



Joyce Bovell

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Joyce Bovell and the Club

A couple of weeks ago Joyce Bovell, mother of the Commodore, passed away. Her association with, and contribution to, the Club cannot go unnoticed. She was typical of women associated with the Club in the post war years.

Joyce was the daughter of a Club stalwart Stan Lippingwell. You can see his name recorded on the billiards and snooker trophy boards. She married the late John Bovell who was a Life Member and Patron of the Club. John's father, Senior Member Percy Bovell of Bovell's in Bay View Terrace fame, commenced the family's association with the Club. Her sons David and Tony are a Life and Senior Member respectively. Other Bovell family members associated with the club include her granddaughter and Junior Member, Rebecca; Senior Members Nick and Jeremy Bovell; and Associate Member, Troy Morrison.

At the time Joyce was associated with the Club, female membership was not encouraged. By the same token their contribution to the Club facilities and community had been acknowledged by the members as far back as the 1920's. Both before and after World War Two, women provided practical and active support in the organisation of functions for the enjoyment of members, visiting yachtsmen and their guests. Recognised female membership only started to gain popularity at the Club as women became more and more involved in participation as competitors and administrators of yachting activity.

Prior to the 1960's, however, facilities for female members were less than ideal. Outside of functions, their presence was restricted to a dingy separate little bar where the billiard table is now located. Service was either provided by male members taking and delivering orders from the main bar or, later, by the ladies placing their orders through a hatch at the Northern end of the current bar. This end of the bar was known as "Kalahari Corner" due to the availability of service.

It is both pleasing and significant to note that, through the support and energies of women such as Joyce, the Club was one of the first of the major yacht clubs to remove both constitutional and social barriers to the full participation of women in the Club. It also demonstrates the continuation of strong individual family connections from generation to generation: another strength of the Club.