



## Recognition at Merricks Yacht Club

### Background

Merricks Yacht Club, like so many volunteer organisations, relies on the contributions of many members, but particularly on a small group of individuals who over the years make an exceptional commitment to the club. These members selflessly give to others of their time and energy without any expectation of reward and are often the first to volunteer for any project or event.

Recognising these individuals and their contribution is important for several reasons.

- to highlight to these members that the club as a whole appreciates their contribution
- to remind other members of the importance of assisting with the running of the club
- to encourage other members to contribute to the club's activities.

However, there are also issues associated with recognition:

Ensuring a level of actual and perceived equity is achieved.

The relative costs associated with various means of recognition are tenable.

Long-serving committee members have taken on lower profile roles, and often put in as much time and energy for the support and operation of Merricks Yacht Club. In particular, some former Secretaries, Treasurers, and Sailing Masters, and others in non-formal roles, have over the years offered their time and commitment to the club.

The committee must ensure appropriate recognition is applied for exceptional commitment and service to the club. This should not be confused with length of service or membership, and is also not necessarily applied for any additional financial contribution.

## Recognition Options

### ***Naming of Club Events, and/or Trophies***

Offered as a 'Memorial Trophy' and can be applied to a Club Event and/or Trophy which can be named after an important person who contributed to the life of the club and where the trophy and/or race is established to commemorate the memory and life of a member.

Trophy example – 'The Rod Johnson Memorial Trophy'.

Trophy/Event example – 'The Mark Sefton Trophy' awarded for the winner of the Mark Sefton Trophy Race.

Nominations can be received from any member or family member of a deceased member of Merricks Yacht Club and must be provided in writing, supported with reasoning for the nomination.

The committee will evaluate the nomination and may seek informal guidance from other past commodores and committee members as to the appropriateness of such recognition of a member. If it is agreed to proceed with a proposal, the committee will then discuss the nomination with the past members family and if deemed appropriate by the family, will formalise the advice to the MYC membership base.

Such recognition can be facilitated at any time during the year as may be appropriate and as to the circumstances prevailing at the time.

## ***Naming of Club Assets***

Offered as recognition to a long standing 'living' or 'deceased' member and can be applied to a Club Asset where the Asset is named after an important person who has contributed to the life of the club or is established to commemorate the memory and life of a member.

The following examples - The 'Norma Larson Tower', the 'Tom Rutley' rescue boat.

Nominations can be received from any member of Merricks Yacht Club and must be provided in writing and supported with reasoning for the nomination.

The committee will evaluate the nomination and may seek informal guidance from other past commodores and committee members as to the appropriateness of such recognition of a member.

If the committee agrees to continue with processing the nomination, will then discuss the nomination with the nominated person or in the case of a deceased member, their family and if deemed appropriate by the member or family, will complete the intended nomination preparation for presentation, for member endorsement, at the next MYC AGM.

## ***Honorary Life Membership***

Through nomination, be awarded to a 'living' member who has held membership of Merricks Yacht Club for a period of not less than 25 years and has held a position on the committee for at least 7 years (in total) and has demonstrated significant continual contribution\* to the Merricks Yacht Club over the term of their membership and who's nomination is unanimously supported annually, by 2 consecutive committees.

Nominations can be received from any member of Merricks Yacht Club and must be provided in writing, supported with \*four examples that clearly outline the nominated person's contribution to the club.

The committee will evaluate the nomination and will seek informal guidance from other past commodores and committee members as to the appropriateness of such recognition of a member.

If the committee agrees to continue with processing the nomination, will then discuss the nomination with the nominated member and if deemed appropriate by the member, will complete the intended nomination preparation for presentation, for member endorsement, at the next MYC AGM.

The expected time from nomination to member endorsement will take up to 2 years.

Honorary Life Membership will not necessarily be awarded annually.

Three long serving members were awarded Honorary Life Membership over 5 years ago – Sue Rutley, Terry Rutley and Norma Larson.

## ***Past Commodores Board***

The names of former Commodores are displayed on the Yacht Club 'Past Commodore' Honour Board.

## ***Club Champion Recognition Board***

Register of Club Champions noted annually on the 'Club Champions' Board.

## ***Exceptional Service Recognition Board***

The criteria for this award would be to an individual who has demonstrated a 'sustained and active commitment to improving Merricks Yacht Club, as the centre of Merrick's social and sporting life'.

The members name would be added to an 'Exceptional Service Recognition Board', located adjacent the other boards in the MYC club house.

Nominations can be received from any member of Merricks Yacht Club and must be provided in writing and supported with reasoning for the nomination.

The committee will evaluate the nomination as to the appropriateness of such recognition of a member and may seek informal guidance from other past commodores and committee members as to the appropriateness of such recognition of a member.

If the committee agrees to continue with processing the nomination, the committee will then make a decision and if required, then discuss the nomination with the member before formalising the advice to the membership base.

Such recognition can be advised annually as may be required. It is not proposed to seek MYC AGM endorsement for such recognition.

## ***Special 'Dedication' Plaques***

Families can choose to fund and support the provision of a 'Dedication Plaque' to provide for special recognition for certain members where a family wish to publicly remember their loved one.

The committee will consider any application received from a family and make a decision based on the proposal offered by the family concerned.

It is not proposed to seek AGM endorsement for such a personal memorial dedication.

The committee may look to seek informal guidance from other past commodores and committee members as to the appropriateness of such a 'statement of recognition' to be placed at the yacht club.

Only one example is present at the club at this time – Dedication Plaque for Hal Thiemeyer

Note: Hal Thiemeyer's ashes were placed with the plaque, as it was agreed at the time that as Hal was the first commodore, that it was an appropriate gesture to him and his family.

### **All nominations must be in writing and submitted to:**

Hon. Secretary – Merricks Yacht Club  
PO Box 90 Balnarring Victoria 3926

or

Via word document attached to an email to:  
secretary@merricks.org