

Martha Cove Yacht Club Commodore's Report - 2023/24 Season

The 2023/24 season at Martha Cove Yacht Club has been one of on-water and off-water achievement, member engagement and the ongoing growth and spirit of our members across various activities.

Michelle Brien, Vice Commodore, has been a significant contributor to the establishment and growth of MCYS, from the early days of strategic development to later in her role managing day to day operational activities. Michelle's personal highlights included successfully sailing Daisy back home across Bass Strait after an extensive Tasmanian exploration period. Michelle underscored the importance of both on-water and off-water activities in fostering member bonds, organising events at local venues such as Ranelagh Club, Mornington Yacht Squadron, and Jetty Road Brewery. The club's social fabric was enriched by events like the New Year's Eve fireworks and the opening day festivities. Michelle has been running the Bay Trail walks for many years and sees them not just recreational outings but opportunities for members to connect over shared passions and experiences. Michelle announced her decision to step down from the Vice Commodore role this year and I would like to thank Michelle for her amazing contribution to the club over the last 5 years.

The sailing season, as reported by the Rear Commodore Sail John Hall, faced challenges with weather conditions impacting race schedules. Despite this, notable achievements included competitive races like the Pre-Christmas Twilight series, where John Hall's Wingara II emerged victorious. The use of the SailSys handicapping system ensured exciting finishes, reflecting the competitiveness and skill development among participants. Cruising highlights included MCYS yachts completing the Van Diemen's Land Circumnavigation, demonstrating the club's active participation in major sailing events. Plans for the upcoming season include enhancing combined power and sail cruises to various destinations and strengthening affiliations with other yacht clubs for extended racing opportunities.

During this season, the Rear Commodore Power (Geoff Steele) focused on efforts to re-launch and initiate new power boating activities, supported by a strong power boat sub-committee. Challenges such as adverse weather impacting planned activities were noted, underscoring the need for improved communication channels among members. Future plans will involve formalizing navigation rallies and training sessions to enhance members' skills and participation in upcoming events.

Financially, we are in a solid position as you will see in the club's Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet for 23/24. Pam Hall as Treasurer, has done an amazing job keeping our finances, membership renewals and even brought a new Sponsor with Bendigo Bank on the side. We would be truly lost without Pam's financial leadership! Special mention to member Ian Bond for completing our yearly financial audit in his own time, which we do as a club voluntarily each year.

I would like to also take this opportunity to thank Lizzy Shanley for all her efforts with the Secretary duties at the club. As a past Secretary of multiple yacht clubs, including MCYS, I know the amount of effort this entails.

In summary, the 2023/24 season at Martha Cove Yacht Club has been characterized by resilience, community spirit, and commitment to grow in both sailing and power boating. Michelle Brien's tenure as Vice Commodore marked a period of significant club

consolidation, setting a strong foundation for future Flag Bearers. The Rear Commodore Sail and Rear Commodore Power reports highlighted achievements and ongoing efforts to expand sailing and power boating activities, ensuring inclusivity and growth within the club. As we look forward to the next season, we are poised to build upon these successes, welcoming new challenges and opportunities to further strengthen our vibrant membership at Martha Cove.

This concludes the annual report for the 2023/24 season, celebrating our achievements and looking ahead to a promising future for Martha Cove Yacht Club.