



OUR EVENING ON THE “INVERLOCHY”

On Thursday evening (3rd July) we CELEBRATED the Royal Geelong Yacht Club’s restoration and display of the marine stick (Fortin) barometer from the “INVERLOCHY”, wrecked off Anglesea in December 1902. We had over 40 people present with a broader representation than might usually attend an RGYC function. The RGYC Foundation is trying to broaden the membership to wider Geelong and spread the news of the Yacht Club and the Foundation. ERIC MESSER gave an excellent presentation about the “INVERLOCHY”, her crew and their misadventures off our coast in 1902. It was interesting, informative and amusing and Eric had his wry Edinburgh sense of humour to the fore!

Two reports from The Geelong Advertiser (6th January 1903) and The Argus (Melbourne 7th February 1903) make for interesting reading:

The barque *Inverlochy* took the reef hard and fast off the Anglesea River, between Point Addis and Point Road Knight, on the night of December 18th, and it was the general opinion that she could never be floated off again. She has withstood many a severe gale since she grounded on the reef, but kept a firm position, mainly through the fact that she was heavily weighted with cargo. Lately the steamer *Meeinderry* and lighter *Endeavour*, have been carrying on salvage operations at the wreck, and a considerable quantity of cargo has been taken out of the hold of the vessel. (Geelong Advertiser 6/1/1903)

Only a small part of the bow and stern of the barque *Inverlochy*, wrecked on Hereford Reef, can now be seen, and unless one knew the exact position of the wreck, what remains would be mistaken for rocks.....Barrels of whisky and bottles of stout have come ashore, together with boxes of extract of soap, which have been stacked on shore and secured by the excise officers and the police who are keeping vigilant watch to prevent theft and the broaching of the liquor by the large crowd of persons who have congregated. When the police arrived on the scene shortly after midday today they found a number of persons, who had knocked in the staves of one cask of whisky, lying helplessly drunk. Two well-known residents got away with certain goods. Cobb and Co. are running special coaches to the coast and large numbers of persons are availing themselves of the chance, and returning with small souvenirs of the wreck. (Argus (Melbourne 7/2/1903)

John Taylor (Snr) joined RGYC as a junior member in 1925. He sailed with Morris Jacobs (Snr) on the beautiful 50 foot ketch *Seaweed* which had been sailed from England by Mr and Mrs Symonds. One of John's most prized possessions was a lovely mercury barometer from the *Seaweed*, left to him by Mr Jacobs. (Seachest June 1964) John presented this barometer, which we believe was originally from the *Inverlochy*, to RGYC in 1960. History does not relate how Mr Jacobs came into the possession of the barometer but it is assumed that it was via sale of salvaged items from the wreck of the *Inverlochy*.



Jonathan Apted (RGYC Foundation Chair) spoke of the enthusiasm and dedicated determination of those RGYC and RGYC Foundation members who saw the importance of restoration of the wonderful barometer to its proper state and for its display in the club. Foremost amongst these were RGYC Honorary Life Members Noel Robertson and Harry Farnell and they received warm applause in appreciation of their efforts from the gathering. He also extended an invitation to all non-Foundation members to get on board and **HELP BUILD THE LEGACY!**

Jonathan Apted

4th August 2025