

**Claremont Yacht Club (Inc)**  
**Annual General Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019**  
**Commodore's Report**

Firstly, I must thank Flag Officers and General Committee members who have contributed, through the General Committee and sub-committees, towards the progress of the Club during the past year. Particularly, I thank Flag Officers, Vice Commodore Darren Chatfield, Rear Commodores Richie Boykett, Paul Hodgson and Walter Reeves and Honorary Treasurer, Dave Andrews.

I have not nominated for a second year as Commodore, nor will I be taking up the opportunity offered by the Constitution to take a General Committee positions. I thank my wife, Anne, for her support during my time on General Committee, particularly during my 5 years as Vice Commodore and this last year as Commodore – being a Flag Officer in any yacht Club is a “whole of family” role. That said, I wish the incoming committee every successful for the coming year.

To my Rear Commodores a special thank you for your efforts to maintain and increase participation in on-water competitions at our Club. Rear Commodore Sail, Richie Boykett, has taken a new approach to increase competition for our Club fleet by engaging with nearby small yacht clubs to support each other's signature events. Rear Commodore Power, Paul Hodgson, has been successful with a fairly direct approach to recruiting new participants in Time Trialling, particularly when new members bring a boat into the marina. Rear Commodore Dinghies, Walter Reeves, has been quietly bringing new members into the laser sailing fleet by getting a strong fleet out every sailing day and extolling the virtues of our Club and our fleet to anybody who even remotely looks like they might be enticed into a laser. (See more in section report below).

I am also very grateful to the volunteers on all sub-committees, particularly those who work with the Rear Commodores to deliver our on-water competitions. I also thank those many others who volunteer to support the Club's on-water activities and assist with maintaining the Club's facilities and history.

All of our staff also deserve recognition. Aply lead by our General Manager, Richard Teuchert, the service provided by our office staff and hospitality staff was very favourably reviewed by members in the Opinion Survey. It is pleasing to see that members think that our permanent and casual staff are doing a good job.

#### MEMBER SURVEY

The opinions of members expressed through the survey are summaries in the annexure to this report . The number of members who responded was pleasing and was remarkable similar to the level of response to the previous survey in 2002/03. Going forward, your General Committee will be guided by the responses members have given to questions asked by the survey. A brief summary of the survey responses is provided in the annexure to this report.

#### HOSPITALITY

A number of successful events have been held during the past year including successful Opening Day celebrations, Christmas buffet, prize nights for sailing and power sections and most recently a very successful Charity lunch. We have also offered regular themed Wednesday buffets which have been well supported by members. The recent Charity lunch raised more than \$25k. These funds have been shared equally between the Club's adopted charity, Youth Focus, and Lifeline which is the charity of choice of Vince Gareffa who was the celebrity Chef for the event.

The Treasurer's report provides an overview of the financial aspects of our Food and Beverage operations for the past year. However, without good food and good service this would not be possible. The survey showed very high level of satisfaction among members with the quality and price of food offered, for which our Chef and kitchen staff are to be commended. Our hospitality staff are also to be acknowledged for the excellence of the service they provide – again as attested by members through the survey.

#### FINANCIAL

Our Honorary Treasurer, Dave Andrews, has provided excellent financial control and reporting to General Committee. The Club is in a robust financial position given the challenging economic environment. I recommend members read the Treasurer's report which provides a thorough analysis of the past year and the budget outlook for the coming year.

#### MARINA AND MEMBERSHIP

The A Jetty refurbishment works have now been completed. These pens have come up a treat and now provide members throughout the marina with easy access to their boats via finger jetties. Many thanks to Peter Stanley, Bill Harding and David Bovell for all their efforts on this project. Thanks also to our Bosun, Rob Depiazzi, who handled many tasks including physically moving boats to give contractors access and many of the finishing tasks so that boats could be moved back into the refurbished pens. Unfortunately, we lost four pens through this exercise so there was a fair amount of boat juggling by the Pens and Moorings Committee to make it all work so thanks must also go the Rear Commodore Power, Paul Hodgson, and his committee.

With all of the expansion and refurbishment of our marina we can now accommodate about 245 boats in pens and moorings. Up to 12 months ago we had achieved close to 90% occupancy of our available capacity. Unfortunately, during the past 12 months the occupancy rate has declined to 80%. As noted in the Treasurer's report, the reduction in both occupancy and recruitment of boats to fill vacant pens has resulted in about a 10% reduction in our marina income. The majority of H South pens (the largest pens in our marina) have stubbornly remained vacant. The majority of the vacancies in our marina are the large H South pens, whereas the majority of enquiry has been for boats suited to pens on A, B and E jetties. As noted by the Treasurer, Clubs around the river are "doing deals" to recruit any available boats into vacant marina capacity. Maybe the rumoured economic upturn will revive demand for larger boat pens in the near future!

The Club no longer offers hard-standing for boats with the last such boat removed earlier this year. Our boating accommodation is now in marina pens and stacked in the dinghy shed. Construction of storage for Stand-up Paddle (SUP) boards is under way and members will be advised when that becomes available.

In line with the reduction in numbers of boats, Senior (voting) membership is down by 10 during the last 12 months to 304. Although this compares favourably with 238 Senior members in 2003. Associate and Dinghy membership (not including affiliated groups) now stands at 321 compared with 308 last year. In 2003 there were 170 members in those categories. The greatest growth in our membership has been in those who identify as Social Members currently about 220 compared with about 70 in 2003. That is, we have had more success in recruiting Social membership than we have had in recruiting voting membership during the past 15 years. Additionally, during the past 5 years we have added about 180 members to our register through the Affiliated groups, Just

Friends, Nor-West Game Fishing Club, Lions and CCGS Old Boys Association. In summary, over the longer term the Club's membership has grown although we now face the short term challenge of declining Senior membership and declining marina occupancy.

## **KEELBOAT SECTION**

### **Report by Rear Commodore Richie Boykett**

The Sailing Section continues to maintain an active fleet of yachts, skippers and, most importantly, crew. We have a mixed fleet with several Spacesailor 22's, 24's and larger boats in the 28 to 32 foot range. While we are a competitive group, the key is to have an enjoyable sail and we welcome new skippers to join in the sailing and to build their skills and hone their racing spirit. This upcoming 2019/20 season we will be joining with Nedlands and Perth Flying Squadron yacht clubs to run a series of interclub races, with our own Commodore's Cup planned for Sunday 15th March 2020. Our Spacesailor 22's continue to compete in the association rounds to ensure that CYC is recognised as a club that continues its 115 year tradition of sailing on the Swan River.

The skippers and crew are actively supported by the start crew led up by Robert Jefferies and Wilma Poland. Rob and Wilma always welcome other starters to the box to assist, including hauling on the flags and recording the start / finish times and crunching the numbers. As noted, our fleet is competitive with a good mix of boats allowing a diverse style of boat to get involved. Our skippers and crew are also very supportive to ensure that skippers who are new to racing are encouraged to return and build our fleet.

The Wednesday twilights continue to be popular with a mixed fleet each week, followed by the excellent Wednesday night buffet overlooking Freshwater Bay. The twilight series is a great way for skippers and crews, new to fleet racing, to practise sailing and tacking in close to other boats. The twilight events are very much a social race and there is not even a mutton chop at stake, though the occasional bottle of wine is on offer.

If members or friends (or even acquaintances) are keen to try sailing or crewing, there are opportunities to come down and join in with experienced skippers. Contact through the office to the Rear Commodore Sail, or other members of the sailing committee, is the best method to get on board. I, and the keelboat committee, look forward to seeing you (and your friends and acquaintances) out on the water - fair winds.

## **POWER BOAT SECTION**

### **Report by Rear Commodore Paul Hodgson**

The last 6 months have been quite a busy time for the Power Committee.

In May the Club had a very successful Power Season Opening day. With the great weather and large attendance, the day was very successful and enjoyable for members and guests. Even the dolphins and swans came out to play. Over 40 boats participated in the sail past, which was tremendous turn-out for our club.

Time Trialling season is almost finished (at time of reporting) and it has been great to see the number of participants increasing. The Club now has 10 to 12 boats out for every event. A fantastic improvement when we look back a few years ago when we were battling to get 4 to 5 boats to an event. Participation is increasing resulting in events being more enjoyable for participants and also the post event "debriefs".

To our volunteer check-pointers I say thank you so much for your time during the season. It is very much appreciated by all Time Trial participants and organisers.

Finally my time is up as RCP of this great club, 2 years seems to have flown. I thank all my Committee for their assistance, they are tremendous volunteers who put in a lot of work which is not noticed by many.

I wish Mike Della Posta all the best as he takes up the challenge as Rear Commodore Power of our Club. Mike is a great club person who will do an outstanding job.

My many text messages to boaties will now cease. Possibly?

## **DINGHY SECTION**

### **Report by Rear Commodore Walter Reeves**

It has been a challenging year for our dinghy sailors. The 2018-19 season got off to a poor start with the opening day race being cancelled due to strong wind. This was scheduled as a heat of the state laser title so the Club also missed out on an opportunity to showcase our Club and our dinghy competition to other clubs. Subsequently, the weather during the winter frost bites series has not been conducive to sailing being either too light or too strong. So our effort is being put into preparation for the next season.

During the summer, the lawn was full most Sundays with 15 to 23 boats getting out to compete for the coveted annual Club champion and consistency trophies. The lawn area is now not big enough to fit the whole fleet these days. Nonetheless, despite of the lack of sailing over winter, the fleet continues to grow with two new members joining. We are looking forward to sailing with them in the coming summer season.

Our laser skippers have different levels of experience, and all comers are welcome. The Club has taken the initiative to hold regular coaching sessions, which is improving the sailing standard within the fleet. Also, Tackers training courses were run over the summer school holidays for Tackers 2/3.

The CYC fleet is competitive but friendly. This is evident in the healthy numbers who stay for lunch every Sunday to keep the bar and kitchen busy and keep the tall stories flowing thick and fast. The Dinghy section can also be seen booking out tables on the odd Wednesday night dinner.

Thanks to dinghy committee members for their sustained effort to progress the preparation and imminent finalisation of "safe sailing procedure" for CYC. I wish my successor as Rear Commodore Dinghies, Dominic Papaluca, every success for the coming year.

**Annexure to Commodore's Report.**  
**REPORT - MEMBER OPINION SURVEY 2019**

The response rates for the survey of members conducted this year were almost identical to the response rates for the questionnaire sent to members in 2002/03. In both surveys, 25% of the overall membership submitted responses while 35% of boating members (Senior, Special, Life, Senior Dinghy) responded. This level of response gives a good indication on the opinions of interested members.

**HOSPITALITY**

Overall, members were very satisfied with the quality and price of food and beverage offered by the Club. Our hospitality staff will continue to work to provide Club events, particularly prize nights, at an attractive price as a service to members. Our General Manager will continue to monitor the price and range of product offered to meet the needs of members.

**CLUBROOM FACILITIES**

Members considered that all of the minor capital works project suggested were required, but some were required more urgently. The internal works that were considered most urgently required were – 1 “Refurbish lower deck ladies and gents toilets”; 2 “Refurbish upstairs Members’ Bar”; 3 “Redecorate Bayview (upper) Ballroom”. An allocation for these projects has been included in the 2019-20 budget and a specific motion for approval of capital to achieve the first of these outcomes works will be presented to the AGM.

**ON-WATER ACTIVITIES**

Rear Commodores will work with their sub-committees to develop strategies to encourage participation by members who answered “maybe” to these questions. There was an encouraging level of interest by all categories of members in all of the on-water competitions and most of the on-water social activities suggested in the survey.

**CLUB ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS**

Respondents indicated that they are more likely to attend casual social events than formal social events. The most popular of all the event types offered was “Sunday Sundowners with live entertainment”. Members’ responses to these questions will be used by your committees and hospitality staff to inform planning for future social events.

**VISION STATEMENT**

Among the suggested vision statements, the majority of members “Preferred” – “The Family Friendly Yacht Club” whereas the statement considered least appropriate was “The Family Friendly Club for Locals”. There were few alternative vision statements suggested by respondents to the survey, however, General Committee will review the options to present a vision statement which is clearly specific to Claremont Yacht Club.