



RGYC FOUNDATION

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

AUTUMN (ELEVENTH) QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER (April 2026)

Where did the Easter break go? For me, autumn in Victoria is perfect for outdoor painting – you can't start before 11 and you have to finish by 3. With warm days and low winds the only problem is you get too ambitious and make too big a job list. Then the rain sets in before you get to the end of the list. That answers the first question!

So what else has been happening? Well the RGYC Foundation has been busy too. We have been in a partnership with the RGYC Sailing Academy with the aim of growing the offerings provided by the academy and increasing the numbers coming through it. It has been particularly through the energy and persistence of the Hon. Secretary, Lynne Johnston, and through the generosity of Paul Loughnan (European Affair) and Geoff Maloney (POD) who very kindly agreed to let us use their corporate days from their RS21 sponsorships, that we have been able to get Chilwell Primary school and Bell Park Primary school year 6 students out on the water. We are also very grateful to the skippers and safety boat crews who help on the day. We know how much they enjoy the day (despite no earplugs) but the children also have their own special way of saying "thank you"! It usually involves massive smiles as well as a written note of appreciation! By the end of April we will have taken nearly 200 students out sailing who might never have had that experience.



AS WE RAISE MORE FUNDS WE WILL BRING MORE CHILDREN TO THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF SAILING.

We also very recently celebrated our annual GET TOGETHER (Friday 20th March).

Immediately before the function the formal naming of the main room in the new Sailing Centre took place. It was named the Howard Glover Room in honour of Howard Glover who had been Commodore of RGYC and Mayor of Geelong and was the key driver behind the establishment of the Victorian Sailing School which was located in a building adjacent to RGYC and which has now moved into the shared facility. Commodore Paul Buchholz spoke of Howard's commitment to RGYC and Geelong and of his numerous achievements. Howard's daughter-in-law, Jan Glover then expressed her gratitude and said how proud Howard would have been to have this recognition. Jan then unveiled a plaque by the door



Commodore Paul Buchholz and Jan Glover unveiling the plaque.

We had good attendance at the Get Together and we welcomed a new Foundation member, Geoff Baum, to the growing list of members. We also held a minute's silence in memory of Foundation Member Jo Cornelius who had so recently passed away. We pass our condolences to Morgan and their family and we will remember Jo's bubbly personality and her fierce determination to live life to the full despite adversity.

This year we extended an invitation to past members of RGYC to come along and join us and we were very pleased to have several turn up for the Get Together. Harry Farnell was very busy selling tickets for the Ruth Plummer meat raffle which also included several bottles of Leura Park and Jack Rabbit Shiraz thanks to the generosity of RGYC Wine Partners Leura Park Estate. A number of members took the opportunity to purchase a dozen (red, white or mixed) at a special discounted rate. Thanks go to Mark Neilson and Michael Carroll for running this wine drive. The Wine Drive CLOSES on April 20th but if you ring Mark on 0412 823 730 he will help you with your purchase.



Our **SQUADRON** of Past-commodores in attendance at the Get Together. L – R: Harry Farnell, Chris Williams, Brian Marshman, Mike Kelly, Andrew Neilson, Paul Buchholz (Current Commodore), Guyon Wilson and Ian Murray.

It is a measure of our credibility and Social Proof that we can boast such a large number of Past Commodores in our membership. It is surely a measure of recognition of the potential of the RGYC Foundation that so many distinguished RGYC members have joined the Foundation.



Members and guests enjoy drinks and canapes in the West Lounge

I spoke about the support which the Foundation is providing to RGYC through our Partnership with The RGYC Sailing Academy, with a focus on its programmes for young people. I left it a bit late in the evening and some had left before I spoke, so I have included a key part of the speech here:

One key reason our Foundation exists is to give young people the opportunity to learn to sail, regardless of their background, and to benefit from everything that experience brings.

When we talk about junior sailing, it is easy to think first about boats, winds, and racing. Of course, learning to sail is a remarkable skill in itself. It teaches discipline, technique and respect for the environment. But what we see, year after year, is that the real impact goes far beyond what happens on the water. For many of our grassroots children, their first time stepping into a boat is also their first experience of real independence.

Out there on the bay, they learn to make decisions. They learn responsibility – for their boat, for their crew, and for their own safety. They learn resilience when conditions change or things don't go to plan. They learn that confidence doesn't come from being perfect – it comes from trying, failing, adjusting and trying again. THESE ARE LIFE SKILLS.

Through sailing, children learn teamwork, leadership, communication and perseverance. They learn how to stay calm under pressure, how to problem-solve and how to back themselves. These are skills that follow them into school, into their careers and into life well beyond the yacht club.

However, not every child who wants to, or might, sail has the means to do so. That's where the Foundation – and your generosity – comes in. Donations to the RGYC Foundation help fund:

*Access to training for beginners;

*Equipment and boats that lower the barrier to entry:

*Coaching and mentoring that nurture confidence and capability;

*Opportunities for children who otherwise might never experience sailing at all.

YOUR SUPPORT TURNS INTEREST INTO OPPORTUNITY – AND OPPORTUNITY INTO IMPACT!

And the return on that investment is extraordinary.

We see it in the quiet child who finds their voice. In the nervous beginner who becomes a capable skipper. In the young sailor who carries confidence and discipline into every part of their life. Not all of these children will go on to race competitively – and that is fine. The true success of our Foundation is not measured in trophies. It is measured in

stronger, more capable, more confident young people, connected to the world and each other.

By donating to the Foundation, you are not just supporting a sport. You are **shaping futures**. You are investing in character, resilience and community. You are helping ensure that sailing – and the life lessons that it brings – remains accessible to the next generation.

On behalf of the RGYC Foundation, and especially on behalf of the young sailors whose lives you help shape, thank you for your generosity, your belief and your continued support. **Together we are not just teaching children how to sail; we are helping them learn how to navigate life!**

We thank Paul Loughnan of European Affair for his continuing generous hospitality of the Get Together. It is through his generosity that we are NOT using Foundation funds to celebrate annually.

As I close off with writing this newsletter I ask you to SAVE THE DATE for the Robbie Millers Dinner on Saturday 18th July. Details will be emailed nearer the time.

As we approach June 30th we put in front of you various opportunities to give back and obtain an income tax deduction with it.

We have a number of projects on the go and would appreciate your support with them. Any and all donations are appreciated. The QR codes are provided for your convenience but each of these can be accessed through the Foundation's website. Just enter the website and click on "DONATE NOW". Donations are tax deductible through our partnership with the Australian Sports Foundation.

RGYC Foundation General Purposes (HERE ONLY -Donations of \$1070 or more will be recognised with RGYC Foundation membership)



RGYC Cadets to 2026 World Championships on Lake Garda, ITALY



Geelong Primary Schools “Day on the Bay”



Support and Maintenance of the RS21 Fleet



Jonathan Apted Chair, RGYC Foundation