



RGYC FOUNDATION

Assisting Royal Geelong Yacht Club to foster the sport of sailing & give back to our community

WINTER (FIFTH) QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER JULY 7th 2024

As I write this newsletter I know that Brendan Garner is trying to find time to affix the signage to the hull and sails of the RS21 to be sponsored by the RGYC Foundation before he flies out to Plymouth (UK) with his family so that his sons can compete in the YW Cadet World Championships. The sponsorship is initially for one year but with an option to extend for a further two years. In the contract is a clause which requires RGYC and the Foundation to be mutually supportive and actively promote each other. The Trustees are looking forward to being assisted with marketing and promotion both within RGYC and beyond the club. The sponsorship of the RS21 is being funded from a Term Deposit which was set up a year ago and hence is from an “older” investment than our recent investments with Robbie Miller’s bequest.



RS 21 Number 1 with RGYC Foundation signage.



The new Cadet/Off the Beach Clubhouse and Sailing School.

It has been wonderful to see the development of the new Off-the-Beach Clubhouse and sailing School, especially after the delays which were experienced. It has also been great to see the wide range of uses to which the RS21 fleet has been put to. There has been significant growth in activity and the fleet has been used for corporate team building activities and competitions, adult learn to sail courses, keelboat lessons, Women on Water training sessions and racing, intra-club competitions, Geelong Youth Engagement programmes and Extra-curricular programmes for some State Secondary Schools as well as Geelong Grammar School’s Team training programme. Once the facilities are completed I expect that there will be further growth in this area.

It has been particularly pleasing to see the engagement of our older RGYC Members with our younger Members, in many cases with the leadership roles taken by the younger Members. The RS21 Sailing Development programme has generated a lot of very positive activity in the Club and created a new

opportunity for Member engagement. The RGYC Foundation is pleased to have helped facilitate this fantastic development and we look forward to ongoing sponsorship of it. Interestingly, part of our sponsorship arrangement is that on one day of the year we can have the use of the fleet of 6 RS21s, instructors etc. The Trustees are engaging in discussion about what we would like to do with this opportunity. We would welcome any ideas to throw onto the table for discussion.

Morgan Cornelius, our youngest and newest Trustee, has been very busy working on our Website which was initially set up by Trustee Mal Eaton and then Hon Secretary Jenny Wapling some years ago. Morgan has made a number of changes essentially making the site easier to navigate and up-dating and expanding the information on the site. We are most grateful for his energy and commitment.

We are pleased to welcome Gerhard Hein as a new Foundation member. Gerhard joined RGYC earlier this year and has done some Learn to Sail courses and taken an active part in Twilight racing in particular. Speaking of Twilight racing: The Foundation sponsored three Twilight races last season and will do so again next year. We have had some donated Royal Doulton Lead crystal glasses engraved RGYC FOUNDATION and these will be presented to winners of Division 1 and 2 for each of these three races. Further, the results are aggregated to produce a winner in each Division of the RGYC Foundation Robbie Miller Trophy. This year the Division 1 winner was Past Commodore and Foundation Member Peter Stephens on "Rollercoaster" and the Division 2 winner was Lindsay Powell on "Fandango". The trophy was presented on Alpha Course Presentation Night.

There has been much promotion of opportunities to join the RGYC Foundation and/or donate to it. We had a significant drive along the lines of the Foundation Action Envelope which was circulated at the Robbie Miller Dinner (and also sent to all Foundation Members with my last Newsletter), particularly encouraging donations at the close of the 2023/24 Financial year with the tax deductible nature of donations being significant. We are most grateful for the donations received. Can I again encourage you to talk with others who might be potential RGYC Foundation Members or Donors, and see if we can build our Membership further. Word of mouth is still the very best marketing!

In closing I give advance notice of the RGYC Foundation Annual General Meeting which is to be held at 6.00pm at RGYC on Thursday 19th September. Formal notice will come out in due course and we look forward to your attendance at the AGM.

Jonathan Apted

Chair of Trustees