



RGYC FOUNDATION

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

SUMMER (SEVENTH) QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 22nd 2024

The RGYC Foundation Trustees have been pleased with the progress of the Foundation's investments during the first half of the 2024/25 financial year. There has been good income from interest and dividends and also good capital growth. Our risk appetite is low and we are conservative in our approach as we are looking after funds that are directed at the longer term rather than rapid return (with higher risk). Total assets are now almost \$800,000. Speaking of income it is of interest to note that the Foundation's Ruth Plummer meat raffle still takes place most Friday evening Member nights at RGYC. It is a regular highlight for RGYC Members and it is notable that the meat is delivered in a box always addressed to Ruth Plummer. Overall, it brings in about \$10,000 annually. Harry Farnell has been running this for quite a few years (maybe 10??) so possibly as much as \$100,000 has come from this effort. Well done, and thank you, Harry!

It has been pleasing to see RS 21 number 1 sailing out on Corio Bay with the RGYC Foundation banner on its topsides. It certainly has raised the profile of the Foundation in the club and with those who have used the RS 21 fleet for training, courses or corporate race days. It is also rewarding to feel that through our sponsorship of this boat we are contributing to programmes being run by the club to attract and retain members as well as improving the skills of current members, young and older.



Further in terms of raising the profile of the RGYC Foundation and also celebrating the life of Robbie Miller, we are sponsoring three twilight races to comprise the RGYC Foundation Robbie Miller Twilight Series. The first of these races was held on Wednesday 4th December and engraved lead crystal glasses were presented to the winning yacht in each division. *Woteva* won in Division 1 and *Patternmaker* won in Division 2. The next races are in early February and early March with the aggregate score determining the winner of the Robbie Miller Trophy in each division. The Robbie Miller Trophy will be awarded to the winners on Presentation night.



Foundation engraved lead crystal. Robbie Miller Memorial Trophy.

Morgan Cornelius, our youngest and newest Trustee, has been doing a lot of work on our website. Mal Eaton and Jenny Wapling were very active in the establishment of the website possibly ten years ago. We are very grateful for their fine work and also pleased that Morgan has been able to modernise some aspects. He has also put up all of the Quarterly Newsletters, forms, information sheets, Rules and Purposes and a few Policy documents so that they are all readily available to you all. He has also posted information about your Trustees and refined the links through the Australian Sports Foundation (ASF) to make it easier to donate to the Foundation or to its particular projects. He is also producing a design for our new information brochure. Thank you, Morgan. Foundation Members are encouraged to explore the website. Morgan would be very pleased to hear your feedback.

For quite a few years we have held a Foundation Get Together at RGYC, usually in late March or early April. This year we held the Robbie Miller Dinner instead. The Get Together was always a popular function and we thought that most of the usual attendees would come to the dinner. We were very pleased with the attendance at the dinner but we are conscious that we lost contact with some of our Foundation Members. RGYC Life Member Murray McRae is speaking at the dinner in 2025 on his adventure cruise to Antarctica this year. Perhaps we should have a pre-dinner Get Together for those who do not wish to attend

the dinner. PLEASE get in touch (info@rgycfoundation.com.au)and let us know your thoughts.

Whilst seeking feedback on this – and we really do want to know your thoughts- there is another matter on which we would like your help. Whilst Foundation Memberships have grown by a few each year Trustees are concerned that we are not growing as fast as we might be and we start to question whether or not our purposes and activities are not right to promote growth. Word of mouth has been the main driver of our growth but we need more mouths to be active in recruiting members. Our lifetime Membership still requires a donation of a mere \$1,000and some feel that after 14 years it should be doubled so now is a great time to get some who might be interested in joining to do so before the healthy discount disappears. The donation is tax deductible at \$1,050 through the RGYC Foundation/ASF website. (The \$50 is to cover the ASF retention fee) or potential members can simply donate \$1,000 directly through Harry at the Friday night raffle to gain membership.

A small amount of funding support has been provided in the past year to a number of RGYC Cadet Members wishing to compete overseas. Up until very recently, the next YW Cadet World Championships were to be held in Argentina in December 2025/January 2026. However, due to problems getting a host club in Argentina it has been decided that the 2025 World Championships will be held on Lake Lipno in the Czech Republic at the end of July 2025. We do hope to be able to support RGYC Cadet Members selected to represent Australia in this series. Selection will take place at the Nationals in Port Lincoln in January. Life Member Tony Bull will be the National Coach.



Our Cadets on the podium in Plymouth 2024.

I remind all Foundation Members that there is a vacancy on our Trustee board. I would like to see someone take up the challenge of Memberships, Sponsorships and Donations. Please let me know if you are keen to take it up.

We continue to look to the future with a sense of optimism. We see the potential for an increase in memberships, resources, community contacts and influences and a growing sense of the Foundation's importance in our community.

On behalf of the Trustees I wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year along with good health and happiness throughout 2025 and beyond.

Jonathan Apted

Chair of Trustees