



Snapper Snippets

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

Skye's the limit



Skye Kirne took advantage of the 5km limit during Covid Lockdown, paddling out to bag this huge snapper near Princess Pier. Released to fight another day, she went back and caught it again a few weeks later - *Continued Page 2*



Ron Amy has left us

Tributes - page 2

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President's Message

By Remy van de Weil

It is great to be back in the clubhouse again, and to see that the Snapper have been waiting patiently for us.

We are working diligently to modernise the club, and I would like to thank the volunteers and staff for their tireless

work. The sub-committees have been a great success.

My vision for the future includes a number of projects: Increasing the club's opening time, something our Food & Beverage Sub-Committee is working-on.

Reclaiming the area between the clubhouse and the pier for increased boat / kayak storage, lockers for members who fish from the pier, and entertainment.

Opening-up the boat house as part of the Club, maybe as a cafe and

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



Vale: Ron Amy

by Remy van de Wiel

It is with a heavy heart that I advise of the passing of one of our most loved members, Ron Amy. He was probably one of our longest term members and one of the club's greatest contributors.

One of the main things that makes a good club into a great club is the commitment of its members to contribute their time and efforts to their club, and Ron was one of our club's greatest contributors of all time.

He loved the club with an absolute passion, and worked tirelessly in a range of ways to help make the club so great.

We owe him a great debt of gratitude and must ensure that his efforts over many years are never forgotten. He was made a life member of the club many years ago, followed-up with a 'Good Bloke Award' on Australia Day this year.

Ron controlled the Hire of Club boats from his house for many years, which in itself involved a great deal of work. He also spent many hours of his time looking after the maintenance of our club boats, was a past Club President, and Boathouse Captain. He was also an organiser of fishing trips away to such places as Lake Purrumbete where he would arrange accommodation, set up the barbecue, and do most of the cooking.

It is probably not well known that Ron was one of the pioneers of the Club, serving lunches, and it could be claimed that he was our first chef.

On a personal level, you never had to wonder what Ron was thinking at

any time as he wasn't shy about letting you know! His strong personality could appear fearsome at times but his bark was much worse than his bite. He was fearlessly loyal to his mates, of which he had many. Ron could always be relied upon as a totally honest, generous and helpful person.

Within our club, Ron was loved by most and ignored by few. We must make sure that Ron's great efforts as a fellow club member and a great friend are never forgotten, nor that of his wife Edie who loyally supported him, and also contributed much to the club.

We offer our sincere condolences Edie and family.

Tight lines

by Philip Langdon

When I joined APY&AC, Ron Amy was our president. I was made to feel welcome by Ron Amy, Ray O'Keefe and many other members of our club. This had a huge influence on me to want to be involved with our club.

Ron was a real character who loved having a beer and talking to all his friends. When Ron stepped down as President, he took on the Boat House Captain's position working on our club boats with Mal Manders. Also taking bookings for boat hire.

Ron's commitment with Eddie to APY&AC was outstanding and he will be sadly missed by all our members.



IMAGE: @jamesnixon2020

President's Message ...

snack area for members and the public.

Putting in a huge window, and balcony, on the St.Kilda side of the clubhouse.

Working with the sub-committee to reduce pollution and plastics in the Bay ... Healthy Bay, Healthy Fish.

That's just for starters.

May I remind you, it's Your Club, Your Venue. Speak to Glenn about holding your next function at the best address on the Bay.

Stay well,
Remy.



Skye's the limit

From Page 1

A few weeks later, after restrictions eased, Skye went back to Princess Pier and, from a boat, caught the Big Red again. She said: "I didn't weigh it, but it tasted mighty great!"

Club Manager's Report

Dear Members,

I would like to thank **Paul and Lyn Davies** for their contribution over many years, and wish them well in retirement. A special thanks must be given to Lyn who volunteered selling raffle tickets every Friday night, arranged the flowers, and setup every member's function.

We are looking forward to working with the new caterers moving forward. Andrew and his team have a can-do attitude, and have a wealth of experience in function catering.

As summer arrives, the enthusiasm and momentum within the club is palpable. It's great to see happy faces of the members as they come back and enjoy the club again after the long Covid shutdown.

As far as Covid is concerned, we continue to face challenges, taking it one day at a time. Every day is a test for all of us. I can happily report that we have not seen one case in either

our staff or members, but we can't let our guard down. Please understand the restrictions and follow the instructions to the letter.

We are working closely within the Government rules, and Sunday's announcement was great news. We are now allowed to have 94 people inside, and 40 on the balconies.

The Main Hall will now accommodate 70 diners, and the Langdon Room 24. The Hutchinson Wing (northern balcony) will now accommodate 20 diners, and there are 20 spots on the Western Balcony.

At long last we can have patrons standing to have a drink.

We have to be tough with these rules. Non-compliance will see us closed-down without warning.

Dining Bookings are best made via the Club's website, clicking this link: tinyurl.com/AnglersBOOKINGS, or by calling 9690 5530 and pressing #1. They are secured with a credit card, and

we have to charge \$25 per no-show.

Care of the building and equipment continues, with or without members, and I can report that the latest Termite Inspection has shown the club house to be in perfect condition. Just another thing that occurs behind the scenes.

The new Committee and Sub Committees are emphatic, it's Your club, Your venue.

We would like to see every Saturday evening booked-out by members. Parties for birthdays, weddings, reunions, retirements ... even wakes.

Arranging a function is not as hard as you may think. We can guide you, Trybooking can handle the ticketing, and it can go like clockwork.

Much easier than having an event at your home, we also handle the Covid compliance issues.

At the end of it, there's that deck, those sunsets, and the velvet blue summer night skies.

Cheers!

Glenn.



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Dining Bookings
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Or call 9690 5530 & press #1.

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Pot of Gold

by Tony Panayotou

The Pot of Gold fishing competition which was held on the 7th and 8th of November had a special significance this year. It turned out to be the event that launched our fishing calendar for 2020 under difficult and uncertain conditions, that no one could have predicted.

The competition was well received with 18 members registering and keen to get out there after a prolonged hiatus due to the Covid restrictions.

Stand out participants include John Cali's 6.5 kg snapper which he generously shared with less fortunate participants, including myself, and again I thank him as the fillets were most delectable.

Other notable mentions were Luke Stuart on Michael Sass's boat, and Ian Sedok on Phil Langdon's boat.


See all the winners in the table below and a big congratulations to them all for getting the season well under way.

The presentation and prizes were awarded by Chantal Meehan on the deck of the clubhouse overlooking the beach and magnificent blue sky while most participants enjoyed a complimentary lunch organised by Paul Davies and staff.

One participant that I feel compelled to mention is also Alex Spyrou. Although Alex scored a double donut during the competition it appears that no one informed him that the competition had officially closed because not to be outdone, Alex went out the next day and bagged three very nice snapper (see photos).

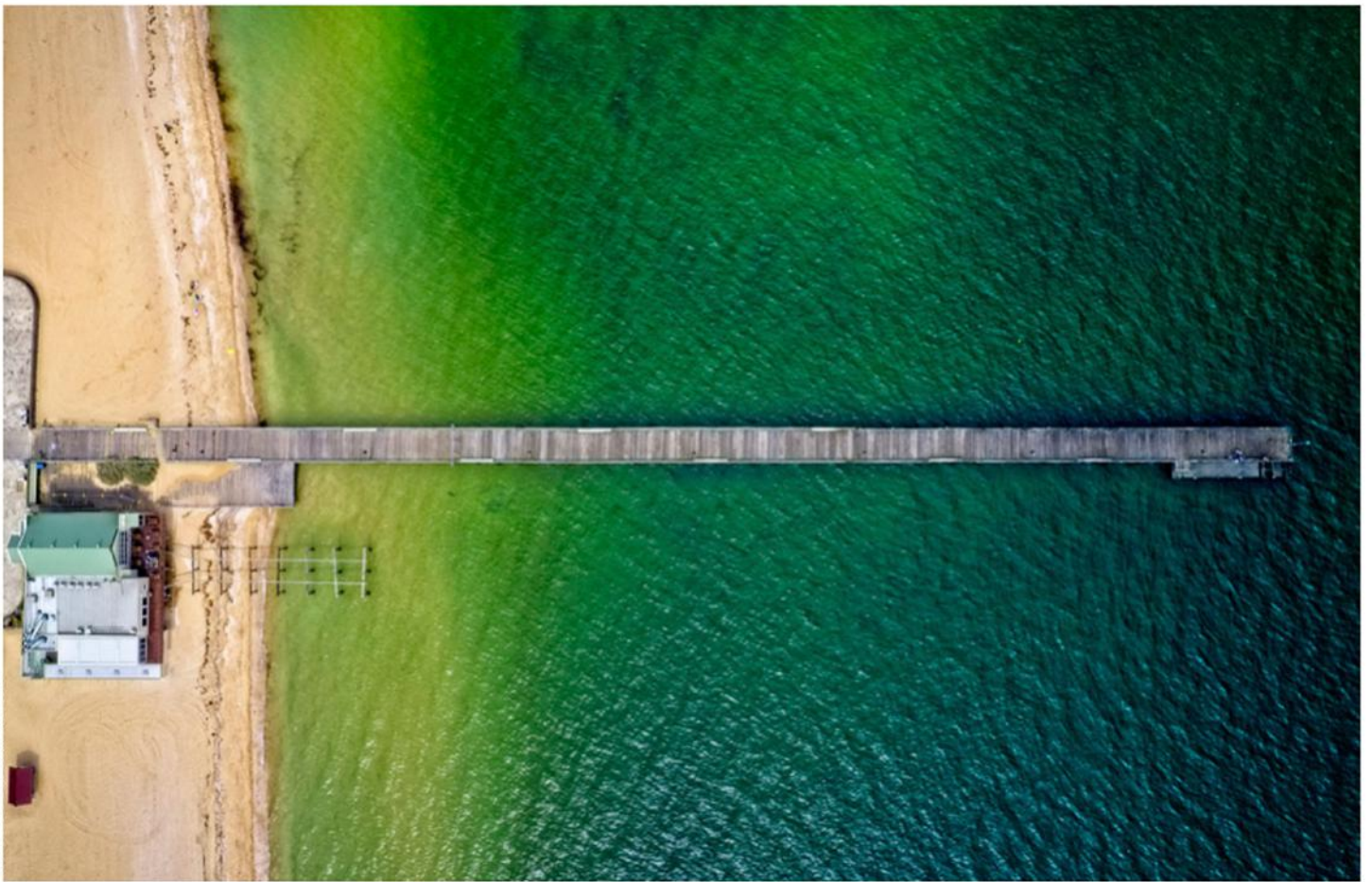
I guess it's never too late, or just missed it by one? So there are fish to be had in close proximity to the clubhouse. For the Donut Kings, there is another competition coming-up for a chance to redeem yourselves.



 Results FIRST SNAPPER 7-8 November 2020 POT OF GOLD			
COMPETITION	PRIZE	WINNER	PRIZE
First Fish of Season	1st Snapper - Open	Luke Stewart	\$600
First Fish of Season	1st Snapper - In house	John Cali	\$600
Pot of Gold	Heaviest Fish - Open	Luke Stewart	\$250
Pot of Gold	Heaviest Fish - In house	John Cali	\$250
Pot of Gold	Heaviest individual aggregate Snapper bag - Open	Michael Briffa	\$125
Pot of Gold	Heaviest individual aggregate Snapper bag - In house	Ian Sedok	\$125
Pot of Gold	Mixed Bag - In house Only	Anthony Osborne	Meal Voucher



Want to know what goes on below the decks?
Eddy & Bob would love to show you what goes on. #TheBoatHouseIsAWholeNewWorld



Thanks to visiting top international drone photographer, and Emirates Pilot, **Giro La Pira** we have a new perspective on our club from 300 feet up.



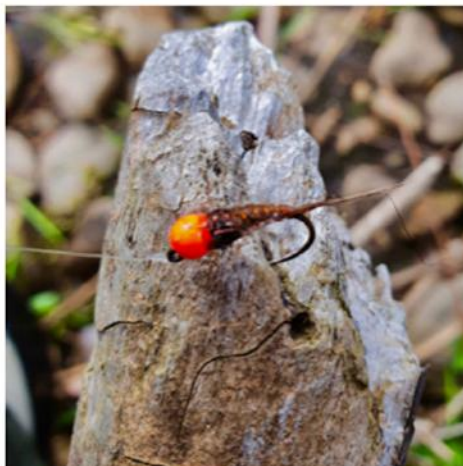
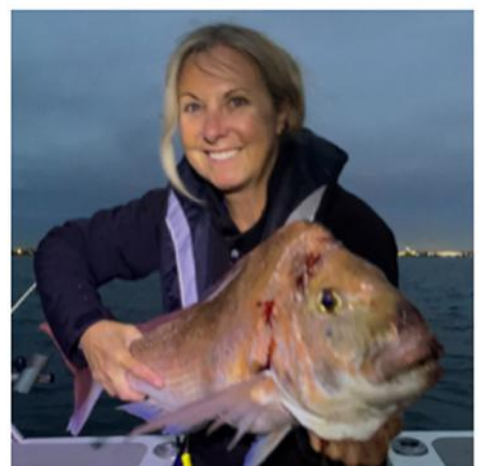
Keeping it in the family

Lee Spyrou's 6.16 kg Snapper made the profile pic on the Victorian Fishing Reports Facebook page. (Right)

Alex Spyrou's post Pot Of Gold catch (Left)

Truly a fish of a life time

Tristan Armstrong caught this monster Brownie on a North East Victorian River on the 20th October, using an orange size 12 bead head fly on 4 weight rod: length 66 cm, estimated >10 lb. (Below)



Your Club. Your Venue. Take over the place for your next birthday party.

The Max Coningsby Competition

by Alex Spyrou
Angling Committee Member.

The Max Coningsby Competition having been delayed due to COVID restrictions was eventually rescheduled for the 28th and 29th of November. Whilst the weather looked fine on Saturday it was obvious that Sunday was going to be one of those stay in bed mornings.

The usual round of suspects threw their hat in the ring but we also had some fresh faces in the competition.

The areas targeted were Williamstown, Black Rock, Port Melbourne, Brighton, Mornington and, of course, the insane ones headed out to the middle of the Bay.

Conditions on Saturday morning were flukey to say the least, going from rough to glass, and back again.

Special mention to Dave Vitkin who took his son Danny, and Danny's mate Norah, out on a hire boat from Mornington. Unfortunately due to the worsening conditions they were called-in, but not before snagging a few Flatties and a Spotted Shark.

Tony Panayotou was bobbing around in the worsening conditions after launching his kayak from the club. Although he managed a few Salmon he was unable to find any Snapper.

Others also struggled with finding Snapper but managed to make do with alternatives.

Anthony Osborne came in with five Whiting in between releasing seven banjo sharks.

In the open category the fish of the day was caught by Manny Hiotis. Fishing somewhere around Ricketts Point, Manny managed to haul in a lovely 5.09kg Red.

This took out the heaviest fish while Luke Stuart managed a nice bag of Snapper totalling 5.93kg.

It was also great to see young Oliver competing for the first of hopefully many comps.

Sunday didn't see any boats head out so competitors met for lunch and whilst most felt fresh after a good nights sleep, some partied a little too hard the night before. If you look carefully at the luncheon table you will see what I mean.

It was great to be able to resume normal fishing operations after such a long break and the Angling Committee would like to encourage more participants in upcoming events with the next event being the Tiger Lyons Whiting competition in February.



Your Club. Your Venue. Walk in. Walk out. #CovidSafe.

Ladies Fishing Day 2020

By Olga Harradine

Sunday November 22 2020

APYAC's annual Ladies Fishing Charter Day this year sold out, over-subscribed, in only three days! It has been fantastic to watch the event getting more popular every year.

For the past two years, we have chosen to do the early morning charter as we were serious about catching some snapper. In the past the weather has not been kind to us, in spite of choosing dates in November.

This year, we were fortunate in scoring a night that was a balmy 19 degrees. With the promise of still water, and an easy ride on the massive West Wind Charter Fishing boat out of St Kilda Marina, everybody was on time and raring to go.

Fifteen female anglers of all ages and experience left the marina with high hopes of catching a coveted snapper. On arriving at our first location of several, the lines were quickly dropped over, and the fish started biting fairly quickly.

Our first haul was a few pinkies, and a couple of banjo sharks which always results in a lot of excitement.

Next stop was even better. Kate Unsworth caught her first fish ever – a decent sized flathead. I am sure that her smile could have been seen from the shore.

The next excitement was the result of Olga Harradine hooking a

feisty snapper! When that was put down on the deck, all of the girls crowded around for a good look, and walked away with even more determination to catch one. The next snapper, albeit a bit smaller, was caught by Cynthia Halim. That was all the luck we had in the snapper department. Everything else caught was pinkies, flathead, and a couple of random oddities that got to see another day.

The crew were generous in ensuring that everybody was able to land a fish, which was enough to start a new addiction in all attendees – fishing!

After a hearty barbecue breakfast, a couple more stops, and a few more fish caught, we all took a bit of time to enjoy the beautiful city of Melbourne on the skyline, and the serenity of being out on the water.

From there it was onto land for presentations. A brilliant day was had by all thanks to the generous support of the Albert Park Yachting & Angling Club.

Winners:

Largest snapper – Olga Harradine

Heaviest mixed bag – Cynthia Halim

Largest flathead – Kate Unsworth

Most pinkies – Chantal Meehan

First fish ever caught – Minnie Cade



IMAGES: ©jameson2020

If you can't see the bridge of that ship ... they can't see you!
Keep outta the channels. You don't need the drama.

STEER CLEAR



Snapper Snippets **Bob Pearce** Coordinator. Threatens, wrangles, and stands-over our many contributors. If he rings, PICK UP.

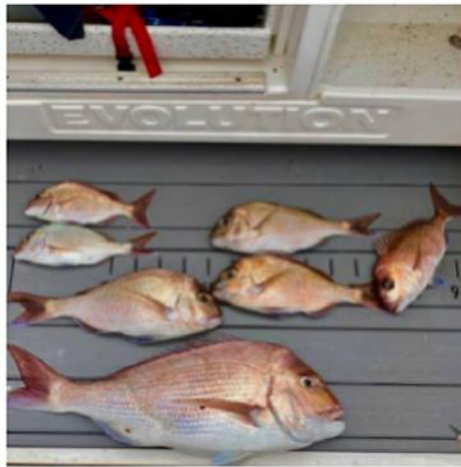


Geof Snell caught this 103 cm Murray Cod (53 lb) at Swan Hill on the 5th December.

Put this in your new **2021** diary!

On the **first Wednesday evening of every month** we hold the the Club Meeting. This year we have conducted the meetings via Zoom. We hope to return to meetings at the club in 2021. Usually, the bar is open from 6.30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7.30 p.m. The President and the Committee Members quickly report on 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.

Forget Covid - it's all about the fish!



It's A Club. Not The Hilton.

We keep prices low because **YOU** are clearing the tables! After dining, please clean your plates and place them in the area provided. Glasses go back to the bar. Please clear your table for the next members ... just the way you'd like to find it.

Getting to know ...

by Veronica Matheson

The new President of APYAC, Remy van de Wiel, is an eminent Victorian barrister, with a fresh new vision for our fishing club. He wants it to become “more than a restaurant on top of a boat shed.”

As a young lawyer, Remy spent many summer evenings on Kerferd Road Pier watching boats bob around the Bay as he ate takeaway fish and chips.

“Occasionally I’d drop into the fishing club to chat with members who seemed a friendly lot, but when I inquired about membership I discovered there was a long waiting list.”

Remy finally became an APYAC member in 2003. As President, he wants to see club members more involved with the community, and more family-friendly.

“So many people walk past our weatherboard building and have no clue what we are about. We’re one of the largest fishing clubs in Australia and should be out there encouraging the community to be more involved in our wonderful Port Phillip Bay.”

The club already has volunteers on several sub-committees, and one of those is starting to teach local children, and the wheelchair-bound community, to fish on Kerferd Road Pier.

Another group is taking part in a conservation programme to create artificial reefs in the Bay as dredging denuded the sea bed in the 1960s and 70s.

“There were wild oysters in the Bay back then, but they all disappeared, so new artificial reefs are being seeded with spat and sea plants. We’re also looking at ways to prevent plastic materials polluting the Bay,” Remy explains.

Born in Holland, Remy was four-years-old when he migrated to Victoria with his family. His father was a crusher at the Woods Point gold mine in Gippsland, then a fireman with the SEC, and later a builder.

“At one stage we lived in a tent in the bush, later we moved to Geelong. After school, I’d fish in the Barwon River for eels, and in Corio Bay for barracuda and flathead.”

APYAC is renowned as a snapper club, Remy confides: “There’s no disputing snapper is a really dramatic looking fish, and a challenge to catch, as it is such a fighter ... but I still prefer flathead.”

As a young lawyer, Remy founded a free legal service in Collingwood before being called to the

Victorian Bar in 1973. He specialises in criminal law and is also part of a teaching programme that mentors young law students in PNG and other Pacific islands.

“In my 20s I hitchhiked through South East Asia and Turkey before six months in a kibbutz in Israel where I looked after the chickens. In London, I worked on construction sites and took up law again when back in Melbourne. I still love to visit the Pacific islands for the unique culture there and the great fishing.”



Above: The expressive portrait of Remy QC by William H Luke was a finalist in the Archibald Prize 2017.

Below: The Mixed Fishing Charter was held on the Sunday 13 December, sadly, the Big Reds have already moved south to the deeper water.



IMAGE: ©jamesnixon2020

It's all about the fish

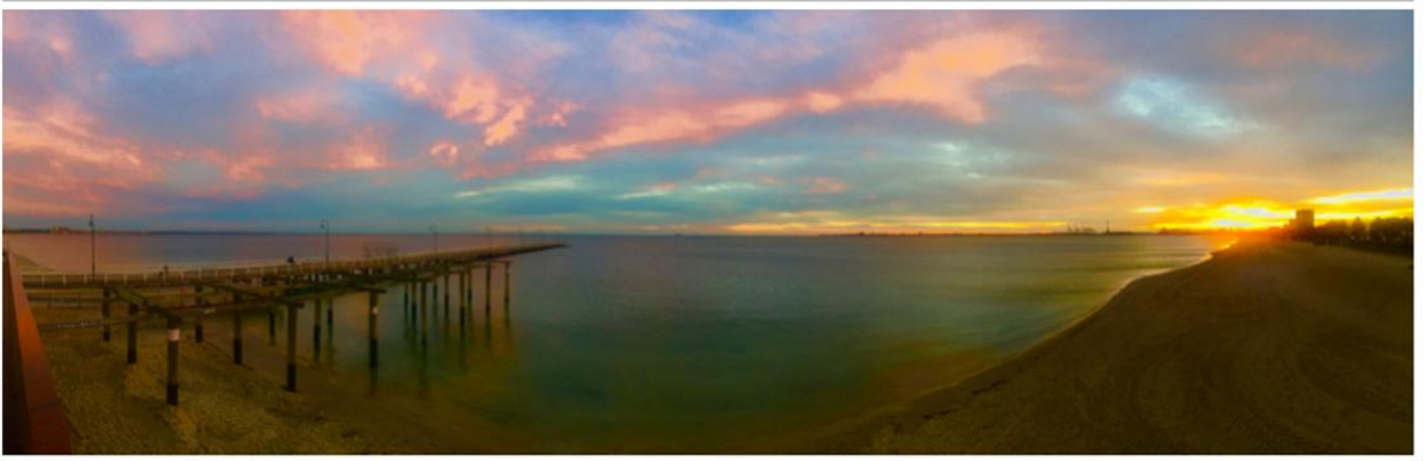


Your Club. Your Venue.

The best location for weddings, wakes, parties, or corporate events.
Every Saturday night, and Monday to Wednesday, your club is available for functions.

Contact **Glenn Smith** for details on how we can host your event.
functions@apyac.org.au 9690 5530

IMAGE: ©jamesnixon2020



Fish move into the new VFA fishing Reefs!

by **Brent Womersley**
Senior Technical Officer

The Victorian Fisheries Authority's science team recently had the opportunity to dive and inspect the newly-deployed VFA rock-fishing reefs.

The basalt and limestone deployment was completed in mid-October and in the short time since, the amount of fish life occupying this new fish habitat is impressive. The objective of this trip was to inspect the reef deployment, survey the fish life and design a basic survey program that will monitor the fish life on these reefs over time. We surveyed the Outer Harbour reef and the Kirk Point reef locations.

On arrival to our reef coordinates, the reefs were very easy to locate as they showed up on the vessel sounder as large lumps on the sea floor. My excitement to dive these reefs did not disappoint as these once barren sea floors are now made up of large natural-looking patch reefs.

As we swam up to the reef it wasn't long before I came eye-to-eye with the largest snapper I have ever seen whilst diving, resting amongst the large basalt boulders. Other fish sighted included: boarfish; goat fish; rays; globefish; leatherjackets and weed whiting. These fish are attracted to this new habitat even before the reefs are seeded.

These three reef locations will be seeded with 10 tonnes of native blue Oysters, and 500,000 native oysters in this month.

The rock reefs are part of the Target One Million Phase II program, funded by the State Labour Government's commitment to support reef building. We have also involved the local Wadawurrung community to name one of the reefs and the fishing community are naming the other two reefs. These names will be announced soon.



Spot the large snapper hiding behind the drift algae



Boar fish looking at home on the new Reef - Photo ©Kade Mills



Loading Basalt Rock at Corio Bay

Bay Fishers urged to do the right thing

The snapper season is seeing large numbers of anglers flocking to Port Phillip to enjoy Victoria's most popular fishery. Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) Acting CEO Paul Shea said it has been great to see so many families out safely enjoying their time on the water.

"We know how popular this time of year is out on the bay, and it's wonderful that plenty of fishers can wet a line again," Mr Shea said.

"As always during the traditionally busy period, Fisheries Officers are ensuring those out on the water are doing the right thing, whether they are casting from the shore, a jetty or a boat."

Recently officers have received numerous reports via the 13 FISH reporting hotline of illegal fishing in the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary, near Beaumaris.

The boundaries of this marine park are clearly marked with yellow or green boundary posts. Fisheries Officers have responded by patrolling this area using both marked and unmarked boats and jet-skis. A large number of infringement notices have been issued related to taking fish and using fishing equipment in a marine sanctuary.

Investigations are also continuing to identify further possible offending by boaters that left the marine protected area prior to officers being able to speak with them.

"Fishers should familiarise themselves with marine park boundaries before they leave home," Mr Shea said.

"Our Marine Parks and Sanctuaries exist to protect Victoria's unique and diverse marine environments, now and for the future."

The VFA's Vic Fishing app also features a "Can I Fish Here?" function, which uses your phone's GPS location to determine whether you are within a marine park or sanctuary.



The app also contains a digital copy of the recreational fishing guide, so you can stay across bag and catch limits whenever and wherever you are fishing. It can be downloaded free from the App Store or Google Play.



VRFish News

It's been tremendous to see Victorian rec-fishers heading out for a fish across the State once again.

VRFish has continued its strong advocacy for recreational fishers on a number fronts. We have taken the opportunity, post-Covid restriction, to continue to recognise how important fishing is for our mental health, while being a key driver to help support our regional economies.



We had the pleasure recently of taking Minister for Fishing and Boating, Melissa Horne, out for a fish to see first-hand the popularity of our



Put this number in your phone now

133474

Report suspicious
or illegal fishing activity.

Help protect our fish stocks
for the future.

snapper fishery and recreational boating on Port Phillip Bay.

Golden Tag

It has been great to be involved in the re-launch of the Golden Tag initiative in Loch Sport and release of a \$10K tagged Murray Cod in Upper Coliban Reservoir.

For any Victorian who hasn't been fishing for a few years or has never been fishing before, these incentives can bring a new level of excitement and attention to fishing.

New Team Member

Ben Scullin has joined the VRFish Team as our Advocacy and Membership Coordinator. He comes to VRFish with a wealth of knowledge and experience of all things fishing and boating and will be a critical conduit for engagement with our members and fishers while conducting campaigns that make fishing better.

Ben Scullin is a top fisho and one of APYAC's Honorary Members

New Legislation

Two key pieces of legislation have recently been passed by the Victorian Parliament, with the backing of VRFish, helping the Andrews Government to meet key election commitments.

Firstly, \$31 million dollars of our annual marine license and boating registration fees will now be directed into the Better Boating Fund to be reinvested into back into infrastructure and improve service levels. VRFish's has been advocating the creation of a trust account with all funds directed into improvements and maintenance to enhance our boating experience.

From September 2021, camping will be permitted on Crown Water Frontage with grazing licenses after the passage of an Amendment Bill.

VRFish ran a 'Public Access to Public Land' campaign to tackle misinformation surrounding the principles of Crown Land, and be a voice of reason. The result for fishers is there will now be thousands of kilometres of river frontage to take the family camping and cast a line in. There will be public consultation on the specific regulations and VRFish has already begun work on leading a code of practice to promote responsible recreation.

Budget Wins

The 2020-2021 State Budget was handed down and we were pleased to see the construction of the Maribyrnong River Boat Ramp was specifically listed. There have been many years of grassroots advocacy undertaken by our members from the Metropolitan Angling Association and Essendon Angling Club.

The new ramp will unlock 15km of river for fishing and boating, rather than us having to launch from the The Warmies as is the case now.

Animal Welfare Directions Paper

We are currently working on our submission to the Animal Welfare Directions Paper. Again, we see Fisheries legislation is fit for this purpose and it's given us an opportunity to document recreational fishers track record in animal welfare from calling for the ban of opera house nets to running stewardship program such as Snapper Survival and Care for Cod.

VRFish is also working on a new shark and ray best practice program with our partners at Monash University and Victorian Fisheries Authority. We've been out filming some videos demonstrating best practice handling, catch and release of sharks and rays and look forward to launching the program soon.

Fish stocking

Fish stocking by the Victorian Fisheries Authority has continued throughout 2020 and now is the time we are asking rec-fishers to put their minds shaping the stocking plan for the 2021-2022 year. We have found, through Covid and restrictions on travel, that there are several urban waterways in Melbourne that are either closed to fishing, or are not stocked to fish. Lysterfield Lake and Frankston Reservoir, for example, are on the doorstep of Melbourne and could provide some remarkable fishing, while others positioned in the centre of the suburbs such as Edwardes Lake in Reservoir would be a fantastic asset for families in the surrounding neighbourhood.

Fish Habitat Restoration Projects

VRFish was buoyed at the announcement of nine new coastal and marine fish habitat



restoration projects across Victoria through Federal Government funding.

This will see recreational fishers working hand-in-hand with Catchment Management Authorities, including through OzFish Unlimited Chapters, to deliver fish habitat restoration from Portland to Marlo.

Here in the Bay, two projects will see recreational fishers help to build living shellfish reefs, and in Western Port will see a focus on mangrove restoration.

There is no doubt in VRFish's mind that this new investment and attention on our coastal fish habitat is recognition of the tremendous ongoing

achievements by the Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club, and your program partners.

As always, we encourage all Victorian fishers to get involved in our work and they can check out our website or follow us on social media.

We currently inviting all Victorian recreational fishers to complete our *Advocacy Priorities Survey* to develop a strong mandate for VRFish's next tranche of priorities that recreational fishers want us working on.

A free VRFish individual membership is also offer for anyone keen to get more involved or learn more about the role of VRFish. To find out more visit www.vrfish.com.au

Snapper Snippets

Veronica Matheson

Feature Writer. Lookout, You're next on her list.



News from OzFish Unlimited
By Ben Cleveland



I hope members are finally getting to enjoy the snapper season and finding some good fish. Whilst COVID restrictions impacted volunteer efforts nationally, there have still been some great achievements by OzFishers across Australia in between lockdowns, and some exciting developments in the world of fish habitat.

During the year, in partnership with local Catchment Management Authorities across the state, OzFish sought funding through a federally funded national 'Fish Habitat Restoration Grant Program', designed to fund projects that engage recreational fishers in on-ground works and demonstrate the recreational fisher community's ability to care for their waterways.

The Club provided Letters of Support for these applications, and through our partnerships, we were successful in six projects across Victoria to be completed over the next three years, with potential collaboration in three additional projects also awarded in the state.

This is incredibly exciting and lays the foundation for OzFish's to undertake some great projects across Victoria's coastline, in collaboration with local CMA's and the many other stakeholders. Of specific interest to club members are the Community Reefs Project in Port Phillip, constructing shellfish reefs, and the Reel Big Fish Program in Western Port, focusing on mangrove restoration.

There will be many exciting opportunities for members to get involved, and I look forward to working with the club in achieving even more great outcomes for fish habitat.

More info on the funding program can be found here: [AWE Media Release – Fish Habitat](#).

Additionally, below are some updates of OzFish projects nationally and some inspiration for future OzFish/APYAC restoration efforts:

Seeds for Snapper

The third annual Seeds for Snapper Seagrass Weekend in Cockburn Sound WA has finished with a whopping 300,000 seagrass seeds collected so far, and more coming in. More than 200 community volunteers registered to take part in the restoration program

in Cockburn Sound WA, undertaking seed collection dives.

Seeds are being germinated on shore in aquaculture systems before being released at restoration sites by rec fishers, where they will hopefully establish and help to restore the once prominent *Posidonia* meadows of the sound.

Carter's freshwater mussels rescue

OzFish volunteers have assisted with the rescue and relocation of more than 35,000 protected Carter's freshwater mussels as part of the Vasse Diversion Drain project in Busselton earlier this month. The OzFish volunteers worked tirelessly over three days assisting Water Corporation contractor [Indo-Pacific Environmental](#) to ensure the mussels made it safely to their new home in the Vasse further upstream.

Andrew Matthews, W.A. Program Manager for OzFish, was amazed by the results of the community to roll up their sleeves for the future of fishing for the region.

"Carter's freshwater mussels are the only freshwater mussel species in the south-west of WA. They play an important role in our waterways as ecosystem engineers by purifying water and making it more suitable for not only themselves but other species," Mr Matthews said.

"We didn't expect to rescue that many mussels, so it is a great result. It was wonderful to see the community get involved and the perfect way to kickstart our latest OzFish Chapter in Western Australia."

“The Geographe Chapter is hoping to undertake a whole range of fish habitat restoration projects in the region including riparian planting along the Lower Vasse River and creating nutrient stripping ponds that will filter and purify run-off before it reaches the river.”

Deniliquin lagoons habitat

Local community groups have joined forces to improve fish habitat in the Deniliquin Lagoons. Volunteers from OzFish, Deniliquin Kolety Lagoons Landcare Group, and Edward Wakool Angling Association have been hard at work organising to drop fish hotels in the centre of the lagoons and plant native vegetation to provide more complex habitat for threatened fish.

The work will improve the habitat for threatened Southern Pygmy Perch and Eel-tailed Catfish, commonly known as freshwater catfish.

Braeden Lampard, OzFish Project Manager for the Murray-Darling Basin, said the lagoons are known to be one of the only places in Australia where you can see freshwater catfish nesting with their young.

“These new snags and native vegetation are critical fish habitat, providing places for fish to feed, breed, shelter from the sun and seek refuge from predators, especially in the winter to hide from birds,” Braeden said.

“The local community has been very concerned about the importance of the endangered fish, having seen many get picked up by birds because they don’t have enough shelter for safety.”

The water levels in the lagoons are managed to mimic natural flow patterns.

When water levels are drawn down fish do not have access to snags which leaves them vulnerable to predators, such as birds.

The Deniliquin Lagoons project is a community partnership that has been running since 2010.

The lagoons were degraded, erosion was significant and overrun by introduced plants and carp, however, the local volunteers have

been busy removing pest species, establishing an endangered fish refuge area, a recreational fishing park and replanting native wetland plants into the waterway.

Dr John Conallin, from the Edward Wakool Angling Association said:

“This is a good example of community groups working together to manage and restore their own habitats for endangered species.”

“The community is more connected to their environment through this project. The support from OzFish has allowed us to continue this important project and we are starting to work with other towns to do what we have done here.”

This project has been made possible thanks to the OzFish-Landcare NSW partnership with funding support from the NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts and BCF, with support from the Edward River Council, and Forestry Corporation of NSW.

Lachlan River rescue and relocation

177 native Murray Cod, Golden Perch and Silver Perch are now swimming safely in the waters of Wyangala Dam after an intensive fish rescue operation.

Volunteers from Inland Waterways OzFish were urgently called-in to assist NSW DPI Fisheries with the relocation effort, enacted under a DPI rescue and relocation permit. With summer fast approaching, the native fish were in need of a helping hand to ensure their survival.

The operation follows numerous large-scale efforts to rescue native fish from stretches of drought-affected rivers in late 2019, where OzFish volunteers assembled specialist fish relocation pods and equipment under the guidance of expert NSW DPI Fisheries staff.

Five volunteers from Dubbo’s Inland Waterways OzFish headed out to this latest rescue, where Murray Cod up to around 110cm in length, along with scores of yellow belly and threatened Silver Perch were saved.

Matt Hansen, president of the Inland Waterways OzFish Chapter said:

“It was great to once again work alongside the DPI Fisheries team to get a good outcome for our native fish.”

“To see the team in the water, high-fiving and cheering as those big Murray Cod were cradled to the relocation pods was an incredibly satisfying experience.”

“We estimate that some of the bigger fish were of considerable age –those fish don’t just grow that big overnight– so to see them saved is a fantastic outcome.”

“Our native fish have been through the drought from hell over the past few years, with shocking large-scale fish kills in many parts of the Murray-Darling Basin, so to see another couple of hundred escorted to safer waters is something our OzFish volunteers will never forget.”

“The rescue work is an example of how recreational fishers from OzFish are working to help our native fish. The work across Australia is supported by BCF and its customers. This project made possible because of the experience and skills gained by OzFish volunteers who were part of the 2019-20 Native Fish Drought Response work with NSW DPI Fisheries.”

Working on a chapter model, OzFish is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to helping the millions of Aussie recreational fishers to take control of the health of their rivers, bays and estuaries, and shore up the future of the sport they love.

OzFish Unlimited partners with fishers and the broader community to invest time and money into the protection and restoration of our waterways, counteracting decades of degradation.

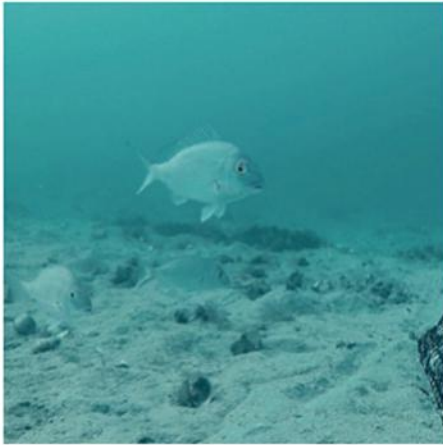
There are currently 41 chapters of passionate fishers nationally, and APYAC has a chapter of its own. But we need you!

OzFish APYAC is an excellent opportunity for APYAC to continue to lead by example, showing the community the positive impacts

fishers can have on their local waters.

As well as the great fundraising work already undertaken for the Shellfish Reef Project, with the upcoming projects there are new opportunities for APYAC club members to get involved.

The club currently has a Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) unit available for use downstairs, including logbook and equipment if members are keen to get a fish-eye view of their favourite fishing spots.



If you would like to know more about OzFish Unlimited, head to www.ozfish.org.au, and members who would like to be involved can contact Ben Cleveland at benclleveland@ozfish.org.au or at a club meeting.



Watch the Victorian Ports **Steer Clear** video on how to responsibly enjoy your time on Port Phillip Bay.

Keep well clear of a ship's path and make sure you can see and be seen at all times.

<https://tinyurl.com/SteerClearVideo>

The Nature Conservancy



Shellfish Reefs Report

More Shellfish Reefs for Port Phillip Bay

By Simon Branigan

As the cloud of Covid-19 continues to lift, The Nature Conservancy has been flat out rebuilding more shellfish reefs in Port Phillip to boost fish stocks, and help improve the overall health of the Bay.

New reefs were added to our existing sites at Margaret's Reef and Wilson Spit with two new sites being established at Dromana and 9ft Bank.



In total, over three hectares of new reefs were rebuilt, with 5.5 hectares of shellfish reefs in Port Phillip Bay now – equivalent to the size of two MCG's.

One of the big bonuses of this year's reef-building efforts is that VFA constructed reefs at the same time in the Geelong region.

We utilised the same contractor, Polaris Marine based out of Lakes Entrance, who had successfully rebuilt the existing reefs in 2017 and 2018.

The materials used to rebuild the reefs (limestone and recycled shell) were loaded onto a barge by a Longreach excavator at Mackey Street

If you can't see the bridge of that ship ... they can't see you!
Keep outa the channels. You don't need the drama.

Pier in North Geelong, then deployed at the various sites throughout the bay.



Longreach excavator deploying recycled shell at 9ft Bank in Geelong Arm.
Photo: Simon Branigan.

The next step, occurring right now, is to go back and seed the reefs with 3.5 million Australian flat oysters and blue mussels.

The oysters were reared at the Victorian Shellfish Hatchery in Queenscliff and mussels grown out by Advance Mussel Supplies near Clifton Springs. Kina Diving will be undertaking the seeding works.

The Port Phillip Bay project is part of a long-standing partnership between The Nature Conservancy, the Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club, and the Victorian Government.

Generous support from the Ross Trust, the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and the Victorian Government's *Target One Million* fund have made this project possible.



New reef at Dromana as part of 5 new reefs established in the area.
Photo: Simon Branigan

Port Phillip Bay's new shellfish reefs are part of The Nature Conservancy's National Reef Building Project that aims to rebuild 60 reefs across southern Australia. This includes five hectares of new reefs in Port Phillip Bay in 2021, and pilot reefs in Gippsland Lakes. If achieved, it will make Australia the first nation in the world to recover a critically endangered marine ecosystem.

APYAC's Bob Pearce said:

"It is fantastic to see so much work going on all over Australia to rehabilitate habitat. Shellfish reefs projects are now happening all over Australia now, and have become a \$25 Million project thanks to funding from State and Federal governments ... all started by APYAC."

"We initiated a process with Fisheries Victoria (now The Victorian Fisheries Authority), and were soon joined by The Nature Conservancy. Much was learned from our initial project that has been applied to subsequent projects throughout the country."

"Members should all be proud of what we have achieved and will continue to be achieved as a result of us starting this project."

Hastings Boat Ramp Open For Summer

For those who like to go fishing in Westernport, it is good news that the new Hastings boat ramp will be better for boaters and fishers this summer with the completion of the first stage a \$1.6 million Victorian Government upgrade.

The ramp was re-opened on Friday 20th November with the upgraded four lane facility extending deeper into the bay than the previous structure.

In addition, the existing pontoon adjacent to the ramp has been widened to improve functionality and allow direct access for launching and retrieving of boats.

The works were delivered by the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, with crews working to a CovidSafe plan. After some initial challenges with construction, crews have worked overtime to get the boat ramp ready ahead of summer.

Access at the boat ramp will be further improved when Stage Two dredging works at the site are completed in mid-2021.

Currently during lower than average low tides, extra care must be taken as the channel between the ramp and the main channel can be very shallow. The Stage Two works will be timed to be completed outside peak season, reducing the impact on those using the ramp.

Popular with boaters and fishers, Hastings boat ramp is one of the busiest on the Mornington Peninsula, and is also used by commercial and emergency service boats.

The upgrade is part of the Victorian Government's \$47.2 million investment in recreational boating improvements that also includes upgrades at five other priority locations, reviewing boating

infrastructure management arrangements across Port Phillip Bay and Western Port, and establishing the Better Boating Fund.



Mornington Peninsula Shire Cerberus Ward Councillor **Lisa Dixon** joined Minister for Fishing and Boating **Melissa Horne** to celebrate the completion and opening of the upgraded Hastings Boat Ramp.



The newly completed boat launching facility viewed from the boat tie-up pontoon.



Lifejacket self-inspection clinics in 2021

Victorian boaters and paddlers will attend free clinics in 2021 to learn how to service and maintain their lifejackets, helping them stay safer on the water.

The clinics will be offered as part of the Transport Safety Victoria (TSV) FloatSafe program pilot, starting on 17 January at Rhyll, Phillip Island.

A lifejacket that doesn't inflate isn't much good to you

“If you’ve fallen into the water unexpectedly and you get yourself in trouble, having a lifejacket that doesn’t inflate isn’t much good to you”, says Gareth Johnson, Manager – Recreational Boating Safety at Maritime Safety Victoria (MSV).

“If you own an inflatable lifejacket in Victoria, you should be performing regular checks to make sure it is going to work when you need it. This program is about familiarising boaters with their lifejackets so that they can conduct these checks effectively.”

MSV says that many lifejacket manufacturers now recommend owners complete an inflation check every three months and that lifejackets should be fully serviced by an accredited service agent every 3 to 5 years.

“At the clinics we’ll have our Boating Safety Education Officers guide attendees through the process of inspecting their own lifejackets, which should be both informative and fun. No prior knowledge of lifejackets is required,” says Gareth.

“The sessions are a great way to engage boating communities on some of the common issues we see with lifejackets. They’re also a timely reminder of the importance of maintaining lifejackets through the busy summer boating season and beyond.”

In addition to getting face-to-face education, FloatSafe attendees will receive a \$30 voucher from a local retailer to go towards a new lifejacket, lifejacket service kit, or other safety equipment.

Book a ticket

Numbers are limited and the clinics will be ticketed on a first-come, first served basis. All clinics will be delivered under TSV’s COVIDSafe Plan.

Browse all available 2021 FloatSafe clinics on Eventbrite and secure your free ticket:

<https://tinyurl.com/y8m55q5h>

Hey **smartypants!** Going for a swim?

Try putting your **life jacket** on when you are in the water. It’s near impossible. That’s why we put ‘em on **before** we go out to the sea in boats.

Getting to know ...

By Veronica Matheson

The club's Boathouse Captain Eddy Bernobich has been in the role for about 15 years but is not counting. "I've always preferred to fly under the radar," he confides.

Eddy is usually found in the boatshed below the clubrooms as his passion is making boats shipshape. "There's so much to be done," says Eddy, "and now that Covid-19 restrictions have eased we have the incentive to get going."

He says so many people visit the clubhouse and don't realise there are over 50 boats underneath.

"What concerns me is that many of those boats are never used, or are in disrepair. That doesn't make sense that boats are being used as trophies. It's dead space that should be utilised. We need more volunteers in the boathouse team to work on mechanical repairs, corking, carpentry, painting, and other things."

Ask Eddy about the responsibilities of the Boathouse Captain and discover that his role runs from the safety of the boats to the equipment — just about everything downstairs— as well as organising bay and river trips for members.

Above the usual retirement age, Eddy still works and is currently at Adams Pest Control. "I've always been a hard worker, I've been in many jobs from manual work, to engineering, to building, and I've always been lucky enough to get up in the morning and know that I'm off to do work that I enjoy."



IMAGE: ©jamesstixon.2020

Originally from the coastal Adriatic town of Fiume in northern Italy—in 1945 the town was renamed Rijeka and is now part of Croatia—Eddy migrated to Melbourne with his family as an 11-year-old. He already had a passion for the sea as he often went boating in a clinker boat with his grandfather. Once the family settled in Williamstown he crewed a local scallop boat at weekends. "I learned a lot along the way," he recalls, "often the hard way, as I almost drowned on three separate occasions."

Early on Eddy's command of English was not great, but he quickly won the respect of his Aussie schoolmates as his high school's sports champion in many fields, including rowing.

He became a member of APYAC in 1990. "Once they showed me what was downstairs, I was sold. I was soon spending all my spare time working on the boats. One of the first was PA20 which leaked like a sieve. The boat is still in the boatshed and known as the "shark boat" because a shark jumped into it when club members were out fishing one day.

"It happened well before my time at the club, but it made the front page of the old *Sun* newspaper and the picture is still behind the

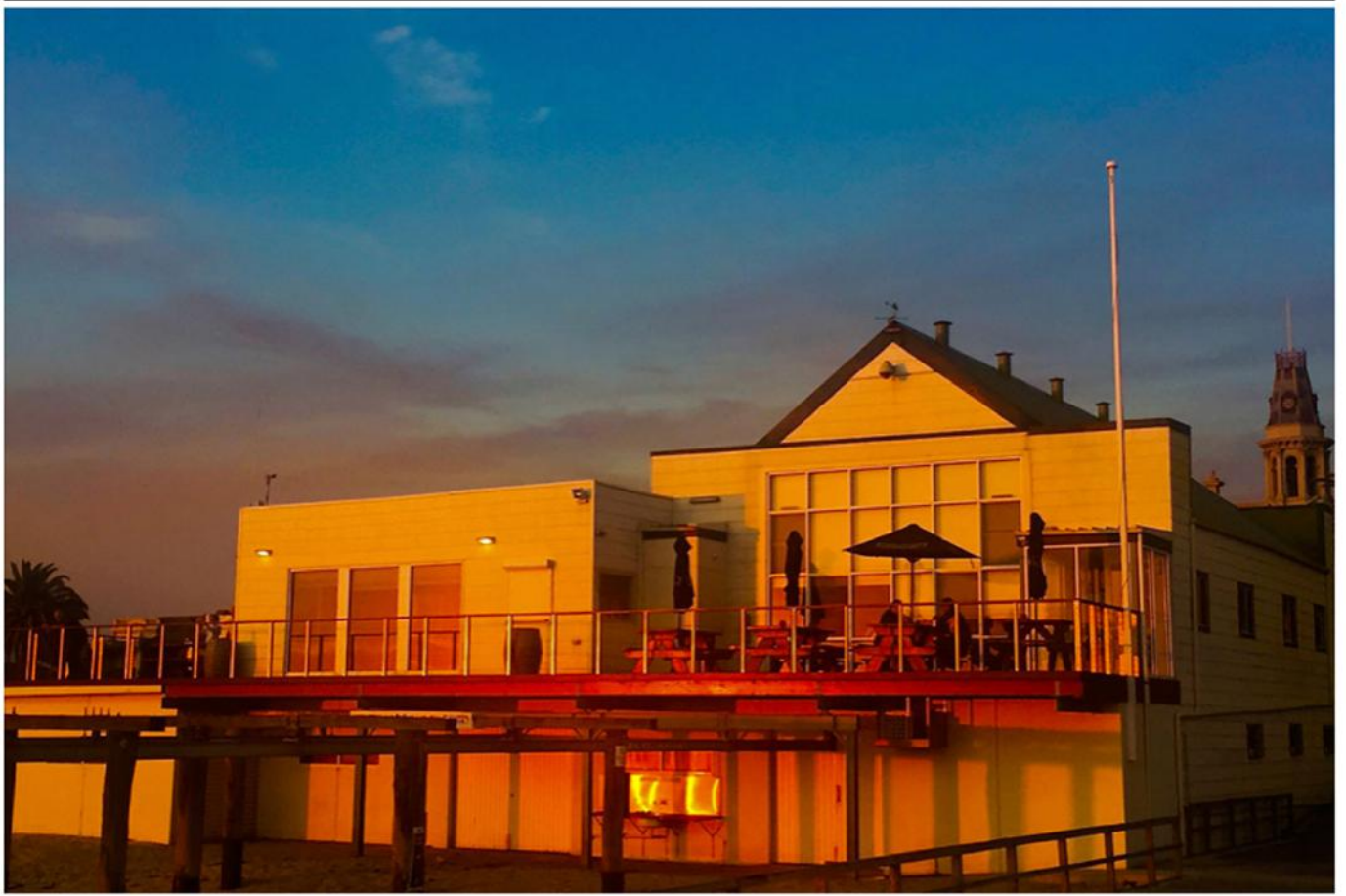
bar in the clubhouse."

As well as getting APYAC's Boathouse shipshape, Eddy is currently painting his own boat with plans to take it out in Port Phillip Bay this summer. He's hoping his son, Richard will join him boating in the freshly painted clinker. Eddy has been married to Chris for 45 years, their children are Sara and Richard, and they have two grandchildren.

Footnote: Eddy encourages all club members to visit the boathouse.



IMAGE: ©jamesstixon.2020



Volunteer-led recovery.

The call for volunteers led to a massive response. This has led to the formation of a number of Sub-Committees to provide expertise, guidance and grunt-work to the main Committee who is tasked with navigating the stormy Covid seas, and modernisation of our club. Sharing the load is important if we are to maintain momentum and we

would like to publicly thank the following for their time and dedication.

Our task is by no-means over, and we'd love to add more people to our list of willing experts. We can offer nothing but camaraderie, and the satisfaction that comes from contributing to the success of the best little fishing club on the planet.

Administration

Peter Neville

Belinda Bicknell
Michelle Matthews

Angling

Bob Pearce

Chantal Meehan
Anthony Osborne
Tony Panayotou
Alex Spyrou
Dave Vitkin

Boathouse

Eddy Bernobich

John Cali
Anthony Osborne
Bob Small
Alex Spirou

Community Relations

Remy Van De Wiel

Nick Hill
Frank Hutchinson
Bob Pearce
Robert Richter
Brian Wright

Finance & Operations

Peter Taylor

Jesse Gleeson
Barry Hayes
Peter Holdsworth
John Miline
Pam Montgomery
Kerry Raymond
Daniel Rudd
Glenn Smith
Peter Stackpole

Food & Beverage, Functions

Michael Blanche

Stavros Abougelis
Michelle Matthews
Sandra Rogerson
Victoria Wilson

Marketing Communications Media & Sponsorship

Olga Harradine

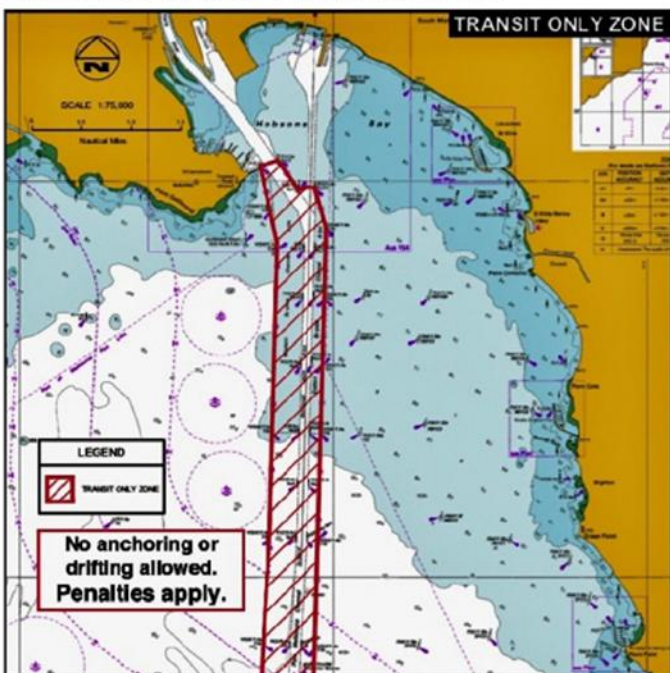
Chris Derrick
Peter Holdsworth
James Nixon
Veronica Matheson
Michelle Matthews
Barry Shepherd
Kate Unsworth

Transit Only Zone

Vessels must not anchor or drift within the Transit Only Zone.

Where is the Transit Only Zone?

The Transit Only Zone (TOZ) covers the Port Melbourne Channel south of Breakwater Pier, the waters approximately 500 metres to the west and 200 metres to the east of that channel; it includes the Eastern By-Pass Channel and the Western By-Pass Channel and extends approximately 3 nautical miles to the south of Fawkner Beacon.

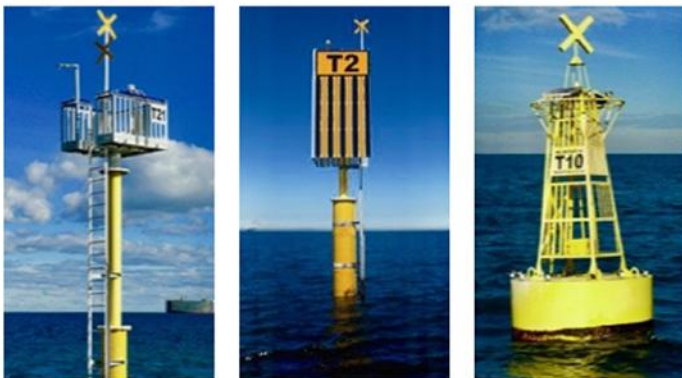


How can small vessels use the TOZ?

The TOZ can only be used as a transit route. A vessel must not be anchored or allowed to drift in the TOZ. Penalties apply.

What does the TOZ look like?

The TOZ is marked by Special Marks [VQ(4)Y4s], fitted with top marks and synchronised with each other. These beacons and buoys are located at intervals along both sides of the TOZ. They look like this:



Names & co-ordinates of the beacons and buoys

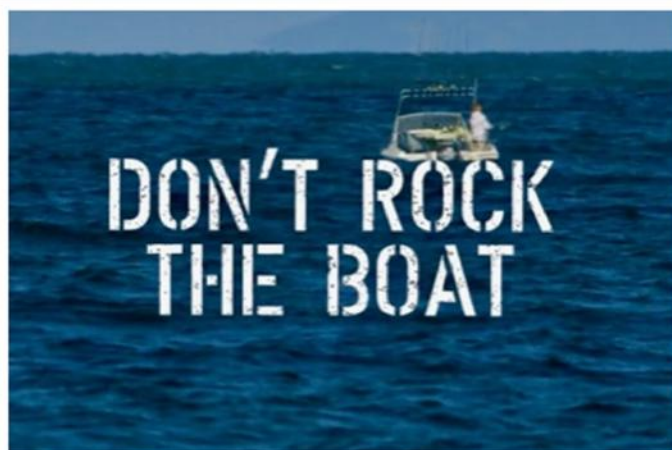
The TOZ means the zone as gazetted that is defined by an imaginary line joining co-ordinates indicated in the table on the website.

Please check the Notices to Mariners page for updates for Port of Melbourne waters.

For more information, contact:

Navigation Services
Tel: +61 3 9644 9758
Email: navservices@vicports.vic.gov.au

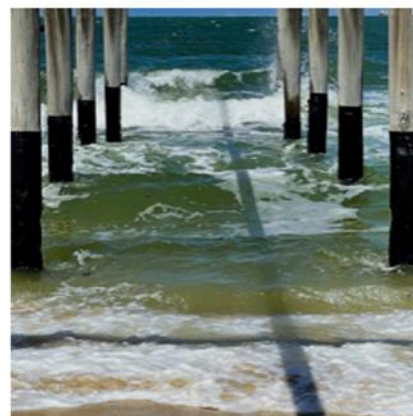
See the map and table of coordinates at www.vicports.vic.gov.au or click [HERE](#)



Boating safety video

Watch the boating safety video on how to prepare for a trip out on Port Phillip Bay and learn about waves, and how they are produced.

The link: <https://tinyurl.com/DontROCK>



NEXT ISSUE

A special feature on launching & retrieving boats from the unique APYAC Gantry.

We've all had an absolutely **hideous** year

adams.
PEST CONTROL

CAYZER

ccb
corporate car brokers

FRY'S
STORAGE

THE GRACE
ALBERT PARK LAKE

neoscape

All the more reason to **support** our sponsors
They've stuck with **us**. Let's stick with **them**.



IMAGE © James Nixon 2020

Feeling Inadequate.

He can fly better than Sully, catch fish better than Tony Spinelli, and can even ski on water. Luckily he has bad breath and a disagreeable personality. On this day at Lakes Entrance, after thrilling bystanders, he motored-up to the dock, fixed me with a stare as if to say: 'What?'

- James Nixon.