



RGYC FOUNDATION

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

SPRING (THIRTEENTH) QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER September 17th 2026

Now you are probably wondering why another Newsletter is coming so soon after the last one (Winter). It is because we had to postpone the Robbie Miller Dinner. I usually put out a newsletter immediately following the AGM so here goes.

Our newly elected Trustee is John Goldsworthy and we welcome him on board. He is new to sailing and to RGYC though he did visit frequently with his father, Graeme, when much younger. He has a wealth of experience in business and in Geelong and we look forward to his contribution to the Trustee Board and the Foundation.

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26 FINANCIAL YEAR

The RGYC Foundation Trustees have had another very busy and productive year with much happening for the RGYC Foundation. We held our annual Get-Together on Friday 20th March. Once again we are most grateful for the support of Foundation member Paul Loughnan (European Affair) who generously provided the drinks and canapes for the evening. We started the evening with the dedication of the main function room upstairs in the new building (the Victorian Sailing Centre) and naming it the Howard Glover Room in recognition of Howard's key involvement in the establishment of the National Sailing and Water Safety School which was established adjacent to RGYC and officially opened in 1987.



Jan Glover with Commodore Paul Buchholz.



Jan Glover with past Commodores at the naming.

Sadly, we also announced the passing of foundation member Jo Cornelius who had lost her long and brave battle with cancer. Her determined and outwardly cheerful disposition had been remarkable. We held a minute's silence and we passed our condolences to Morgs and the family.

Our membership, having shown slow but steady growth over a number of years, has recently blossomed with twenty-five memberships over the past two years. Jan Neeson-Marshman, Joe Selvaggi, Leanne Selvaggi, and Geoff Baum came on board during the year and very recently we welcomed John Goldsworthy, Tony Bull, David Green, Roger Kennett and Jason Boyle and our recent growth has taken us to a membership list of 110.

The Trustees have long been considering raising the donation amount for which membership is recognised. It has been at \$1,000 for 15 years and it is probably time for an increase but we do not want that amount to deter people from joining. We want greater participation. It is the case that the Australian Sports Foundation, through which we obtain tax deductibility for our donors, has raised their administration fees so donations through this channel need to be \$1070 to cover their fees and make the \$1,000 donation to the Foundation.

Our Hon. Treasurer, Michael Carroll, has provided a detailed set of audited figures in his report and I thank Mike Kelly once again for his auditing of our accounts. I do want to emphasise the success of our investments through Ord Minnett this past year. We are invested very conservatively but, despite the unpredictability of the share market and the extent of global uncertainty with respect to international economics, our assets are currently over \$870,000 and we earned almost \$30,000 in interest and dividends in the past year. In simple terms we earned 11.46% after fees. This is excellent, especially when one compares it with the Australian Share market's much lower growth over the past year.

It is one of our Rules that we do not spend capital but build for the long term future. We limit ourselves to annual distribution of \$2,000 plus up to 80% of interest and dividends (NOT capital) earned in the previous financial year. We have put to our Members a revised wording of our Rule 16 (b) (vii) to retain the spirit of capital retention but allowing distribution of raffle funds as and when we determine.

In the 2025 /26 financial year we gave our support to the RGYC Sailing Academy through a \$20,000 partnership and also \$1,000 per boat (\$5,000 total) to the Cadet team, Lulu DiSciascio (Teams Racing) and Finn Buckley (ILCA 7) travelling to World Championships overseas. It is great to see the IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING in helping our young sailors further their experiences in this way.



RGYC Cadet Teams going to Lake Garda and Coach Tony Bull. Note that Rohan Taruga and Tillie Grove are also going.

We also provided the platform (through our website and our relationship with the Australian Sports Foundation) for tax-deductible donations to go to supporting the RGYC Cadets to compete in the Australian team for the World Championships in Italy (Lake Garda) in August.

The Trustees will soon be in discussion with the RGYC General Manager, Steve Harper and Sailing and Boating Manager, Drew Malcolm about how the Foundation might support the RGYC Programme. Therefore it might be that we look to support the broader programme on offer in the RGYC Sailing Academy in a different way. Note that this is NOT the Education Department's Victorian Sailing School. We are always pleased to hear from Foundation Members how they see we might support the Club and its programmes.

Following the great success with Oberon Primary School last year we decided to broaden the programme of Primary School sailing experience this year. However, our application for support funding from the City of Greater Geelong was unsuccessful. Through the generosity of Paul Loughnan (European Affair) and Geoff Maloney (POD Active), who allowed us to use their corporate days from their RGYC Partnership, we were able to get both Chilwell Primary and Bell Park North Primary out on the water in the RS21s. The children and staff had a wonderful time and some will no doubt go sailing again. Our thanks again go to Hon Secretary Lynne Johnston for her energetic persistence to get this programme to continue. The Trustees would like to broaden this to make it available to more primary schools in the future.



Primary school students enjoying their day sailing on Corio Bay with RGYC volunteer Geoff Newman helming.

We had to postpone the Robbie Miller Dinner due to the unexpected unavailability of our guest speaker but proceeded with the function a few weeks later.

The RGYC Foundation's Robbie Miller Twilight Series Trophy was awarded to "KAVALA" – Dave Ruffin in Division 1 and "TIME OUT" – Lovro Ljubianovic in Division 2.

The matter of growing membership has been a challenge for us but now that we are more obvious in our impact in the RGYC, we are hopeful that more RGYC Members will want to get on board and **help build the legacy**. Certainly, Gus and others have commented to me that they joined because they like what they see us doing. I encourage all Foundation Members to consider those around them and ask if they would like to join and support the RGYC Foundation. The Social Proof that comes from word-of-mouth recommendations from existing members is very powerful! It is also a very important way in which Foundation members can continue an active participation in the growth of our Foundation.

I continue to be grateful for assistance from the RGYC Administration staff, particularly Ash at the front desk and Ann who deals with our meat raffle proceeds, dinner accounts and such like. Ben Potter had also been very helpful as Partnerships Manager. I have been very grateful for the careful guidance afforded by Michael Carroll as Foundation Hon. Treasurer over several years and, particularly as we moved to joining Ord Minnett for investment advice. Michael steps down as Treasurer and as Trustee this year and I am pleased that Mark Neilson has enthusiastically taken up the Hon. Treasurer's sharpened pencil. I continue to be very grateful for the enthusiastic assistance of the Hon. Secretary Lynne Johnston and also Trustee Morgan Cornelius who has made significant gains with our marketing and communications. I thank Deputy Chair Harry Farnell for his dedicated work with the Ruth Plummer meat raffles each Friday evening. His weekly efforts have contributed to our funds over a long period of time. Past Commodore and Life Member Guyon Wilson deserves a special

mention here for his determined work with respect to the naming of the Howard Glover room. My thanks go to all Trustees for their involvement and good discussion at our meetings. I remind all Foundation members that there is a vacancy on our Trustee board. Please let me know if you are keen to take it up.

We are looking to the future with a strong sense of optimism. We see the gratifying increase in memberships, resources, community contacts and influences and a growing sense of the Foundation's importance in our community. We have been reaching out into the Geelong Community for support for the RGYC Foundation. If you know of likely supporters do please let us know. It is a future that all Foundation Members can contribute towards. We can all **HELP BUILD THE LEGACY!**

Jonathan Apted

Chair of Trustees



Finn Buckley speaking at the Robbie Miller Dinner.