



Snapper Snippets

Between Beaconsfield Parade & The Sand, Kerferd Road Pier, Albert Park.

Chantal's Super Snapper



Chantal Meehan's snapper weighed 6.4 kgs.



VALE
Louis Tardrew

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Presidents Message
- Louis Tardrew
- Manager's Report
- Fishing Report
- Stocking The Lake
- VRFish News
- Women In Fishing
- Sponsor's Corner
- Shellfish Reef Project
- Ladies Fishing Day
- Gone Fishing Day
- The Royals Visit
- New Honour Board
- Jack Pompei
- Ship Traffic Control
- Murray Cod-ference
- The Sandman

Bring On Summer

Philip Langdon

Once again it has been a very busy and positive time at the club.

As President I am very conscious one must always be looking at ways to move the club forward and to expand its horizons, while always making sure it is a place for all members to enjoy. Strong member support has seen the club continue to trade above cash flow forecasts. The newly named "Pat Hutchinson Wing" continues to be a big

success while the new kitchen has proved more than able to cope with increased member demand.

In association with my Vice President, Pat Hutchinson, we have worked very closely with our management team to make sure the day-to-day operation of the club is meeting committee and member needs. In line with this I, and the committee, issued a letter reminding members that the club is there for all members' enjoyment and, that those members with young children need to be actively aware to have supervision and

Bring On Summer

(from page one)

control of their children, whenever they attend the club.

With the support of my active committee, we have been working through our Fishing subcommittee to expand the club's facility for our female members, wives and girlfriends to become involved in an active fishing program. This has seen an enjoyable Ladies Fishing Day boat trip and the highly successful 'Gone Fishing Day'.

Our club's social functions continue to be well-supported by members. Our Christmas In July event, Footy Tipping, Grand Final and Melbourne Cup Lunches have been very happy and successful occasions. We have also held a number of Member Saturday Night themed restaurant nights on those Saturday nights when vacancies occurred.

We now look forward to our annual Christmas Lunch, Children's Christmas Party, and our big New Year's Eve party.

For some time, I and the committee have discussed expanding our honour boards to include members who served in wars beyond the Second World War. Due to the work of Ron Hall, with the help of Pat Hutchinson and Tony Spinelli, for which I and the committee are very thankful, we unveiled our new honour board in a moving and touching ceremony on Remembrance Day.



In recognition of the work and commitment of Pat Hutchinson over more than 20 years; representing the club at fishing association meetings, including MAA and VR Fish, serving on club committees, and as Vice President; the Committee felt it was appropriate to recognise his outstanding service by naming the new North-Western balcony, the Pat Hutchinson Wing.

In closing I would like to wish all members and, their families, a very happy and safe Christmas & New Year.

Philip Langdon
President



Vale Louis Tardrew

Louis, a long-time member of the club and a former Committee member, passed away on 23rd November after a short battle with cancer. He will be remembered as a person who contributed to the 2008 renovation of the club building, and the man who did many of the building's maintenance works since.

Louis and his wife, Margaret, were actively involved in many of the club's social events and were regulars in the dining room for meals.

He shared a boat downstairs and fished from the club, winning awards for his efforts.

A popular man about the club, putting-in, in so many ways, Louis will be sorely missed.

For clubs like ours to prosper we need people like Louis and we are so grateful that he devoted so much of his life to our club and its members.

Our sincere condolences go to Margaret and all of Louis' family and friends.

— Warren Davey

We Are Not Mind Readers

If you don't tell us you have changed your email address, who will? Ask your friends if they received this edition of **Snapper Snippets**. If they didn't, tell them to update their email address: info@apyac.org.au



Manager's Report

Where have the last six months gone?

Life at the club is always interesting, challenging and rewarding.

It is a great joy to see our members coming in such large numbers to enjoy the club. There is no doubt that the renovations have made the club experience more enjoyable for the majority of our members.

The kitchen is now fully-functional and ready for a big summer period. As already announced, during the summer we are open every Sunday from 12 noon to 9 p.m. with our 'Cook Your Own' BBQ dinner available from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

From last year's summer trading we know that, with the increased outdoor table seating, our Friday nights and weekend lunches will be very busy. I urge all members to phone or send me an email to reserve a table.

Also, it helps if you order your meals as soon as your party arrives. When everyone orders late it can take up to an hour to get your meals.

I would again ask for your assistance in making sure all their tables are cleared of plates and glasses prior to leaving the club.

Our Sunday music evenings have been well-received and we continue to provide a variety of bands offering a diverse mix of entertainment. We are looking to build on this next year, and I continue to welcome your suggestions.

With the success of our Saturday themed dinner nights, we again look to increasing our offerings for you to come and enjoy an evening meal at the club on those nights the club is not booked for a private or planned function.

The "Footy Tipping" competition again proved to be another very enjoyable and keenly contested event. With our increased TV screens and new bar pop-ups area proving so popular, I hope to see even more members joining next year's competition and using the club to come and watch the season's matches.

I am sure everyone has got to know our new Assistant Manager, Glenn Smith, over the last nine months. He has certainly become part of the APYAC family and also fills the role of Functions Manager.

In the coming months we will be looking to install a new point-of-sale terminal management system with add-ons to provide a more efficient integration of our

entire club operation. This will position us to add more benefits, improve the member experience, accommodate future growth, and enhance commercial viability.

For those members in Melbourne between Christmas and New Year, the club will be open for a 'Cook Your Own' BBQ plus fried seafood offerings and chips from 12 noon to 6 p.m., Thursday December 27th to Sunday December 30th inclusive.

On behalf of all the APYAC operational staff, I extend our wishes for a very happy and, joy filled Christmas & New Year.

Paul Davies
Club Manager

In The Office

Manager - **Paul Davies**
manager@apyac.org.au

Assistant Manager / Functions - **Glen Smith**
functions@apyac.org.au

Membership - **Denise Bett**
info@apyac.org.au

Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club Inc.
129B Beaconsfield Parade (Kerferd Road Pier), Albert Park, Vic. 3206
www.apyac.org.au info@apyac.org.au 9 6 9 0 5 5 3 0
<https://www.facebook.com/likeapyac/>

Summer Opening Hours

1200 noon until:

Thursday 10pm *

A la carte lunch — 12:00pm to 2:30pm
A la carte dinner — 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Friday 10pm *

A la carte lunch — 12:00pm to 2:30pm
A la carte dinner — 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Saturday 6pm *

A la carte lunch — 12:00pm to 2:30pm

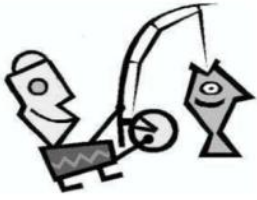
Sunday 9pm *

A la carte lunch — 12:00pm to 2:30pm
Cook Your Own BBQ — 5:30pm to 7:30pm

* closing time subject to member numbers

It's A Club ... Not The Hilton.

We keep prices low because **YOU** are clearing the tables! After eating, please clean your plates and place them in the area provided. Glasses go back to the bar. Please wipe down your table for the next members.



Fishing Report

The water temperature has finally risen and Big Red is on the chew, writes **Tony Spinelli**.

Snapper season is well and truly under way. I must say it has been a slow start, due to water temperature being slow to rise, especially up the northern end of the Bay.

The Redcarp paid a visit up north early in October and during Movember, but didn't stay long.

Great to see the ladies landing a few good fish, Chantal Meehan and Lee Spyrou. Chantal's fish 6.4kg. Well done!

The club has had a few competitions already, Max Coningsby, Pot of Gold, Capt & Crew (cancelled). All events have been well attended. Sadly the inter club between Elwood anglers, Williamstown anglers and APYAC on December 2nd was cancelled due to weather.

Early in the month we paid a visit to Margarets Reef, also known as the Shellfish Reef, along with the Nature Conservancy and OzFish. Big thanks to Ben Cleveland and Bob Pearce.

The club competition's in-house leader at the moment is John Cali followed by Luke Stuart and Anthony Osborne.

The Open competition sees Michael Sass well in front by 50 odd points followed by Tony Spinelli and Shaun Cormick.

Heaviest fish to date is Manny Hiotis' 8.100 kg out-house. In-house goes to Anthony Osborne 7.795 kg well done. A nice Flathead was weighed in by J. Strong, 1.200kg.

As we go to print over 90 fish have been weighed-in, as I said, a slow start this season.

At the moment the fish seem to be holding out deep: P2, Spoil Ground, Fawkner Beacon and Point Cook.

You won't catch fish sitting on the couch

After a big blow don't forget to try in close on the inshore reefs, Willy through to Altona.

Fishing on the reefs means no sinkers, check your baits every couple of minutes, downsize your hooks and berley hard.

You won't catch fish sitting on the couch, get out there and give it a go. You might be surprised, those Redcarp fight well and are good on the chew.

If you are on the reefs put out a squid jig, whiting rod.

Don't forget to keep an eye out for the Salmon, the birds will give them away.

Enjoy the journey.

Tight Lines.

Tony Spinelli
Angling Committee Chairman



Stocking Albert Park Lake

18,000 Silver Perch were released into Albert Park Lake in October.

APYAC were represented by Tony Spinelli, Olga Harradine and James Nixon (and two Spinelli grand-kids).

Albert Park Lake is a significant waterway for YellowBelly.

There are also Trout, Redfin, Carp, and even Murray Cod.

One good-sized Murray Cod has been caught there.

The Silver Perch will be to size by the end of summer.

VRFish News

by VRFish

VRFish has had an incredibly busy year ensuring the needs and aspirations of Victoria's 838,000 recreational fishers are strongly represented. The State Election was a significant opportunity for our sector to scope ideas and identify important initiatives that would make a profound positive impact to the quality of everyone's fishing experiences. In the lead up to the State Election we developed an 8 point plan that would make fishing better for all Victorian fishers. It was informed based on the input from our members but also from priority survey completed by nearly 1900 recreational fishers.

Investment in fish habitat, reforms to boating infrastructure funding and governance, decisive action in the Gippsland Lakes Fishery, a new native fish hatchery in Northern Victoria, creating new fishing opportunities, better access and more education made the final policy.

We are delighted to report many of our policies and complementary others have been adopted by the Andrews Labor Government. In addition, we congratulate Minister Jaala Pulford for her appointment to the new expanded portfolio of Fishing and Boating. We look forward to working with the State Government to implement and support the delivery of these outstanding election commitments. The level of investment and support by the State Government for recreational fishing will continue to herald Victoria as Australia's leading state to drop a line in.

*It's not as simple as flicking a switch.
The current system is broken.*

Boat ramps have been an immense source of frustration and angst from recreational fishers for well over a decade - particularly those wanting to fish Port Phillip Bay and Westernport. Together with the Boating Industry Association of Victoria and the grassroots campaign Ramp Rage we were elated to receive bipartisan support to fix our boat ramps through governance and funding reforms with the bonus of the abolishment of parking fees at our ramps. As the reforms begin, we probably should remind fishers that this is not as simple as flicking a switch and its all fixed. The current system is broken

and has taken Victoria over 20 years to get into the mess we are in.

The Port Phillip Bay living reef restoration project is Victoria's flagship marine habitat project and it is especially close to the Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club. It has full support from VRFish and pleased to see Labor will invest \$2.5 million into 'reefs' in the Bay. Also, the project has been a catalyst to get more recreational fishers involved and participating in fish habitat monitoring and restoration. We are excited to be working with our partners OzFish Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy in a new project called *Reccys Restoring the Bay*.

We think this project is an exciting chance for recreational fishers to assist in mapping fish and aquatic habitat issues in the Bay by using Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUVs), to collect information about fish habitat and for more fishers get involved in on-ground action that benefits our fish habitats. If any readers want to get involved in the project drop OzFish Unlimited's Senior Project Manager, Ben Cleveland a line at benclleveland@ozfish.org.au.

This time of year is an exciting time for fishing around Victoria. Snapper season is off to a ripper start! We have been tagged in lots of photos online by our fishers sharing their latest catches. It is also a good reminder to check out our 'Snapper Survival' tips to help released snapper survive. Where possible, keeping the fish in the water, using circle hooks to avoid deep hooking and target fish in shallow water are some of the key points.

The excitement around the Murray cod season seems to grow exponentially each year. With the season opening on 1 December for many anglers it will feel like Xmas has come early. We had a strong mandate by our fishers to implement a best practice handling and release campaign in the similar vein as snapper. Thankfully, the Victorian Fisheries Authority was able to find some funds and together with Native Fish Australia help develop a *Care for Cod* campaign. Look out for the information online and available at tackle stores with a brilliant logo created by angler, author and artist Trevor Hawkins. We encourage all fishers to adopt these tips and be a proud steward of their fishery.

Moving back to the Bay, we wanted to let you know VRFish is working on an updated Steer Clear in the Rip campaign with Victorian Ports Corporation Melbourne. The campaign will be

released this summer as we welcome back big numbers of kingfish into the Bay. It's been terrific to have these amazing and tasty sport fish in the Bay in increasing numbers however, its critical we help keep everyone safe and aware of their obligations in a very busy shipping channel.

You will be hearing about a lot activity on the Maribyrnong River as a massive \$815,000 three-year project to improve access for recreational fishers and increase the river's native fish population takes shape. As part of the Native Fish Revival project, the area will have a new boat ramp built, 30 new fish havens installed and up to 300,000 estuary perch fingerlings will be stocked. The project will have its first community fish stocking event on December 14.

In October, we saw a massive 18,000 silver perch stocked into the Albert Park Lake which will provide local anglers with future opportunities to target the popular native fish.

As always, there are many more things happening so if you haven't already subscribe to our e-news and follow us on social media to keep in touch. For more information visit www.vrfsh.com.au.

Who is VR Fish?

The Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body (VRFish) was established after implementing recommendations outlined by a Ministerial Committee 'Recreational Fishing Peak Body Working Group' in 1995, and has over 60 delegates who meet four times a year.

Your Committee

Phil Langdon
President

Pat Hutchinson
Vice President

Remy Van De Wiel
Treasurer

Chris Barry
Eddy Bernobich
Michael Blanche
Robert Pearce
Bob Snell
Chris Stewart

Angling Sub-Committee

Tony Spinelli
Chairman

John Cali
Olga Harradine
Pat Hutchinson
Tony Kiormourtzis
Bob Pearce
Alex Spyrou

Snapper Snippets

James Nixon
Robert Pearce

Ladies Group

Olga Harradine

Women in Recreational Fishing

by Victorian Fisheries Authority.

The Women in Recreational Fishing (WIRF) network has been established to encourage more women to actively participate in fishing. The network initially is an online forum designed to be inclusive of women from all backgrounds, skills and ages to connect and share their love of fishing, give and receive advice, and pick up a brand new hobby.

Other opportunities include events and resources designed to appeal to this demographic to build confidence and knowledge in fishing.

This group has been created as an action item from our 'Women in Fishing' survey that was conducted on social media last year, which found that women are looking for a supportive space to discuss fishing and learn more from like-minded individuals.

Female anglers of all experience levels are encouraged to join the online network and learn from one another, share their best fishing photos, and have numerous opportunities to engage in discussion on interesting fishing topics.

Although this group is for women only, we would like to acknowledge the role that men play in including, supporting and helping women become fishers in their own right.

We encourage all women to become WIRF leaders, sharing the message that fishing is for everyone and a great family pastime.

Join here - <https://tinyurl.com/WIRFnetwork>



Club Sponsor's Corner

Another proud sponsor of APYAC



“For many years now, the **Don Kyatt Group** has been a large part of my life. We began at No. 2 Wren Road, Moorabbin, on the 20th of November, 1969 as Don Kyatt Spare Parts, supplying to the hundreds of vehicle owners Don knew personally.

I can still remember our first sale. It was to an old man who stumbled in to buy a thermostat housing gasket. I shook his hand and congratulated him on being our number one customer. The rent was high and the stocks were low, but both Don and I always found a way to deliver on our promise of ‘*Quality Products from Genuine People*’.

If he were still alive, Don would sit back and laugh at how far we have come and get excited, like the rest of us, about our next stage in business.

In 1984 we opened our first interstate branch in Adelaide, and have since grown to cover the rest of Australia and the South Pacific region with branches in Fiji, New Zealand and most recently, France.

When the **Terrain Tamer 4WD** range was born, we provided our ideas to produce a brand of superior Australian ‘outback’ quality that people could really trust in the most remote areas. Since then it has grown from strength to strength, and we pride ourselves in providing our overseas customers with a product that can survive in the outback.

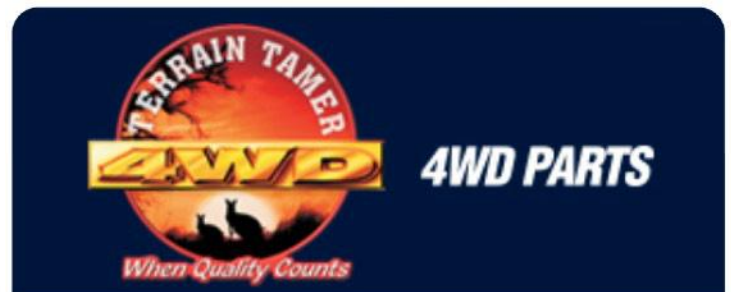
1995 gave us the opportunity to purchase the **Flashlube** brand and that has been an epic story in itself. The gas installers loved it from day one, but it was the 50mL bottle that put us on the map. Why should people pay for a large bottle when all they really need is a one shot solution to their fuel problems? Now we glance back and see that it is *Australia's No. 1 selling Lead Replacement additive*. As we drive into the international market with full steam, the next stage will see the Flashlube name as an automatic thought when people think of additives.

Welcome to our place of growth, where teamwork is how we operate and honesty is how we communicate. Today, as Don would insist, we are still striving to deliver that same promise of ‘*Quality Products from Genuine People*’.

Welcome to the Don Kyatt Group.”

Frank Hutchinson

Founder



Tel: **1300 888 444** www.donkyatt.com.au +61 3 9325 9700

Email: sales@donkyatt.com.au

245 Sunshine Road, Tottenham, Victoria 3012

Shellfish Reefs Project

There has been some great media coverage of our fantastic project to re-grow shellfish reefs in Port Phillip Bay, including on both Channel 9 and Channel 7 News. The following is a report prepared by the ABC:

When British explorer Matthew Flinders sailed into Port Phillip Bay in 1802 he was astounded by the expansive oyster clusters teeming in the water. In his diary he wrote that "*quantities of fine oysters were lying upon the beaches between high and low water marks*".

It's estimated up to half of the bay was once dominated by shellfish reefs, but like most that once existed in Australia, they're now functionally extinct.

Aboriginal people had been harvesting shellfish from Port Phillip Bay for at least 10,000 years, but it took only a few decades of European intervention before the reefs were decimated.

The Nature Conservatory marine restoration coordinator Simon Branigan said the damage was caused by dredge fishing, prompted by an "oyster rush" in Melbourne's early colonial days.

"When the Europeans first came to Australia they loved their oysters," he said. "They ate the oysters locally, they also exported them internationally, and they also burnt the oyster shells in lime kilns. "A lot of the historic

buildings in Melbourne are made from the old oyster reefs of Port Phillip Bay."

The reefs had provided a home for marine life, and the oysters and mussels also helped purify the water." In 2018 the bay is in a pretty healthy state, but it could certainly be healthier, as you can imagine, if we still had those shellfish reefs," Mr Branigan said.

Recycled restaurant shells used to build the reef

Three years ago a team of agencies worked with experts from the United States on a pilot project to restore shellfish reefs in the bay. One of the first sites was Margaret's Reef — about three kilometres off St Kilda— once a popular fishing spot, now reduced to a patch of sand.

A reef base was created out of limestone rubble and shells saved from restaurants and seafood wholesalers.

It was then seeded using oysters and mussels grown at a hatchery in Queenscliff.

OzFish senior project officer Ben Cleveland is recruiting recreational fishers to monitor the sites.

Baited remote underwater video (BRUV) units are dropped onto the sea floor and the footage is analysed to keep track of marine life.

"Recreational fishers are getting excited about habitat restoration

and they're really trying to develop as stewards of their environment so they can safeguard the sport they love," Mr Cleveland said.

"This site is really just an indicator or an example of what can be done with regards to habitat rehabilitation and how we can get recreational fishers involved in this sort of work."

Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club volunteer, Bob Pearce, has been fishing the area since he was a child. He said local fishers had seen benefits from the reef restoration.

"In this area, once upon a time, there was an enormous network of reefs and they all got destroyed. We're trying to bring them back," he said.

"We were reluctant, initially, to claim that there would be more fish, but really there is. There are crabs, there's octopus, there are small fish ... and they wouldn't have been there if we hadn't built the reef."

Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club's Tony Spinelli says hundreds of juvenile snapper had been spotted at one of the reefs.

"On the previous occasions when we've put the GoPro [camera] down, we have seen big improvements in the amount of baby snapper," he said.

"Before, it was just barren, there was nothing there."

Click on the link to see the video:
<https://tinyurl.com/MargaretsReef>

Citizen scientists and keen fishermen Bob Pearce and Tony Spinelli on Port Phillip Bay.



This baited remote underwater video (BRUV) unit is used to capture footage of fish species.



Pics supplied by OZFISH and the ABC.

APYAC Ladies Fishing Day 2018

22 ladies embarked on the five hour charter, writes Olga Harradine.

The APYAC Annual Ladies Fishing Day was held on Sunday 25th November. We were fully subscribed with an attendance of 22 female members of the Club.

Our vessel was The West Wind, a large charter boat that leaves almost daily from St.Kilda Marina during the fishing season.

The skipper, Pawel, has been running these charters for thirty years, and was assisted on the day by his highly-amusing sidekick, Peter. Both being extremely experienced, they ensured that we were all briefed on safety, and how to fish — from baiting-up to landing their catch.

Several of the girls had never fished before so it was a fabulous tutorial to get them going, with support and advice readily available by not just the crew, but also from their fellow anglers.

Although the water was a little choppy throughout the day, the girls handled it well and set about making the most of every moment of the five hours out on the water.

Most girls caught at least one fish, although much of the catch was released back into the water due to size.

Ladies Day is designed to not just be a fun, social day, but to let everyone 'have a go' and to see that opportunity exists to fish as a hobby by utilising charter boats as an option for easy access to the Bay.

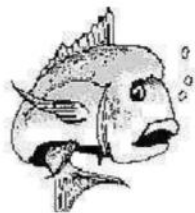
As the large Snapper are more active during the early hours of the morning, the ladies have vowed to go out on the early charter next year, with a November date already penciled in. All in all, another successful day!

Prize winners were:

Biggest Snapper - **Gay Edgecombe**

Second Biggest Snapper - **Chantal Meehan**

Biggest Bag - **Tracey Keller**



Ladies Fishing Day 2018 photos ©jamesnixon.com see the entire album at the APYAC Ladies Facebook page

Your Club. Your Venue.

Big birthday coming up? Have a party at the Club.



Ladies Fishing Day 2018 photos ©jamesnixon.com see the entire album at the APYAC Ladies Facebook page

Catch the Sunday Band ... every second week.

Gone Fishing Day 2018

By Olga Harradine

On Sunday 14th October, APYAC hosted Gone Fishing Day – a free family event. As part of a national program, the State Government has committed to delivering its \$46 million plan, *Target One Million* (T1M), for recreational fishing, which aims to grow participation to one million anglers by 2020. Our aim is to make fishing more accessible to women, children and families within our local community, and to promote the hobby as a healthy, fun, alternative to today's electronic world.

The day was run by two of APYAC's most active female anglers, Olga Harradine and Skye Kirne, who volunteered their time to enable local families to learn about fishing from some of the most experienced members of the club.

Proving the popularity of fishing, we had initially planned on two groups totalling 40 people but that blew out to a

total of 57, with many requests to be put on a waiting list.

APYAC's Club Champion, Tony Spinelli, ran an informative tutorial on the beach in front of the Club, teaching the basics. Fishing rods were provided so that everyone could practice casting from the beach. Six lucky participants won rod, reel and tackle combinations.

Each group was then escorted to Lagoon Pier where more volunteers waited to assist with fully-rigged fishing rods.

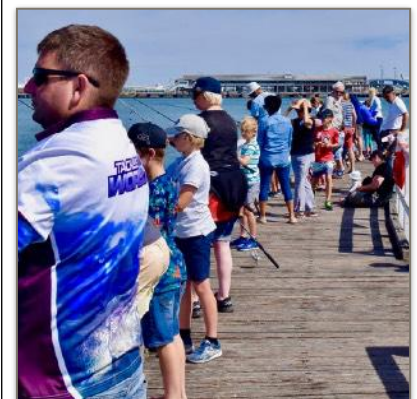
The day was met with great enthusiasm. Unfortunately, none of our group caught fish during their time on the pier. Luckily a couple of the local fisherman pulled-in Banjo sharks, allowing the kids to experience the excitement of fishing.

Their excitement was further heightened when club member Michael Sass showed them the monster Snapper he'd caught earlier in the day.

We were thrilled to see families spending quality time together, and have vowed to do some similar events alongside the club on Kerferd Pier once the repairs have been completed.



images©CrammondMedia.com2018



Prince Harry & Meghan came to Albert Park. Channel Nine's Alicia Loxley & Tony Jones covered the visit from our balcony.



image©CrammondMedia.com2018

Top Sea Pilot to talk at APYAC.

Captain Neville Daniel went to sea at 17, joining the government-owned Australian Shipping Board, which later became the Australian National Line (ANL). Rising through the ranks from Deck Cadet to Captain, and being involved with the commissioning of three ships. After seventeen years he left to join Port Phillip Sea Pilots in 1972.

His career as a Pilot spanned 28 years, and although Port Phillip Sea Pilots is a private organisation, he was also an Examiner and Accident Investigator for the regulator, the Marine Board of Victoria, (renamed Marine Safety Victoria since 2002).

You've either got it or you don't

For 36 years Captain Daniel was in the Royal Australian Navy Reserve, notably commanding a supply ship to Vung Tau in Vietnam, and towards the end of his career,

conducting sea trials for the Williamstown-built H.M.A.S. Melbourne and H.M.A.S. Newcastle.

When Victorian Ports remind you to 'Steer Clear' of ships and shipping lanes, it's Sea Pilots like Neville who are on the bridges of the ships.

"You've either got it or you don't," he explained as he discussed the intricate ability to manoeuvre commercial ships in and out of port. "For some people it's the best part of the job."

Threading a car carrier, with a draught of six metres and a freeboard of 30 metres, through traffic in high crosswinds is most challenging.

"As far as traffic, the worst offenders, by far, are yacht races," he said. "They wouldn't get out of your way. When the bridge is at the stern, you can't see them and can easily roll them over. Their Skippers may be given a \$200 fine, which is nothing to then when one of their sails costs \$3,500."

"Eventually the offending yacht's Skippers were banned from racing for a few weeks and that really had an effect."

"The recreational fishermen aren't so much a trouble as long as they are outside the channel markers, and they stay where they are. It's the moving ones that are the worry," he said.

Captain Daniel will be speaking at a club meeting in the new year.



image©CrammondMedia.com2018



Because, it's about the fish ...



On the first Wednesday evening of every month the Club Meeting is held. The bar is open from 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7.30 p.m. The Manager and Committee Members quickly report the status of the club, then a guest speaker gives a talk. The great thing is that; as well as partaking in the free party pies and sausage rolls at the end of the night; you always leave smarter than when you arrived! All members are welcome.

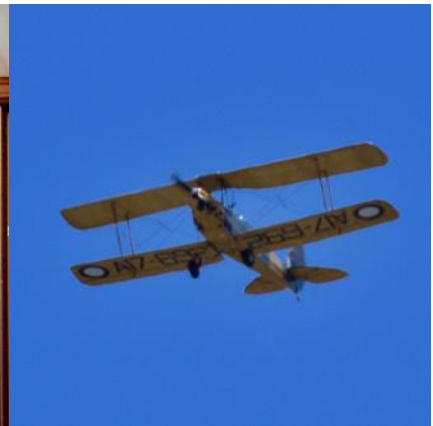
New Honour Board Dedication, Remembrance Day 2018.



RAAF Sopwith Pup



The New Honour Board



RAAF Tiger Moth



Ron Hall - Vietnam



Alan Hill - Vietnam



Jenny Hunter - Vietnam



Chas Iozzi - Vietnam



Barry Powell - Malaya & Vietnam



John Richards - Vietnam



John Cole - Vietnam



Will Digby - Afghanistan



Russ Galloway - Iraq

Club members whose names appear on the new Honour Board were invited to attend a moving Dedication ceremony with their families. Thanks to Ron Hall for spearheading the project.

Hammer Falls on Pompei Dynasty

An era has ended, writes Brian Wright.

On Wednesday 15th June 2018, an historic auction took place in the famous Pompei Boatshed adjacent to the Mordialloc Creek. All remaining items, including partly-completed wooden boats, machinery, tools-of-trade, and too many other lots to mention, went under the hammer as the Boatshed is to be demolished and the area redeveloped.

It is worthwhile taking a short trip down memory lane to recall the part that the Pompeis' played in the life and times of Mordialloc.



As a young lad I spent many days 'hanging out' around the 'Mordi' Creek as my late father, George was a member of the Mordialloc Motor Yacht Club. George, like everyone in the boating and fishing community at Mordialloc, knew of the Pompei's reputation as world class boatbuilders and supreme fishermen.

After Salvatore Pompei emigrated from Sicily he established his roots in the Mordialloc area with his wife, four sons and two daughters. Salvatore had survived not one, but two torpedo attacks at sea during the First World War, and the boatbuilding and fishing operation was obviously formed on the back of his maritime skills.

All four sons, Sal, Jack, John and Joe, were involved in the boatbuilding and fishing industry over the following years.

The youngest son, Joe Pompei, now in his eighties, is the remaining member of the brothers and was the last master boatbuilder operating in the famous boatshed until recent times.

A promising young swimmer and Aussie rules footballer, Joe eventually donned the boxing gloves and made quite an impact in the ring. He held the

Australian Middleweight title at his peak and gained hard-fought victories despite "punching above his weight" as was often the case in the early days of boxing.

After hanging-up the gloves he concentrated on boatbuilding and it was amazing to witness his professionalism and skill in this area. Apart from building new wooden clinker boats he would restore burnt-out hulks, and rotten wooden boats, to their former glory. Boats that, to the casual observer, looked like nothing more useful than firewood. Unbelievable.

John Pompei, also a boatbuilder, was a successful professional fisherman and his knowledge of Port Phillip Bay, the marine environment, fish stocks and ecology was second to none. After handing-in his professional licence John continued fishing his local waters as an amateur with his trusty hand lines.

I learned much from my talks with John over the years, but I am sure the knowledge gained was only the tip of the iceberg from such an experienced fisherman.

Jack Pompei (OAM) was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 1987 for services to the community. Credited with over six hundred Bay rescues during his years at Mordialloc, retrieving some two thousand people, Jack certainly earned his recognition.

Just need to get my boat back

A master boatbuilder and professional, later to become amateur, angler of the highest order, Jack to me was the 'Bradman of the Bay'. He racked-up sea rescues like Bradman made runs.

Pompei boats were precision-built with safety and reliability paramount. The boats had to be foolproof because Jack was a non-swimmer! He left his wife Gwen, and their family, at home when heading-out to perform rescues in often treacherous conditions.

He also trained many Water Police Officers, imparting valuable knowledge on the perils of the Bay, in earlier times when coastguard and rescue services were at a minimum.

Jack took great pride in his boats and of course many of them still operate throughout Australia and overseas waters. It is estimated that ninety percent of clinker boats on Port Phillip Bay were built at Pompeis'.

All would remember the famed Jack Pompei dry sense of humour and practical jokes.

Many years ago my APYAC club mate Warren Davey, and a fellow fisho, were in trouble out from Mordialloc as a storm rapidly approached. They managed to tangle the anchor line around the prop in their haste to return to shore.

Shortly after, Jack Pompei's rescue boat arrived.

"Glad to see you," said the relieved lads.

"Not worried about you blokes, just need to get my boat back as it is fully-booked tomorrow," replied Jack.

Many times fishermen who were keen to know Jack's secrets would attempt to follow him to his fishing spots. On more than one occasion the spies would wait for him to leave the creek then fire-up their motors to follow him out, only to discover they were going nowhere ... Jack had quietly added additional tethers to their moorings.

A favourite party trick when dining-out in Asian restaurants was to pull a live lobster from the tank then 'tickle it to sleep' on the tabletop before returning it to the tank.

In the 70's Jack once handed the tiller of his patrol boat to a young lass, none other than Toni Hawken, a keen angler and wife of Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron Fishing Director, Brendan Hocking. Shortly after taking charge the boat ran into the rocks at the mouth of the Mordi Creek. Not all bad news, as Toni remembers catching plenty of fish with her father, Stan Hawken, on numerous trips with Jack.

Stan was the Mayor of Mordialloc and was a great support to Jack in his successful fight to save the Mordialloc Pier and surrounding infrastructure.*



It is nearly ten years since the passing of Jack and, of course, water still flows through the area now known as Pompei's Landing and under the renamed Pompei Bridge in honour of their family.

Gone however are the days, when in pristine clean water, many fish including Bream (over 2kgs), Pinkies, Flathead, Salmon, Gars, Whiting and Mullet were caught in the creek itself.

Many anglers fished from the forty Pompei-built clinker hire boats that were operating at the time. Jack also had a collection of 'pet' Eels and Bream that he would hand-feed from the landing.

Closing the old Boatshed for redevelopment is the end of an era. The Pompei contribution has greatly enriched our Bayside history.

*Further information and pictures:

Jack Pompei: Boat Builder and Advocate for Mordialloc Creek.
by Graham J Whitehead

<http://localhistory.kingston.vic.gov.au/html/article/87.htm>

Big one that did not get away.

MORDIALLOC SEA "SERPENT" LASSOOD



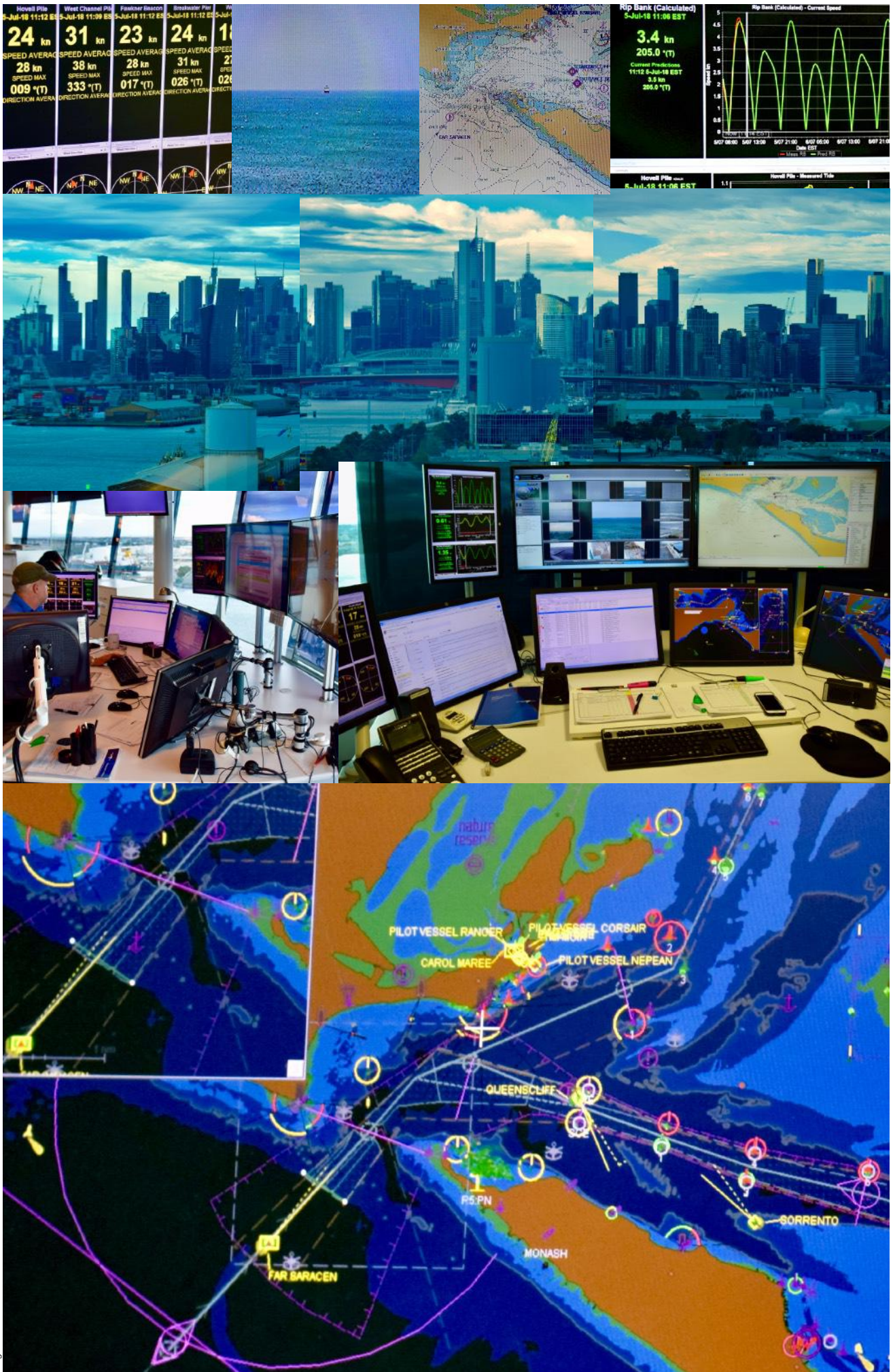
Jack Pompei, with brothers John and young Joe helped by local fisherman display the 4 metre OARFISH rarely seen in Port Phillip Bay that Jack had lassoed with a rope at the mouth of the Mordialloc Creek. -Front Page, Sun News-Pictorial May 1946

Oarfish. Prefers oceanic conditions, but occasionally found in estuaries and large coastal bays. Sometimes washed ashore during storms. Its long, ribbon-like body and orange dorsal fin make identification easy.

From *Sea Fishes of Southern Australia*
(Hutchins/Swainson)



Port Of Melbourne's Vessel Traffic Services



The Anglers took over the tower.

By James Nixon

When Deputy Harbour Master Andrew Hays spoke at one of our club meetings, we jumped at the chance to visit the “pill”, berth control, high atop the tower beside the Yarra, overlooking the Port Of Melbourne.

Air Traffic Control for ships (called Vessel Traffic Services) occurs in a secure area about 80 metres above the Yarra, with a sweeping view of the city skyline.

But the two on-shift Vessel Traffic Services Officers aren't looking out the window, in fact they have blinds to protect their eyes from the sun. One gets the impression that if the Controllers have to look out the window to prevent a collision, then it's probably too late.

The 'airspace' is divided into two sectors, “Melbourne VTS” in the north end of the bay, and “Lonsdale VTS” down south.

Using live and virtual radars and CCTV to confirm the ship positions, they talk directly to the ships using radio.

“The hardest part of this job is the boredom,” says a Controller whose screen shows a ship approaching The Rip after picking-up its Sea Pilot out in Bass Strait. And true, it looks like Air Traffic Control except that the planes have stopped in mid air.

But that'd be deceptive.

On the screen the ships are hardly moving, but at sea-level they are pushing along at 15-25 knots, with no ability to stop suddenly. With large ships, when it all goes wrong, it goes wrong fast.

The rule of thumb for crash-stopping a ship, (just in case you find yourself needing to know), is a distance eight times the length of the hull. That means a 300 metre long oil tanker would take 2400 metres to stop.

Large bow waves moving in opposite direction to the wind and waves can swamp small craft. If anchored near a shipping channel it may be wise to look over your shoulder every now and then.

At any moment an emergency situation could develop and the control centre, which is manned 24 hour a day, is usually the first point of contact.

Despite the vessels all having high-definition radar so they can operate in fog, they still use a system of lights to keep in the middle of the channel entering The Rip.

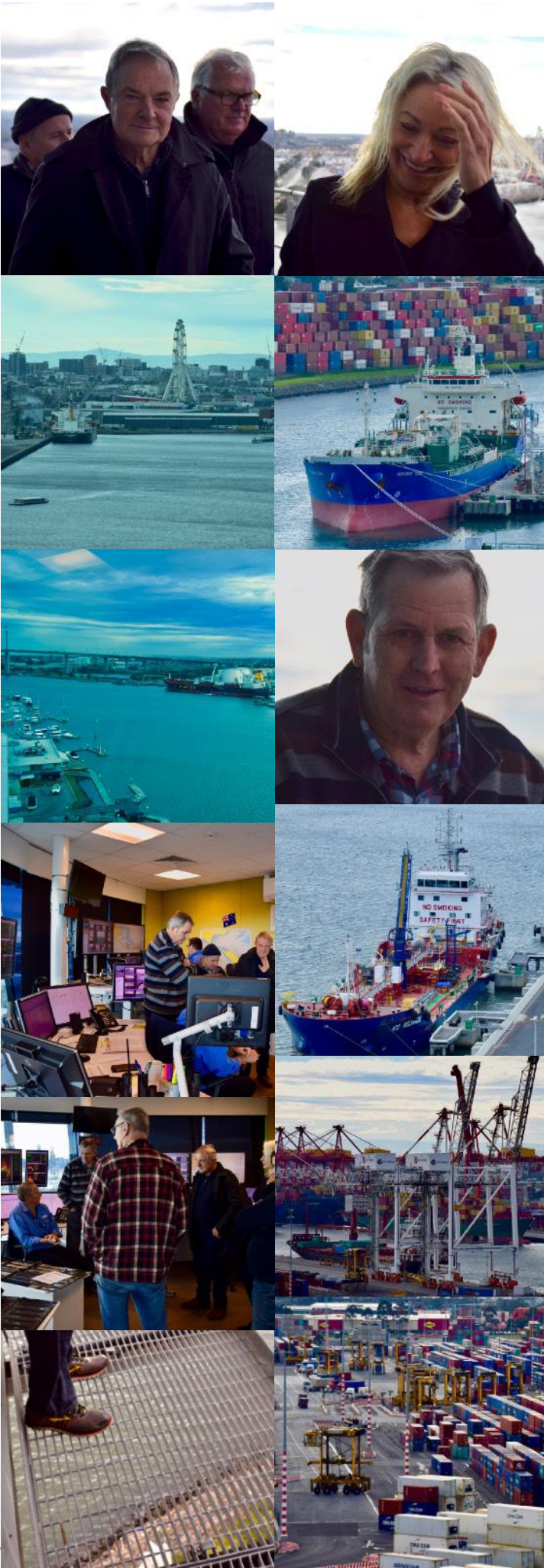
Depending on the tide, their tight right turn immediately upon entering the bay must be conducted fast-enough to ensure responsive steerage. No-one is going to slow down for you.

All ships are affected by windage. Crosswinds have a greater or lesser impact depending on the amount of sail area provided by the hull. Car carriers are the most-affected. Anyone who has been out to the shipping channels is impressed by how skinny they are. Not much room to move when big ships are passing head-to-head.

With the Port Of Melbourne receiving over 3,000 movements a year, it's important to make sure that one of the 32 berths is available for an inbound ship when required. Speed control is applied to ensure ships can keep moving.

Most of our party grabbed the opportunity to walk outside on the observation platform, seventeen storeys up, on a see-through grate floor. With the chilling gale adding to the senses, the Policeman and the Pilot stayed on the concrete and watched to see how many Anglers we'd lose.

Our host, Andrew Hays, previously a sub-mariner, reckons that you get used to the height ... after a while.



2018 Murray Codference

Victorian Fisheries Authority

This year's Murray Codference was the biggest one yet. On the 9th of December a group of speakers gathered at the Eastbank Conference Centre in Shepparton, and reported to a packed house on the status of the iconic Murray Cod.

The keynote speaker, Australian competition fisher, Carl Jocusen; fresh from the USA Bass Pro circuit; shared his fishing journey and revealed his latest tournament tactics.

Lubin Pfeiffer discussed techniques to land big Murray Cod, while Bill Classon talked about Victoria's native fish revolution.

Will Trueman reflected on the "good old days" of Trout Cod and Macquarie Perch fishing, and the plans that are in place to see a resurgence.

Stephen Booth shared the latest Golden Perch impoundment fishing tactics.

Researchers explained how native fish populations have improved over the last 20 years and, what's made the difference. This is an annual event. If you are interested, put it in your diary for this time next year.



The Club Is Transformed.

Members leave as the bar winds down at 4pm every Saturday and the staff begin a well-oiled, choreographed dance, converting the club into a function venue.

The kitchen can make ten courses of finger food, or complete, served meals for 150 guests. Within two hours the space is transformed. When the last guest leaves at midnight, everything happens in reverse; in preparation for our biggest club day: Sunday Lunch.

The most popular event, a birthday party, for instance, is standing-room where guests are met with a glass of champagne upon arrival. The food is ten or more servings of finger food with the remainder of drinks being purchased over the bar by the guests. The Langdon Room can become a breakout lounge.

Live bands have largely given way to a single DJ, and the dance floor is well-used late into the evening.

Members receive a discount for venue hire, so contact **Glenn Smith** about your next function.



Arrive Early. Order Early.

Imagine if you had to cook 180 a la carte meals at the same time.

It can't happen. Well, not quickly. So help us to help you have a memorable meal at the club. As soon as you arrive, order all the meals for your table together.

The Sandman

Alex (Sandman) Taylor has been associated with APYAC for 12 years, six as a junior and six as a member. You may remember him for his five years behind the bar whilst he was completing his university studies.

As a boat owner in the club, he has volunteered to be our resident Sandman for past two years, clearing sand in front of the boathouse downstairs.

Apart from working in IT in the “cloud” he has a practical side, and has licences for heavy rigid trucks and nine tonne excavators. So running the club’s Bobcat is right up his alley.

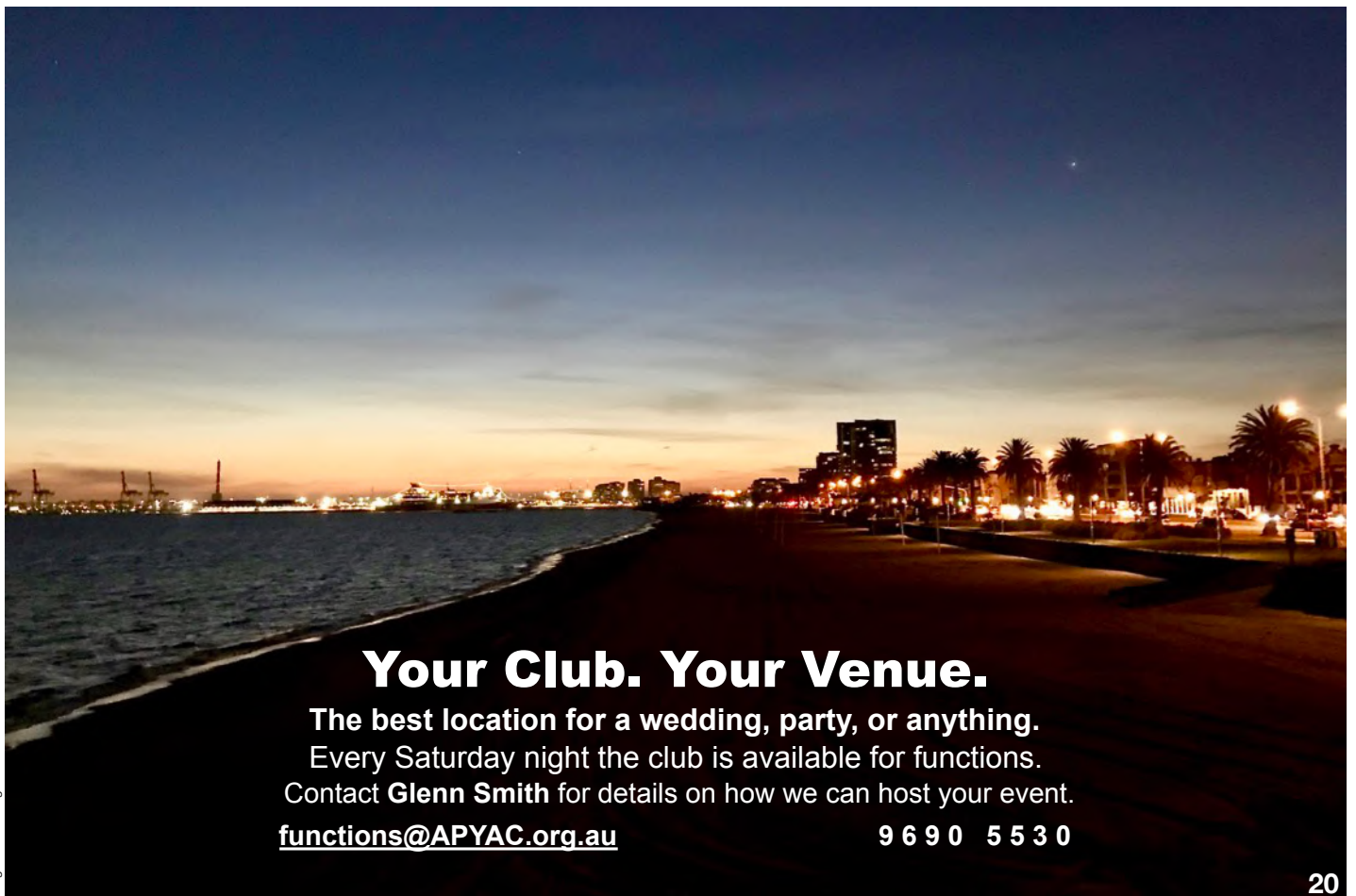


You don't need the drama.

**STEER
CLEAR**

You don't need the drama.

Clockwise from top left: **Cleaning-up after a recent storm, Dress sense “meow”, Working a 9 tonne excavator, Enjoying the boat after a morning’s work.**



Your Club. Your Venue.

The best location for a wedding, party, or anything.
Every Saturday night the club is available for functions.
Contact **Glenn Smith** for details on how we can host your event.

functions@APYAC.org.au

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