

MERRICKS MOMENTS



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COMMODORE'S REPORT

Commodore's report September 2011

Welcome to the start of a new season. Spring has hit Melbourne, so we should all be thinking of getting our watercraft ready for the summer. The committee has been working hard over winter to set up the program for 2011/12, and we have a terrific summer ahead with racing training, and many social events.

This season we are working with Westernport Yacht Club on a local schools introduction to sailing program, as well as the highly successful Tackers program. For our own sailors we are adopting a new scoring system and have purchased a new computer, which will make producing and distributing results a lot easier.

Our Opening Day is on the traditional Cup day weekend, Saturday October 29th. The Mark Sefton Trophy race is at 2:00pm, with our famous cocktail party from 6:30 to 8:00pm - free for all members.

Working Bees

Sat. October 1st, 10:00am
- yard & clubhouse
Sat. October 8th, 10:00am -
yard & clubhouse
Sat. October 15th, 10:00am
- Joint Club and Foreshore
Committee

We need to get the club and yard ready for the new season, and working bees are planned for the 1st and 8th of October, with the 15th of October reserved for our required working bee with the Foreshore Committee. Your assistance at one or more of these dates would be very much appreciated.

Thanks to those that have already paid their membership subscription, and a friendly reminder to others to do so. Please remember to return your invoice sheet to the secretary, even if there are no changes, so we can correlate all payments.

Remember to keep an eye on our website over the season for reviews of events, sailing results, links to weather sites etc. We can be found at: www.merricks.org

It would be remiss of me not to take a moment to acknowledge Mike Wierzbowski former commodore and club champion, who passed away in June. He will be sorely missed this summer.

I'm looking forward to another fantastic Merricks summer. I hope to see you all soon..

Richard Jagger

commodore@merricks.org - 0418 125 646



SAILING

Message from our Treasurer

I have been hard at work looking for affordable training boats and liked the look of this one. Remind members to pay their fees, as the volunteers prepared to help sail a boat like this one from Manhattan to Merricks will need to be well provisioned. Ha ha



Vale' Phil Emmitt

Phil Emmitt passed away on 28th August.

Phil was a long term resident at Merricks Beach before taking up residence at Shoreham House a few years ago and has been a long term social member of the yacht club.

After he left Merricks Beach we continued to send him copies of Merricks Moments so he could maintain some contact with the club.

He has been heavily involved with the Merricks Beach Residents Association and supporter of both the Merricks Beach Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management and the Bill Carrol Reserve.

In his late eighties when he passed away, the service to commemorate his life was held 31s August.



To Sea! To Sea!

*To sea, to sea! The calm is o'er;
The wanton water leaps in sport,
And rattles down the pebbly shore;
The dolphin wheels, the sea-cow snorts,
And unseen mermaids' pearly song
Comes bubbling up, the weeds among.
Fling broad the sail, dip deep the oar:
To sea, to sea! The calm is o'er.*

*To sea, to sea! our wide-winged bark
Shall billowy cleave its sunny way,
And with its shadow, fleet and dark,
Break the caved Tritons' azure day,
Like mighty eagle soaring light
O'er antelopes on Alpine height.
The anchor heaves, the ship swings free,
The sails swell full. To sea, to sea!*

Thomas Lovell Beddoes
June 30, 1803 – January 26, 1849

MERRICKS MOMENTS

Social Programme Update

'The social calendar for 2011/2012 at the Merricks yacht club has some thing for everyone. There are a good selection of evenings to visit the yacht club and enjoy the priceless view.

We have the perennial favourites - **open day celebration, new year's day recovery drinks, Australia day dinner, Easter dinner, breakfast by the bay and end of season dinner.** We will repeat popular recent additions - **beer and pizza, paella and pinot.** For new events we have **chicken and sparkling and gourmet sausage sizzle.**

We are also introducing **'The balcony bar'**. The concept is to increase the use of the club and it's balcony and its beautiful vista as a social hub. 'The place' where people can meet after a day on the beach. This year the bar and club will be open **every Friday night through January from 5.30pm to 7pm.** Join us. Catch up with your fellow club members. Contemplate the view. Guests are welcome.

For a third year, Simon Webster will use his extensive hospitality experience to co-ordinating the caters and overseeing the social committee's organisation of the event. Asterid Donadio is a welcome third member to our small team. She also draws her skills and experience from many years of working in and now teaching in hospitality.

'More people helping... small tasks.... help reduce volunteer burn out'

In the past, the challenge as a volunteer helping at social events is that you spent time prior to the event, shopping and cooking, then you spent the whole evening serving food or cleaning up. Not very enjoyable. It has also been the case that once you volunteered you would be a target for helping at every event. So the same generous souls would end up volunteering at each event.

To make the social calendar sustainable the social committee has reviewed the

previous processes and have been looking for opportunities to spread the load.

'different volunteers for each event to spread the load.'

To this end, Simon started with out sourcing the food preparation to professional caterers. This has resulted in some fabulous dinners over the past 2 years and that will continue this year. The next step is to improve how the event flows.

The challenge this year will be to get more people helping with a small task each and, preferably, different people helping at each event. This would help reduce 'volunteer burn out'.

We will be seeking assistance to either run events or complete tasks during the events. We will joyously accept unsolicited help and will be actively approaching members, by email or phone, prior to the event recruiting volunteers to participate. Each event will be broken down into a series of discrete tasks so that each volunteer is not tied up all night. Tasks will include - setting up the room, manning the door, manning the bar in shifts, food preparation and serving in shifts, dish washing in shifts, packing up the room at the end.

Our long term aim is to make the hosting of social events manageable and enjoyable. We encourage you to consider putting up your hand when you next attend an event.

To those who have put their hands up, year after year, THANK YOU. We greatly appreciate all your time and effort. Hopefully you will enjoy being part of a large team when you next participate.

Look forward to seeing you at the opening celebration in November.

Karen Buckingham
Social committee team member

Simon Webster
Social Co-ordinator
social@merricks.org
0414 469 656

Youngerset Report

Well, summer 2011-12 looks like being another action-packed time for the younger members of MYC with plenty of activities both around the club and on the water. Merricks nightlife will include the much anticipated Little Dudes Disco, several movie nights, and plenty of other family events.

It was great to see lots of our younger members out on the water last summer. Once again, we will be running a Junior Sailing Series with several short kid's races during January. There will also be some "Introduction to Sailing" days for children and their parents to come along and have a go. The Club has a fleet of three sparrows, an FJ, and a catamaran available for members to use.

Quite a few of the Merricks kids have participated in the *Tackers Learn to Sail* program over the past few summers at Westernport Yacht Club. This program is run by a group of very experienced sailors, is completely safe, very social and by the end of the week all participants are capable of sailing on their own. I'd encourage anyone with children who are interested in getting involved in sailing to join the program. It's a great way to start.

As you can see, there will be lots of fun around the club for our younger members this summer so keep your eyes on the program for details. We'd love to see some fresh faces on the youngerset so if there are any kids who'd like to help us organise some of the events, we'd be very happy to welcome them on board. The more the merrier!

Rosemary Nolan
Youngerset Contact
youngerset@merricks.org

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FORMER COMMODORE TRIES TO SAVE EUROPEAN ECONOMY

Trevor Wilcox, Merrick's answer to the Italian, Silvio Berlusconi, or perhaps, France's President Nicolas Sarkozy (which would make Jill, our Carlo Bruni), are off on their first European vacation. Below is their latest update.

“Well here we are and we keep pinching ourselves that it's really happening! We have seen some very pretty little towns, but don't know how the bus managed to get past some of the houses we were so close.

Our group is pretty good and the weather has been fantastic. We have been to the Monaco casino which was very impressive ...there was a ball at the Palace Hotel next door with paparazzi everywhere! Dinner at the marina surrounded by super yachtsit's unbelievable!
Nothing like Hastings marina!!!!!!

We are now in Avignon for a few days so we can keep the case open and spread out a bit. We are about half way through and don't want it to end. Our guide is wonderful and a wealth of knowledge. don't know what we would do without him to answer all our silly questions.

Hope all is good with you

Love to all

Jilly and Trev. xxxxx

(Ed. note, Thankfully Trev took the Merricks Moments financial advice to invest a share of their savings into sailing accessories, rather than 'invest' in shares, and see, now they can afford to blow their money in Europe.



Why does Merricks Moments not make more use of phone hacking like other leading news outlets?

Some readers have been asking why we don't have more interesting stories, based on phone hacking, as other leading news outlets do. Well, we have encountered several problems:

- I. Jonka's messages are too long
- II. Simon Webster keeps losing his phone
- III. Anthony Brand's would be most interesting but unprintable

A message from your friendly Treasurer

Yes, its that time of year. The invoices have been sent out and we are getting a steady flow of membership renewals, many using electronic banking. But remember to include your name or member ID in the payment, and send back your renewal form in the envelope provided so we know of any changes to your status. And by the way, the Club's constitution states:

“Any member failing to pay any fees to the Club within two months of the same becoming due and payable may without prejudice to his or her membership be by resolution of the Committee suspend from all privileges of the Club until such outstanding fees have been paid. If the fees shall be overdue for twelve months or more his name may, by resolution of the Committee be struck off the list of members unless the non payment shall be explained to and accepted by the Committee.”

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Safety Equipment

Two years ago you may have heard the committee decided to add a defibrillator to our first aid equipment at the Club.

Fortunately it hasn't been used, and we hope it never is, but if it is ever needed it is critical that people know its there.

It has been installed under the clubhouse in a protective enclosure, near the briefing board. This location was deemed best suited for access by the greater Merricks community, including the beach, club yard, and the village. The unit will be in the case during the sailing season or up in the control tower the rest of the time.

And remember, data (New England Journal of Medicine, October 2000) suggests that survival rates are highest when defibrillation is delivered within three minutes of the time of collapse. Considering the remoteness of our community, this could only be administered from equipment kept in the area.

Free Money!

Do you know of someone in the Merricks community who is not a member of the Club, but you feel they would benefit enormously from our wonderful facilities? Often it takes someone to introduce new people to the Club to get things rolling.

As an incentive to all members, and to help with the membership drive, we are offering a \$50 bar voucher to anyone who successfully signs up a new member (individual/couple/family, social or sailing) to the Club for the coming season. Imagine being the generous friend and shouting the first round for your new members! Enjoy a nice bottle or two of the "Commodore's Choice" premium wine from the Club balcony as the sun sets over another peaceful Merricks day – all without dipping into your wallet! The incentive is here, so nows the time to convince your friends to give it a go. Why not bring them along to

our Opening Cocktail Party (6:30pm, Saturday October 29nd) and introduce them to a few members. I am sure they will thank you for it!

Does the club offer credit, accept Euros, or drachmas at the bar???

- Some members may be wondering, "Given that I have blown much of my savings in Europe or are heavily invested in the share market, could I just get a bit of credit at the club bar?"
- The Committee thought carefully about this for 30 seconds, and while the club's reserves would probably be greater than some Southern European central banks, we are still determined not to go into the business of offering credit. So please don't ask for credit this year, but think seriously about depositing (or investing) a lazy \$50 with the barman at the club. Just remember, if you had invested \$50 with the barman, it would be worth many more Euros or US\$ than a year ago.
- Our financial advisors are constantly reminding us of the importance of liquid assets, and you don't get any more liquid than the fine wines of the new Commodore's Choice selection.

Shock news, clean and publishable joke from Simon Webster!

Here's a clean one -

A magician was working on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. The audience was different each week, so the magician could do the same tricks over and over again. There was only one problem: The captain's parrot saw the

shows each week and began to understand how the magician did every trick. Once he understood he started shouting in the middle of the show:

"Look, it's not the same hat."

"Look, he's hiding the flowers under the table."

"Hey, why are all the cards the Ace of Spades?"

The magician was furious but couldn't do anything, it was Captain's parrot.

One day the ship had an accident and sank.

The magician found himself adrift on a piece of wood in the middle of the ocean

and with the parrot, of course. They stared at each other with hate, but did not utter a word. This went on for days.

After a week the parrot finally said: "OK, I give up. Where's the boat?"

Sewerage at MYC

Over the Winter, to assist in improving the water quality of the Bay, the club invested in getting the sewerage connected at a cost of approx. \$2,500. Of course, we are still on tank water so either keep those showers short, or shower together, no on second thoughts, just keep it short.

Sailing Program

Our new sailing program is available for you to pick up from the yacht club. Alternatively you can view and download it from our website.



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Merricks Community

Representatives of the committees of the Bill Carroll Reserve, Foreshore, Residents' Association, and the Yacht Club have been working together to make the most of Merricks for everyone. We are planning some joint events and initiatives, one of the first being a ...

Foreshore working bee

To follow on from our successful working bees in the last two years tackling the Melianthus infestation along the foreshore towards Point Leo, we are moving to a new area to revegetate (yet to be settled).

This will again be deemed by the Foreshore Committee and Yacht Club to be a "Yacht Club Project", that goes towards the required hours of work as part of our lease arrangements. It's a great opportunity to catch up with other members, help us cover our required hours, and do something good for our local environment. I encourage each of you to consider donating an hour or so of your time, from **10:00am Saturday Oct 15th 2011**.

Club Member Benefits

RITCHIES IGA – Community

Benefit Card can be used at any Ritchie's Supermarket or Liquor Store, for great discounts AND you can nominate Merricks Yacht Club as your chosen beneficiary by completing the Application Form. Please ask at Ritchies IGA or contact 03 9784 2000 www.ritchies.com.au
Alternatively ... John Hollander has many

Application Forms and is the Champion of spruiking this opportunity for Club members (!) vicecommodore@merricks.org
0408 137 647

Sealand Marine, Westernport Marina, Mullet Street, Hastings – special discounts on a range of items available for Merricks Yacht Club members – contact sea.land@bigpond.net.au or phone 03 5979 1211.

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor

Why does the editor have to do all the work to fill this august journal, even writing letters to himself. Surely there is something to complain about that one of our readers to write in about. How about complaining about the beach being washed away and blaming the channel deepening?

Puzzled member

This year's sailing program

Sailing Programs - available on website, hard copies at yacht club, those without emails will be sent copy.

Newsletter Contributions

- Got something to say?
- Something to sell?
- Want to plug the Commodore's novel, The Cure, available on kindle and all other ebook formats
- Some hot gossip?
- Contact Simon at newsletter@merricks.org,

MERRICKS MATTERS – Those MYC Members who do not receive Merricks Matters (the Resident Association's Newsletter) and would like to do so please contact **Gai Wilson** at wilsong@unimelb.edu.au



Raffle Prizes anyone??

We are looking for quality items for raffle prizes for the season - donations would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Simon

Webster, Social Co-ordinator on 0414 469 656 or social@merricks.org

Duty Roster

Stay tuned for this season's duty roster, which will be emailed soon.

Help us out at Y. C. events

If you are willing to lend a hand at a social function, or maybe the control tower for a day, please contact the Social Co-ordinator or Rear Commodore

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MYC website

The yacht club website, continues to grow and includes lots of useful



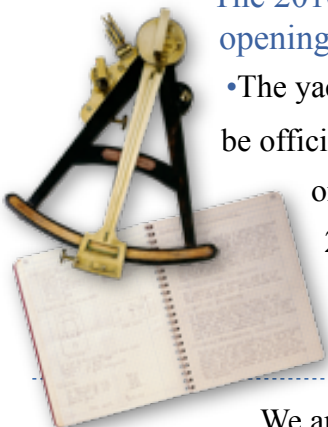
resources about the club and community. It's a great spot to find information on fees and club policies, contact

lists, sailing and social events, photos, rosters and newsletters, and links to our weather station and web cams at Westernport Yacht Club. The website gets about 40 unique visitors per day (more than Myspace), which either means members are finding it useful, or Nigerian scammers are looking for our email addresses.

www.merricks.org"

The 2010 season opening

- The yacht club will be officially opened on Saturday 29 October at 6.30pm.



We are hopeful that there will be more slanderous (albeit accurate) stories about the Social Secretary's past.



Cruising Westernport

This year's program has several opportunities for a leisurely cruise, with the All Clubs Cruise to Sandy Point on Friday 6 January, and the Around French Island Cruise departing on Saturday February 11 and returning on the Sunday.

A great opportunity to see another part of this beautiful bay.

