an interesting meal out at the pub where the power went off. Two meals out in total, Rutherglen is the place to eat, drink and be merry!

The weather was very kind to us with shorts being the order of the day and just two days of rain. The temperature became hotter as the trip progressed. No doubt about it, we Australian's are so lucky, we have a beautiful country, and it was a pleasure to travel it with wonderful company.

FSWD and THE BURRUNAN DOLPHIN

By Tony Pitt

The Burrunan Dolphin that lives in the Gippsland Lakes is not doing that well. The potentially fatal skin lesion disease that periodically affects this beautiful creature has been previously reported in this newsletter (February 2021). The disease has been the focus of several decades of research and investigation, and an investigative group from Murdoch University have now been able to fully characterize, define and identify the condition which is called FWSD (Fresh Water Skin Disease).



On one occasion when sailing between Paynesville and Loch Sport, with our canine friend Truffles, we were escorted by a pod of these wonderful and inquisitive creatures for an extended period. They would come up alongside as we sailed and seemed to edge towards the back of the boat with each rise. They seem to be trying

to have a closer look at the dog. On some rises they would roll over on their side with one eye well out of the water, as if they were trying to get a better look at something. Truffles barked and growled a bit, not sure what to make of it. But the dolphins were unperturbed and kept coming back for a second and third look. Eventually Truffles must have felt quite intimidated, as she got up from the deck and went down below. It was a fascinating interaction, and I still don't know whether the dolphins were just being curious or whether they were communicating some sort of aggression towards the dog.



Just a reminder. They are a protected species and boating to within 100 metres of the dolphins (300 metres if on a jetski) is prohibited under wildlife protection legislation. But if they swim to you, you are not required to abandon your vessel or intended journey. Just do your best to keep out of their way and do not pursue them.

And they are in trouble. FSWD is caused by the dolphins interacting unexpectedly with fresh water, rather than the saline or brackish water of the ocean and estuaries. The interaction occurs when there is a sudden surge of fresh water into a water system that is normally salty. This creates a pressure gradient across cell walls in the skin that can cause the skin cells to rupture.

The effect can be likened to third degree burns in humans. The burst skin results in the dolphins losing vital ions and proteins from their bodies as the skin oozes, and fresh water rushes in to cause swelling and ulcers. The electrolytes of the blood stream are

subsequently compromised, and this leads to organ failure and mortality of these precious animals.

FWSD has been reported in other dolphin species around the world. It is not confined to the Gippsland Lakes colony. But the Gippsland Lakes colony is in trouble and was down to just 35 individuals in one recent survey. The demise of the species is complicated. The Gippsland Lakes colony does interact with the Port Phillip Bay colony, so cannot be considered to be an isolated community. They also appear to interact with other Bottlenose dolphins that inhabit Bass Strait and northern Tasmania, although they are regarded as being morphologically distinct from the Bottlenose dolphins of the open waters of Bass Strait. It has not been established as to whether they mate with common Bottlenose dolphins.

Climate change scenarios are predicted to cause more events whereby large volumes of fresh water suddenly enter the lake system due to a major weather event. This is not good news for an endangered species that is adversely affected by sudden changes in water salinity.

Also adding to the complexity is the on-going controversy as to whether the Burrunan dolphin is a separate species. The release in 2011 of research findings into the morphology of Port Phillip Bay and Gippsland Lakes dolphins concluded that they were morphologically distinct from the common Bottlenose dolphin that is abundant in Bass Strait. Most dolphin researchers within Australia regard them as a separate species, its scientific name being *Tursiops australis*.

But the International Committee for Taxonomy has not accepted them as a separate species. Similarly the International Whaling Committee (IWC), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and Australia's National Marine Mammal Centre have not yet accepted the Burrunan Dolphin as a separate species but regard them as part of the overall species group of Bottlenose dolphins.

Whether they are a separate species is perhaps immaterial to our need to protect them. They are a precious part of the wild fauna of the Gippsland Lakes and hopefully they will continue to thrill and mesmerize lake mariners for a long time into the future.

BAYSIDE TRAILABLE YACHT CLUB SAILING/SOCIAL CALENDAR

2024/2025 SEASON

All events and dates are provisional only.

Please give early indication your intention to participate in a scheduled event.

MONTH	DATE	EVENT	VENUE	COMMENTS	CONTACT
SEPTEMBER	SUN 15 TH	BTYC 40 TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCH & AGM. AGM	HASTINGS YACHT CLUB	LUNCH 12.00 NOON ATTEND THE AGM AND INPUT INTO THE AFFAIRS & FUTURE OF YOUR CLUB	ANNE LILLECRAPP TEXT: 0438116665
NOVEMBER	SUN 17 TH	XMAS PARTY	HICKINBOTHAM WINERY, DROMANA	LUNCH 12.00 NOON COME ONE, COME ALL FOR A PLEASANT CLUB GET TOGETHER	ANNE LILLECRAPP TEXT: 0438116665
NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER	SUN 24 TH TO THU 5 TH	SEA TO SNOWY LAND CRUISE	SOUTHEAST COAST NSW, SNOWY MNTS, UPPER MURRAY	CARAVAN, CAMPER, TENT OR CABIN. (LAKES ENTRANCE, MALACOOTA, TATHRA, COOMA, CORRYONG, RUTHERGLEN)	JOAN ROCKLIFF TEXT: 0427275632
JANUARY	SAT 25 TH TO MON 27 TH	AUSTRALIA DAY OPENING WEEKEND & SAILPAST	GIPPSLAND LAKES	SAILPAST NEWLANDS ARM SUN. BBQ DAWSONS COVE. CRUISE EXTENDS TO FRI 31ST FOR THOSE WHO WISH	TBA
FEBRUARY	MON 10 TH TO SUN 16 TH	PORT ALBERT CRUISE	PORT ALBERT	EXPERIENCE A WATERWAY WITH A DIFFERENCE	TONY PITT TEXT: 0408514581
FEBRUARY	SAT 22 ND TO MON 24 TH	WESTERN PORT ADVENTURE CRUISE	WESTERN PORT	LAUNCH HASTINGS, VISIT TOORADIN, SANDY POINT, RHYLL	TBA
MARCH	SAT 8 TH TO MON 10 TH	LABOUR DAY RIVERS & LAKES EXPLORERS CRUISE	GIPPSLAND LAKES	A RIVERS AND LAKES EXTRAVAGANZA. CRUISE EXTENDS TO FRI 14TH FOR THOSE WHO WISH	TONY PITT TEXT: 0408514581
MARCH	TUESDAY March 18 th to FRIDAY March 28 th	LOWER MURRAY AND LAKES CRUISE	MURRAY BRIDGE TO GOOLWA	EXPLORE THESE WONDERFUL WATERS IN GOOD COMPANY. REGISTRATION DATE OPENING TBA	MARTIN JONES TEXT: 0419475962
APRIL	FRI 18 TH TO TUE 22 ND	EASTER LAKES CRUISE	GIPPSLAND LAKES	RELAXED CRUISING ON OUR FAVOURITE WATERWAY	TBA
MAY	MON 19 TH TO FRI 23 RD	FROST BITE CRUISE	GIPPSLAND LAKES	STAY IN PAYNESVILLE C'VAN PARK, CARAVAN OR CABIN OR STAY ON BOAT. DAY SAILS TO VARIOUS LUNCH DESTINATIONS	GEOFF PEPLAR TEXT: 0436400657

Notice of Cruise

Australia Day Cruise Gippsland lakes

Saturday 25th January to Monday 27th January

Our sailing cruise arrangements for the 2025 sailing season is for all intending participants to register with club Secretary, Martin Jones.

If you intend to participate in the 2025 Australia Day cruise, please contact Martin on 0419 475 962.

To notify of your intended involvement in the subsequent sailing cruises in February (Port Albert, Westernport Bay), March (Gippsland Lakes), April (Gippsland Lakes) and May (Gippsland Lakes) will be via the same arrangements.

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