

WINTER 2020



# Snapper Snippets

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

## Waiting for the green light

Dear Members,

Firstly, I wish to send all our members the best wishes from the Committee and Management. May you all stay safe and well for however long this COVID-19 emergency lasts.

Since the first Federal & State Government announcements regarding social distancing, and eventual club closure, the Committee, along with Management, have been working through all the areas directly impacting the club, covering both its social, and sporting activities.

We have been in constant contact with both our industry body, Community Clubs Victoria (CCV), and our accountants, Newell Lock & Co., to make sure we comply with the industrial 'Stand Down' notices, and registration of the Club for potential Federal & State assistance through the various 'Not for Profit' grants that have been made available.

The Committee has been working with Management to prepare a Financial Cash Flow, originally projected through to the end of June,

but now being extended through to end of December 2020. Based on the end of June forecast, plus a preliminary work through of anticipated expenses to the end of December, and further—taking into consideration likely grants from JobKeeper, PAYG returns, and State Government Business Support—the Club's economic position indicates we will be able to viably operate through the emergency, and be ready to reopen when we get the green light.

The Commonwealth Bank has also advised that our monthly Renovation repayment of \$10,000 is being suspended for an initial three months, with a rollover for a minimum further three months.

On the fishing side, you would have noticed our annual fishing season has been brought to an early conclusion, and the boathouse has been closed for all recreational use of members' boats.

As we did when the club was closed for three months during the renovation, the Committee will be advising members how long the Bar Levy expenditure Rollover Period



will be extended, once we have a firm reopening date. Similarly, membership fees will be finalised, covering last year and this year.

The Committee will continue to closely monitor all areas of the Club's ongoing COVID-19 implications, its financial impact, and associated requirements, so that it will be in the strongest possible shape when recommencing operations.

I look forward to seeing you at the club when we can open our doors again.

Wishing you all good health,

Philip Langdon



**STOP PRESS: Fishing can resume in Victoria!**

Owners can access the boat house from Wednesday morning, 13th May. (No boat hiring yet).



**Tony Spinelli's Season-Winning 9.4kg Snapper**

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**

# New club hire boat

*By Olga Harradine on behalf of the APYAC Committees*

The APYAC Executive and Angling Committees are pleased to announce that a new club boat has been purchased for use by the Members. It has been delivered to the club and will be available for hire once the current COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

The new addition will give members the use of a brand new boat for access to fishing areas.

Members wishing to hire Club Boats must pass induction training.

**Boat details:**

Quintrex 400 Dart Tiller steer

**Hull:** 4 metre aluminium

**Motor:** 20 hp 4-stroke Mercury outboard

Tinnies are durable, versatile, and built to provide years of fun and enjoyment. They are a quintessential part of boating, and are the backdrop for many happy fishing memories.

Quintrex Dart Tinnies feature a single piece extrusion with a

small exterior keel for structural strength and durability, a unique feature in the open boat range.

The exterior keel helps with tracking, provides protection when on the trailer, and against debris in the water or when parking on the beach. It also provides a keel-effect when at rest in cross-wind / current situations.

We look forward to our Members having many happy years of fishing with the new addition, and are planning to purchase several more.



Images: © John Call2020



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](mailto:info@apyac.org.au)



Ron Amy, one of the longest serving Members of the club, was recently honoured with the **Good Bloke Award**. Ron has served as President, as well as boat mechanic / repairer of the clinker boats, and boat hire co-ordinator, amongst many other involvements over the years alongside his hard-working wife, Eadie. Ron was also the first cook at the Club, when the only meal available was lunch every Friday.



# 2019 APYAC Ladies Fishing Charter

By Olga Harradine

The 2019 Ladies Fishing Charter Day was booked a year ahead to ensure, as much as can be guaranteed with Melbourne weather, that we would likely have a beautiful warm day in the heart of snapper season.

This year we had decided on the early charter to increase our chances of success, however the reality of an

04:30 start meant that we were short a few bodies. Opening-up bookings to include all APYAC members resulted in six male members joining us on the day. Two competitions were then run concurrently: Ladies and Mens - APYAC Members.

The closer to the day, the more the weather deteriorated! It was cold. It was wet. But not too



When you download the App you provide your name, (you can make up any name you want!), mobile number, and postcode and select your age range. You will receive a confirmation SMS text message to complete installation. The system then creates a unique encrypted reference code just for you. **COVIDSafe** recognises other devices with the **COVIDSafe** app installed and Bluetooth enabled.

windy, so the charter was on. We all turned-up in our warmest winter gear, and with huge anticipation, boarded the mighty West Wind charter boat at St Kilda Marina.

Reports so far had been that the snapper catches had been scrappy and inconsistent, but we still had hope.

Enthusiasm reigned. Regardless of the rough, cold, and wet conditions, our spirits were high.

Every catch was met with cheers and excitement, but the snapper eluded us. Pinkies and flatties abounded, although most were under-sized and returned to fatten-up for next year.

We all enjoyed and appreciated the hot BBQ breakfast cooked by our Skipper, while we shared stories of 'the ones that got away'. It was a great way for APYAC members to get to know more about the people whose faces they see regularly around the club,

Prizewinners on the day were:

Ladies competition:- Libby Goldstone-Denson  
Susie Henry

Mens competition:- Pierre Matthee



Libby Goldstone-Denson & Olga Harradine



Susie Henry & Olga Harradine

### In The Office

Manager - **Paul Davies**  
[manager@apyac.org.au](mailto:manager@apyac.org.au)

Functions Manager - **Glenn Smith**  
[functions@apyac.org.au](mailto:functions@apyac.org.au)

Membership - **Denise Brett**  
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Pierre Matthee & Olga Harradine



IMAGE © Giro La Pira 2018

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

## Club Manager's Report

Dear Members,

We have all been devastated by the impact of COVID-19. To see our club empty is very disheartening, but we will all rise to meet the challenges ahead, and do whatever is required to defeat this cruellest of unseen enemies.

One of the hardest things for a Manager to do is advise staff that they are being stood down. The only bright light to this is the support the Federal Government has provided with their increased JobSeeker allowance and the new JobKeeper assistance package.

As the President has noted, we are working very closely with our industry body, and accountants, to make sure we provide all the necessary paperwork, supporting documents and information to assist our casual and full time employees in accessing the JobSeeker and JobKeeper packages.

On the financial side, with the Club having applied for all the Federal and State Governments' 'Not-for-Profit' assistance grants, we are working on delivering all the financial information and documentation required.

We are also working through a detailed 'End of December' cashflow financial model utilising much of the club's monthly Profit & Loss Income & Expenditure reporting. With the End of Financial Year reporting starting to get closer we will prepare the necessary documents and accounts for the Financial Statement and associated audit.

As soon as the Committee is able to advise the Club's position on this and, next year's fees, together with the Bar Levy, the office will get information to you.

Additional areas being looked at include, member portal upgrades,

web site update, function pricing and special offers, additional club events, sponsor, and special member offers, marketing, secure pay and preparation member billing via APYAC web portal.

We are using the closure to get indoor and outdoor maintenance completed so that when we reopen members will have a 'like new' club ready and waiting.

All our staff remain committed to making sure the club is ready to open its doors the moment the Government gives us the OK.

We miss you all.

*Paul Davies*





## Message from the Minister for Fishing & Boating, Jaala Pulford.

What a jam-packed couple of months we've had this year. While the year 2020 has started off with the worst bushfire season in history, I am humbled by the efforts of every Victorian to step up and aid in the recovery process.

The month of January saw VFA Fisheries Officers from across the State aiding bushfire-recovery efforts in Mallacoota. During this time, Fisheries Officers ferried many firefighters to and from Mallacoota using their Fisheries Kevlacat vessels. They also assisted in ferrying supplies and evacuating locals and wildlife.

Thankfully, our dedicated team of Fisheries Officers at Mallacoota were safe and able to help, but they too suffered loss of property, along with many locals and small businesses in the area.

I am sad to report that the fires destroyed the Abalone Fishermen's Co-Operative at Mallacoota, which has been a pillar for the seafood industry in Mallacoota for more than 50 years, and is the biggest employer in the town.

I recently visited the Co-Op and was happy to advise the Chairman, Geoff Ellis, that the Andrews Labor Government will provide them with \$300,000 to help them get back on their feet as quickly as possible.

Also, as you would have heard, as part of the VFA's bushfire response plan, I launched the 'Golden Tag' competition in Lakes Entrance on Friday 28 February. This is a tag-recapture program to encourage recreational fishers to return to fire-affected towns in East Gippsland and North East Victoria.

1,000 fish have been tagged around towns like Mallacoota, Cann River, Bemm River, Orbost, Marlo, Lakes Entrance, Lake Tyers, Omeo, Dartmouth, Mitta Mitta, Corryong, Tallangatta and Bright.

We're going to make sure people flock to these towns, because the first 10 tagged fish to be reported by fishers will earn the lucky fisher a

\$10,000 cheque, with tagged fish beyond the first 10 to be awarded a \$2,000 cash prize.

We're hoping to get as many recreational fishers as possible back to East Gippsland and the north east with their families and friends, spending money and helping local communities get back on their feet. We want this to happen all year round, so the competition is running for an entire year!

A number of tagged fish have already been caught and I hear the towns were buzzing the Labour Day long weekend. So get out there, have fun, and catch a golden tagged fish!

You can find out more about the Golden Tag Competition here: [www.vfa.vic.gov.au/goldentag](http://www.vfa.vic.gov.au/goldentag).



Fisheries vessels leaving Lakes Entrance at 7am carrying 24 firefighters to Mallacoota.



The Fisheries bushfire recovery team at Mallacoota



When the App recognises another user, it notes the date, time, distance and duration of the contact and the other user's reference code. The COVIDSafe app does not collect your location. The information is encrypted and that encrypted identifier is stored securely on your phone. Not even you can access it. The contact information stored in people's mobiles is deleted on a 21-day rolling cycle.



**Minister Pulford** at the launch of the *Golden Tag* competition, Lakes Entrance, holding tagged black bream with colleague **Jordan Crugnale MP**, Member for Bass.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: We are very grateful to the Minister for her tireless work in this portfolio, and her personalised article for APYAC. We have not bothered her for an update since the CoronaVirus restrictions were enacted shortly after she submitted this article.]

Victoria. She has shown sound leadership on many projects including:

**Netting**

Closure of commercial netting in Port Phillip Bay and Corio Bay.

**Better Boating**

Creation of Better Boating Victoria and the resulting commitment to return every cent of marine licensing and boat registration fees to improving boating safety and facilities through the establishment of a Better Boating fund.

**Infrastructure Upgrades**

The Victorian Budget 2019/20 invested \$47.2 million in boating to deliver urgent upgrades to six of the state's busiest boat ramps, scrap fees and review infrastructure management at Port Phillip and Western Port.

**Boat Ramps**

Free boat launching at all public boat launching ramps in Victoria.

**Shellfish Reef**

Supporting the club's project, (together with the Victorian Fisheries Authority and The Nature Conservancy), to naturally regrow shellfish (mussel and native oyster) reefs. This successful project will provide long term benefits for the health of the Bay.

**Reclaiming The Lakes**

Implementing a 'phase out' of commercial netting in the Gippsland Lakes.

**New Hatchery**

Construction of a new Native Fish Hatchery in Shepparton.

Few Victorian recreational fishers and boaters would have imagined that we'd ever be served by a Ministry in the State Government, let alone one headed by such a proactive Minister.

Taking the Minister Pulford and her staff out fishing was our way of saying thanks. We all had great time, even though the fish did not cooperate. Better luck next time.



# And Furthermore...

By Bob Pearce

We were delighted to take Minister Pulford and staff out fishing just prior to Christmas, with hopes of connecting up with 'Big Red' Snapper. Unfortunately, the weather gods were extremely unkind, providing strong winds and rough conditions. We tried our luck on the edge of the Port Melbourne channel but the fishing conditions were extremely difficult with lines constantly running under the boat. Closer to Williamstown conditions were more comfortable, but no 'Big Reds' made an appearance. Nevertheless, it was an extremely pleasant morning and an opportunity for all on board to relax after another year of hard work.

There is little doubt that Minister Pulford is the best Minister for Fishing and Boating we have seen in

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.



The 21-day rolling cycle takes into account the COVID-19 incubation period and the time it takes to get tested. When someone is diagnosed with COVID-19, state and territory health officials will ask them or their parent/guardian who they have been in contact with. If they have the **COVIDSafe** app and **provide their permission**, the encrypted contact information from the app will be accessed.

## And Furthermore ...

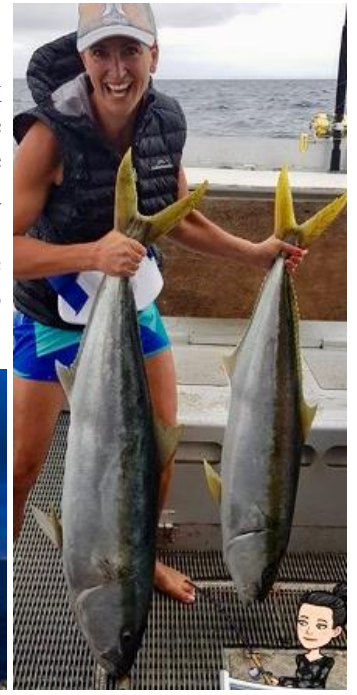
Pics from the day out on the water.



## Fishing Report

The annual trip to Lake Purrumbete took place on the March Labour Day. Purrumbete Redfin were there in abundance. Eddie Bernovich being the only person to get a good two pound trout for the weekend.

The whiting competition proved a challenge after having been twice-deferred due to inclement weather.



It will be uploaded to a highly secure information storage system. State and territory health officials will then a) use the contacts captured by the app to support their usual contact tracing, b) call people to let them or their parent/guardian know they may have been exposed, c) offer advice on next steps, including: what to look out for, when, how and where to get tested, what to do to protect friends and family from exposure. Health officials will not name the person who was infected.





**VRFish** have been busy advocating for, and representing, Victoria's recreational fishers.

It has been a very difficult start to 2020 with the bushfire crisis in East Gippsland and the North-East. There will be many challenges ahead in the recovery efforts and recent rains have been a double-edged sword for our fish and our waterways. When the time is right, we will all need to encourage recreational fishers to head back and support our impacted communities and businesses that rely upon fishing tourism.

The Golden Tag Program announced by the Minister for Fishing and Boating will offer a fantastic incentive to drive fishing tourism across the region when that gets underway. There will be 1,000 fish tagged with the first 10 tagged fish caught worth a \$10,000 reward and any other fish caught after that worth \$2,000. This initiative is testament to the recognised economic contribution of recreational fishing in Victoria, particularly in our regional areas.

Over summer, inter-valley water transfers were a hot topic. The Goulburn River was used as a water

pipe to send water down to the Murray River for downstream users, and to also maintain water levels in the 'off river' storage of Lake Victoria in South Australia. Consistent high flows in the lower Goulburn River have caused erosion of the lower bank and the loss of trees and vegetation that stabilise the riverbanks. The loss of fish habitat and increased erosion means a muddier river and higher rates of siltation of deep refuge pools. It's bad news for fishing, so we have raised awareness of the issue and written to the Federal Water Minister. [ See the story [HERE](#) ]

The reform of boat ramp management across Port Phillip Bay and Western Port took a step forward with our submission to a governance review. We hope the final report will be released soon to provide a way forward to our busiest boating waters. The boating facility management at Launching Way has been a hot topic of discussion. We have advocated to Government that the current management should be extended, and that any drop in service levels would not be acceptable to recreational fishers.

Normally, by this time of the year, we would have launched our *Steer Clear In The Rip* campaign to coincide with onset of warmer

waters and kingfish schools. So far, it's been an unusually quiet season and instead southern bluefin tuna schools have captured the imagination of fishers around Port Phillip Heads. VRFish is continuing to promote the *Tuna Champions* program to help fishers get the most out of their catch, such as bleeding fish, and putting the fish on ice.

'Pinkies' will continue to be the flavour of bay fishing with a massive recruitment pulse continuing to grow and take our baits like there is no tomorrow. In preparation for some bumper years ahead VRFish is refreshing its snapper survival campaign into a broader 'snapper stewards' program.

As the voice of recreational fishing in Victoria we are the 'go to' organisation to provide comment and advice on a variety of matters that may affect the quality of recreational fishing. To make it even easier for fishers to get involved, we have created a *Have Your Say* webpage [[HERE](#)] that lists the current consultation process VRFish are consulting-on.

VRFish fisher surveys continue to be extremely well received and have been invaluable to our advocacy efforts. We thank all the fishers that completed our surveys for the Fisheries Regulation review



You can delete the **COVIDSafe** app from your phone at any time. This will delete all **COVIDSafe** app information from your phone. The information in the secure information storage system will not be deleted immediately. It will be destroyed at the end of the pandemic. No-one can coerce you to download the app. It is against the law: "No user should feel pressured to install or continue to use **COVIDSafe**, or to agree to upload contact data to the data store. This is prohibited under the *Biosecurity Determination*." The reason we are supplying this information is to give you a full understanding of the App and the way it works. For more information click this link: <https://tinyurl.com/CV19SafeAPP>

# VRFish report Continued ...

and the future management of recreational fishing in Gippsland Lakes. We currently are inviting fishers to complete surveys on shark and ray fishing and interactions to support a best practice program with Monash University, and another for anyone who fishes from a boat or kayak in the lower Yarra River, as part of the review of waterway rules.

In addition to our *Have Your Say* page, we are reinvigorating our Reference Group structure as part of our consultation with fishers. These groups will report to the VRFish Board and be a key avenue how VRFish forms and consolidates its advice and policy positions. To find out more about our Reference Groups and how you can get involved, click [HERE](#).

Last year, we launched our new inclusive membership structure which has allowed us to unite a diverse group of fishers to be a part of Victoria's largest fishing community. We have had 80 individual fishers join as well as over 100 fishing clubs and associations and four affiliated organisations. Our aim is to have every fishing club in the state signed up so we can continue to be a strong and united voice across Victoria. Check out our events web page [HERE](#) for more information.



VRFish was honoured to receive the award for Excellence in Recreational Fishing Communication at the National Recreational Fishing Conference in Hobart. We are proud to represent the most passionate recreational fishers in the country.

We know that good communications are critical to get the word out on issues affecting your fishing and how we can all work together to make fishing better, for everyone!

We send out a monthly e-newsletter, *Fishing Lines*, to over 53,000 subscribers which features the latest news on fishing in Victoria. If you aren't receiving *Fishing Lines* and you want to keep up-to-date on the latest news from the VRFish office, be sure to sign up today on our website [HERE](#).

- Mike Burgess



received by attendees. We hope to strengthen the OzFish APYAC chapter in 2020 and provide some great outcomes for fish Habitat in Port Phillip Bay and beyond.

Some updates of our projects nationally and some inspiration for future OzFish APYAC restoration efforts:

## **Seeds For Snapper**

*Cockburn Sound, WA*

West Australian recreational fishers and divers have worked to restore the lost seagrass meadows of Cockburn Sound for the second consecutive year by collecting and spreading seeds to speed the plant's restoration and improve the habitat for Pink Snapper. Cockburn Sound is the state's most ecologically important southwest region Snapper spawning ground but has lost 80% of its seagrass meadows. Seagrass provides critical foraging and nursery grounds for many fish species as

# OzFish Unlimited

*By Ben Cleveland*

OzFishers Nationally have been busy over the summer months, working hard to spread the Fish habitat message and provide on ground outcomes for our national waterways. OzFish Staff and members attended the National Recreational Fishing Conference in Hobart in December, the conference was a great success,

with delegates from all over the country, including fishers, scientists and government from both marine and freshwater environments.

Our Presentations included an insight into the vast benefits of shellfish restoration and how recreational fishers are getting involved, in particular APYACs efforts to restore the shellfish reefs of Port Phillip Bay, which was well

## OzFish Unlimited

*Continued ...*

well as crabs, prawns and Southern Calamari. OzFish Unlimited has partnered with numerous organisations to help restore these meadows including University of Western Australia (UWA), Recfishwest and City of Cockburn with support from BCF – Boating, Camping, Fishing to deliver a community-driven restoration program for the past two years.

While out boating, volunteers have been using hand nets to collect the fruit pods in the Cockburn Sound. Flower pods or fruit containing the seed float to the water's surface before being driven by wind and collected by currents forming floating wracks.

This year's weather conditions didn't help the collection of the planned one million seeds but volunteers still made a great effort collecting as many as possible.

Marine Ecologist, Dr John Statton from UWA has been working on seagrass restoration for several years and said that predicting flowering from previous seasons is getting harder but with more regular monitoring it's expected that forecasting fruit ripening and seed collection will improve.

During the month-long Seagrass restoration program, three public events were held, including a Family Seeding day on the 24<sup>th</sup> November which despite the windy weather conditions, families with young enthusiastic children helped disperse thousands of seed into the restoration site south of Henderson Marina.

## Pumicestone Passage

### *Shellfish Restoration*

On 6 December, the third infill stage of The Pumicestone Shellfish Habitat Restoration Project will further enhance marine biodiversity and fish stocks and ultimately improve water quality in the Moreton Bay Region. This sub-tidal shellfish habitat project is the first of its kind approved in Queensland, and Healthy Land and Water is in negotiation with Marine Parks to extend the life of the project beyond three years. Three different types of artificial shellfish reefs were initially installed in a one-hectare location of Kakadu Beach, including a biodegradable potato starch matrix known as BESE-Elements that was developed in the Netherlands and used for the first time in Australia. This year, two more larger patch reefs of fifty cubic metres of oyster shell recycled by OzFish volunteers at the Ningi Transfer Station and the Port of Brisbane will be added to the array. Sponsored by BCF, OzFish volunteers have also built 160 block fence units to securely contain the patch reefs. The project is being monitored by the University of the Sunshine Coast marine science team for three years and the results halfway through the project are very promising, showing a tripling of fish abundance and diversity. Invertebrate monitoring by OzFish is equally promising, demonstrating clearly that oysters and other invertebrates can recruit and survive sub tidally, with an

average of 76 spat/100 shell sampled in September 2019.

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 31 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. Additional to the great fundraising work already undertaken for the shellfish reef project, there are new opportunities for APYAC club members to get involved, including helping to monitor the progress to the current shellfish reefs at Margaret's Reef, and also get a fish-eye view of their other favourite fishing spots. The club currently has a BRUV unit available for use downstairs, including logbook and equipment.

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

### **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.

# Trying to keep you alive

The primary focus of Victorian Ports Corporation is promoting the safety of all waterway users in the port waters of the port of Melbourne. This includes recreational and commercial users.

The popularity of boating in Victoria has increased every year since the late 1980s. This is clearly shown by the number of boat registrations reported by Maritime Safety Victoria. In 2017-18 financial year there were 195,338 registrations compared with 107,000 in 1989-90. That is almost double the number of registrations in 28 years.

## Steer Clear patrols

Every summer, VPCM's Transport Safety Officers (TSOs) patrol the port waters in the two Harbour Master boats.

The TSOs main task is to check that recreational boaters are keeping safe by obeying the waterway rules. And, they are always looking for opportunities to help boaters understand where they are in the bay and to know the dangers that exist in certain areas.

Last summer, 2018-19, they had to intercept and speak with the operators of 360 recreational boats for disobeying the rules. The operators were putting both themselves and their passengers in danger.



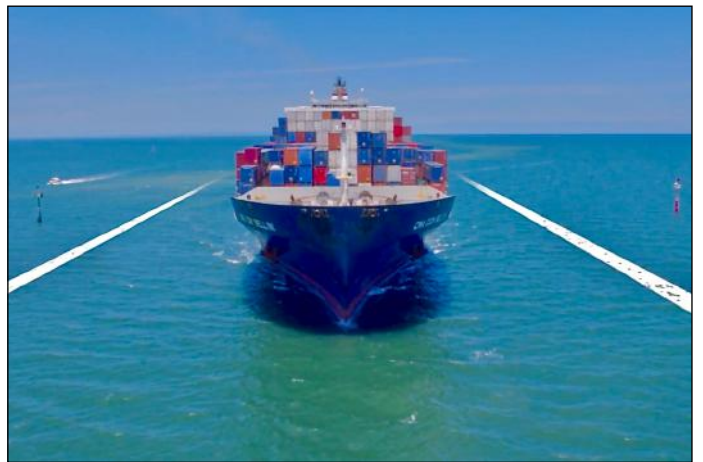
Generally, boats were found fishing while anchored or drifting in designated shipping channels or the Transit Only Zone. In most cases, the TSOs just provided education and advice on the local waterway rules to ensure the safety of everyone in the boats.

Disappointingly, 50 of these 360 interactions were with boat operators who had been spoken to on a previous occasion for the same issue. Where the incident warranted it, these repeat offenders were reported to Victoria Water Police and/or Maritime Safety Victoria.

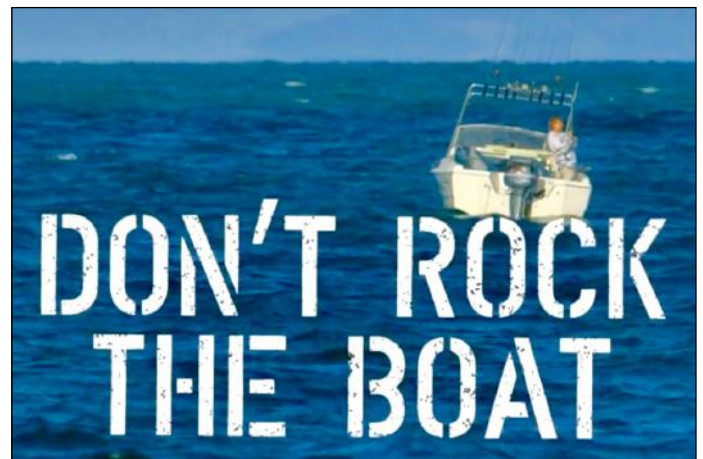
The TSOs are authorised under the *Marine Safety Act 2010* (Vic) and can issue infringements to vessel operators.

VPCM wants you to stay safe on the water.

Click the links to have a look at VPCM's educational boating safety videos on its website:



## Steer-Clear



## Don't-Rock-The-Boat

Check your boating safety equipment, ensure it hasn't expired and that you know how to use it if you ever need to.

You may wish to download the Maritime Safety Victoria Recreational Boating App to help plan your trip.

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# Fisheries officers crack down on illegal fishers

*From the Victorian Fisheries Authority*

## Man loses his boat

A St.Albans man who took 96 calamari over three fishing trips near Queenscliff last spring has been convicted, prohibited from fishing for six months, fined \$750 and forfeited his 4.35m aluminium boat worth \$8,000.

Victorian Fisheries Authority Director of Education and Enforcement Ian Parks said the man pleaded guilty in the Geelong Magistrates Court to exceeding the calamari catch limit on three occasions, fishing inside a Marine National Park, and boating safety offences.

During Operation Focus, Fisheries Officers observed the man on three separate days in October 2019, take more than the calamari catch limit, which is 10 per person per day.

“On one occasion, the man made two trips in a day with his wife. On the first trip he was observed taking five calamari in the morning. He launched his boat again in the afternoon and took another 17 calamari, including five from within the Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park, where fishing is not permitted.”

“A week later, the man took eight calamari in the early morning. He returned to the boat ramp to collect his wife, took another eight, then retrieved his boat and left Queenscliff. In the afternoon, he returned with his wife and took 17 more, making 33 calamari for the day.”

“On a third occasion, the man took 18 calamari in the morning, retrieved his boat and travelled to Melbourne. He returned in the afternoon with his wife and took 23 more, making 41 in total.

“Soon after, Fisheries Officers intercepted him at the boat ramp where he initially claimed the calamari were all they’d caught that day and were taken by himself and his wife. However, during a subsequent formal interview the man admitted to taking all the calamari himself and being fully aware of the daily bag limit.”

Mr Parks said multi-tripping to exceed the daily catch limit and appear compliant at the boat

ramp is a deliberate and serious attempt to deceive and is unfair to legitimate recreational and commercial fishers who abide by the rules.

“Victoria boasts excellent calamari fisheries along the coast, including Port Phillip Bay, and we want to keep it that way for a species that continues to grow in popularity, both for bait and human consumption.”

To report suspicious or illegal fishing activity call 13FISH (133474) anytime. You can remain anonymous. Make the call and make the difference.

## Two Cars Seized



Two cars and illegal hauls of 119 undersize snapper were seized by Fisheries Officers at Port Melbourne following the apprehension of four men.

Victorian Fisheries Authority Director of Education and Enforcement, Ian Parks said a member of the public called 13FISH to report the men who were fishing at a popular spot, west of Princes Pier.

Mr Parks said “Upon arriving at the scene, Fisheries Officers conducted surveillance to identify the four men, aged 18, 39, 42 and 53 from Preston, Thomastown and Roxburgh Park. Two of the men left the fishing spot in a Pajero

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and were intercepted shortly after by other officers nearby who had been called in. A search of the Pajero revealed 47 snapper, all undersize.”

“The daily bag limit for snapper is 10 per person, of which no more than 3 can be 40cm or more.”

“Officers seized the 47 snapper, two fishing rods and the Pajero on the spot.”

“Upon approaching the other two men still fishing from the rocks, officers allegedly saw them throw three fish into a rocky crevice. They were retrieved and found to be undersize snapper.”

During surveillance, officers had observed the men return to the car park so suspected there were more fish in a vehicle, however the duo did not admit to owning a car, and said they had travelled by train. “A search of their identification and a registration check revealed a Holden Astra belonged to one of the men and was in the car park.”

“The man then allegedly admitted to owning the car, which was found to contain 72 snapper, all undersize. The fish measured between 17.9cm and 27.4cm.

“Officers seized the snapper, two fishing rods, a cooler and the Astra.”

The four men will be charged on summons with various offences including taking and possessing undersize fish, taking more than the catch limit, and concealing their catch from Fisheries Officers.

To report suspicious or illegal fishing activity call 13FISH (133474) anytime. You can remain anonymous. Make the call and make the difference!

## **Ab Poachers nabbed at Cape Schank**

Fisheries Officers seized a car, and arrested five men, on a Wednesday afternoon for allegedly taking nearly 400 blacklip abalone at Cape Schank on the Mornington Peninsula. Victorian Fisheries Authority Director of Education and Enforcement Ian Parks said the highly organised illegal fishing syndicate from

Pakenham, Cranbourne East, and Botanic Ridge were apprehended by 12 Fisheries Officers from three stations with support from Victoria Police.

“This type of alleged illegal fishing has the potential to do serious damage to the sustainability of Victoria’s abalone population, which is highly valued by commercial and recreational fishers,” Mr Parks said. “Officers observed four of the men walk from a Cape Schanck car park down to the rocks, leaving one of the men at the car park as a lookout.”

“Of the four men on the rocks, three entered the water for several hours to dive for abalone and the fourth stayed as another lookout.”

“When the four men returned to their Commodore and allegedly put a large bag of abalone in the boot, Fisheries Officers swooped in numbers. All five of the alleged offenders ran away, some not making it far, and others hiding in dense scrub nearby until being located and arrested.”

“The bag in the car boot allegedly contained 315 abalone however officers who’d done surveillance on the men suspected more abalone had been harvested, so entered the water to search.”

“They allegedly found two more bags containing another 84 abalone, making 399 in total, 263 of which were undersize.”



“Fisheries Officers returned all the abalone to the water alive and Victoria Police transported the men to the Rosebud Police Station.” Mr Parks said the five men will attend court to face various charges under the Fisheries Act including taking and possessing a commercial quantity of a priority species, trafficking a commercial

quantity of a priority species, and obstructing and hindering authorised officers. “I commend all the Fisheries Officers involved in this case for their extensive and professional work to stop this well organised and slick crew of illegal fishers from stealing aquatic natural resources that belong to the Victorian community.”



To report suspicious or illegal fishing activity call 13FISH (133474) anytime. You can remain anonymous. Make the call and make the difference.



Put this number in your phone now

**133474**

Report suspicious or illegal fishing activity. Help protect our fish stocks for the future.

## Petrol heads visit the club



**The voice** of the World Rally Championship, Scotsman **Colin Clark**, was a guest at the club after appearing as TV presenter for the Alpine Rally Of East Gippsland in early December.

So when he returned to Australia for a break, after covering the Monte Carlo Rally, he filmed his regular ‘Kitchen Table’ Youtube segment from the deck of the club.

He gave the club a good review to his audience which includes over 5,000 of world rallying’s most important VIPs, sponsors and competitors.

After CV19 you’ll end up seeing Colin around the club as he added his name to our waiting list.

**Local** Albert Park Ampol / Caltex service station operators, **Tony & Carmel Franza** have retired after Caltex decided to take all the franchised dealer sites in-house.

They were overwhelmed by the outpouring of affection from their long term customers, many whom are also members of the APYAC.

On Saturday 1st of February they joined some of the locals for a long lunch, and promised to be back soon.

We wish them well in their retirement.



# Shellfish Reefs Report

## The Nature Conservancy



### Port Phillip Bay Shellfish Reef Restoration Project Update 2020

Another season has passed, so this ‘Summer in Review’ edition of Reef Brief provides an update about the last three months and future activities. The highlights include a bold commitment to lead Australia’s largest marine restoration initiative, new funding to begin to expand shellfish reef restoration in Port Phillip Bay, and upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Please feel free to share this Reef Brief with your friends and networks.

### 60 Shellfish Reefs Over 6 Years

Over the next six years, together with governments, businesses and the community, The Nature Conservancy aims to protect and restore 60 shellfish reefs across Australia, making Australia the first nation in the world to recover a critically endangered marine ecosystem.

We have demonstrated through our work in Port Phillip Bay and in other Australian States (e.g. Windara Reef and [Oyster Harbour](#)) that shellfish



Pinkie snapper at Margaret’s Reef in Hobsons Bay by Jarrod Boord

reefs can be restored at scale, and their benefits returned. For more information about this exciting initiative see this [ABC News report](#) and our website.

### New Reefs In Port Phillip Bay

Funding has been secured to begin to expand the current 2.5 hectares of shellfish reefs in Port Phillip Bay in 2020, with planning underway to rebuild more reefs in the current sites of Wilson Spit, in Geelong Outer Harbour, and Margaret’s Reef in Hobsons Bay, off St Kilda. Two new sites are also being added, which are 9ft Bank near Geelong, and Dromana. All restoration works will be subject to the relevant permits and other legislative requirements.

9ft Bank is an old degraded shellfish reef, with small dispersed clumps of Australian flat oysters rather than a consolidated reef in 3 to 4 metres of water.



Dromana baseline dive - Simon Branigan

We have conducted many observational dives over the years, and this site was mapped by Deakin University in 2018 using multi-beam, and towed video surveys. With 9ft Bank still having a remnant population of oysters, we are planning a ‘light touch’ restoration approach by strategically deploying recycled shell substrate in the gaps between the oyster clumps in October or November, before spawning occurs, to allow for natural recruitment. Over time the plan is to restore this shellfish to its former glory.

The new site at Dromana has been chosen based on previous exploration work, and habitat suitability modelling, which included historical records about



shellfish reefs in the area. Recent baseline observational dives showed that this site appears to be an old, dead and buried shellfish reef with some of the biggest oyster shells we have ever found and scattered shells everywhere.

Further survey work will occur to refine the boundaries of the restoration site and ensure other habitats, such as seagrass, are avoided. A *Restore The Bay Network* public information session was being organised for Dromana in April – stay tuned for more details.

## Volunteer Opportunities

We will be monitoring the existing shellfish reefs again, so we are calling for expressions of interest from volunteers.

The volunteer work will be land-based and involves measuring oysters and mussels that our divers collect from the reefs so we can track survival and growth over time. Training, PPE, and lunch will be provided.

Please contact **Ashley Whitt** at [ashley.whitt@TNC.ORG](mailto:ashley.whitt@TNC.ORG) for more details.



OysterWatch volunteers looking for oysters & mussels on settlement plates - Nicole Mertens



Volunteers measuring oysters at Warmies Boat Ramp, Williamstown - Ashley Whitt



9ft Bank Geelong Outer Harbour - Paul Hamer

## OysterWatch

Nicole Mertens from the Victorian National Parks Association *Reef Watch Program* has been busily working with OysterWatch volunteers to retrieve and analyse settlement plates throughout the Bay. As part of this project, Greg Jenkins from the University of Melbourne is piloting a larval dispersal model for oysters, based on the results from the settlement plates, the locations of the existing restored shellfish reefs and previous eDNA testing (also conducted by the University of Melbourne). All the results will be released by May 2020 and will contribute to future shellfish reef site selection. OysterWatch is funded by the Victorian Government's Port Phillip Bay Fund.

## In Other News

The monitoring results from 2019 will be published by June 2020, however early analysis is showing continued strong survival and growth of the shellfish and increases in fish species colonising the reefs. This video says it all [HERE](#).





To date, 350 volunteers have contributed over 2000 hours to the project, through monitoring and hatchery preparation activities. In addition, **Bob Pearce** and **Pat Hutchinson** from Albert Park Yachting & Angling Club have also contributed another 1500 plus hours to the project and continue to be champions for the Bay

**Simon Branigan** was recently part of the ‘Conservations Event’ at the Apollo Bay Seafood Festival and a personal highlight was hearing more about the GreenWave regenerative ocean farming model from Canada

For a dose of relaxing underwater and above water live footage don’t forget to check out Reef Cam at Popes Eye [HERE](#)

The Nature Conservancy acknowledges the generous support of all our partners.

## The Journo, The Shrink & The Captain


The club was transformed into a 140 seat theatre when three Authors took to the stage in late February.

Veteran Journalist (and the voice of Yarra Trams) **Colin Tyrus** wrangled Journalist **Adam Shand**, Consultant Psychologist **Tim Watson-Munro**, and retired A380 Captain **James Nixon** as they gave an amusing and interesting insight into their careers.

Adam spoke about his time covering the crime beat, and gave insights into world of Carl Williams, the Carlton Crew, some dirty dealings, the Vampire Gigolo and, of course, Lawyer X.

Tim captivated the crowd, talking about his time as Shrink In The Clink, in Parramatta Jail, gave a glimpse into the lives of Alan Bond and Julian Knight, and detailed his own downfall and recovery.

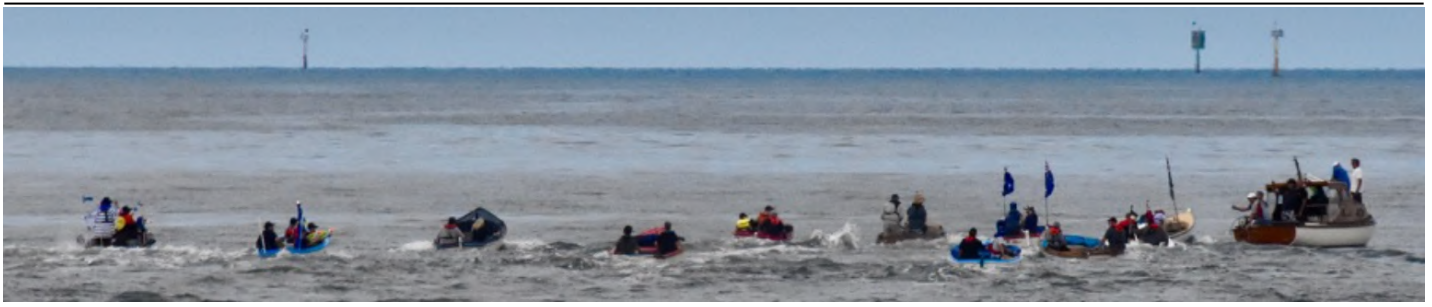
James explained how a flight to Shanghai ended with him buying his tailor-made red dragon jacket; and dispelled secrets of life behind the cockpit door.

## Your Club. Your Venue.

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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.  
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# AUSTRALIA DAY BOAT RACE

*By Olga Harradine*

It was Australia Day 2020 and the sun was bursting through the clouds. The bay was calm, and it looked like it was going to be a cracking day on the water for the highly anticipated annual APYAC Australia Day Clinker Boat Race.

Competitors, spectators, friends, family and volunteers were all at the Club bright and early to get started on clearing the sand from the gantry path, and to start preparing the boats.

Australian flags were in abundance, in every decorative variation imaginable. As competitors went about adorning their boats with flags and streamers, the spotter boat volunteers were loading up their Super Soaker water guns to target any unfortunate competitors that went around marks close enough to be drenched by the zealous officials.

Many volunteers chipped-in to give the boat house a good clean up, which was very much appreciated. Other volunteers got the barbecue started, and the smell of the frying sausages added to the all-Australian atmosphere.

The boat house was absolutely buzzing with excitement by the time we



had the boats ready to start launching from the gantry. One by one, Port Phillip Bay started to fill with APYAC member boats. The majestic Queen Elizabeth had just berthed at Station Pier, adding an elegant backdrop to our race's northern mark.

As competitors milled around the start line, there was plenty of cheeky banter. Even those professing to not being competitive, and just out there for the fun, had a steely glint in their eyes. Say what they want, every Skipper was out to win!

The starter gun went off and the motors were pushed to full throttle. Not known for their high speeds, the boats looked like a string of elderly residents frantically pushing their walkers on the way to lunch in the nursing home.

There were squeals of joy whenever anyone overtook a competitor, or got hit by a watery blast from the Super Soakers, courtesy of the race officials. We all waved at the Queen Elizabeth as we went by, knowing that their passengers were witnessing history in the making.

One by one we hit the finish line. There was absolute jubilation; many surprised to having made it back alive.

Spectators cheered, and the atmosphere was electric. It was easy to see why the race is a highlight of the APYAC annual events calendar.

After cleaning off the boats, and putting them back into the boatshed for a hard-earned rest, we all went upstairs to the clubrooms to regale each other with tall tales over some welcome cold beverages.

Ron Amy, one of the longest serving Members of the club, was honoured with the Good Bloke award. Ron has served as President, as well as boat mechanic / repairer of the clinker boats, and boat hire co-ordinator, amongst many other

involvements over the years alongside his hard-working wife, Eadie.

Ron was also the first cook at the Club, when the only meal available was lunch every Friday.

His heartfelt speech ensured that there was not a dry eye in the house, whether it be from laughing or crying.

# RESULTS

Petrol 1<sup>st</sup>

**Bob Small / Mary-Ann Phoenix**

Petrol 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Ray O'Keefe / Peter Murphy**

Diesel 1<sup>st</sup> **Ian & Rob Raffa**

Diesel 2<sup>nd</sup> **John Borrell / Amy**



Images ©CrammondMedia2020

**“Had my birthday party there in February. No fuss. No drama. Great night.”**



Images ©CrammondMedia2020

Volunteers needed. Do you have a skill we could use?



Images ©CrammondMedia2020

Thanks to new member **Eva McDowell** for editing this copy of Snapper Snippets



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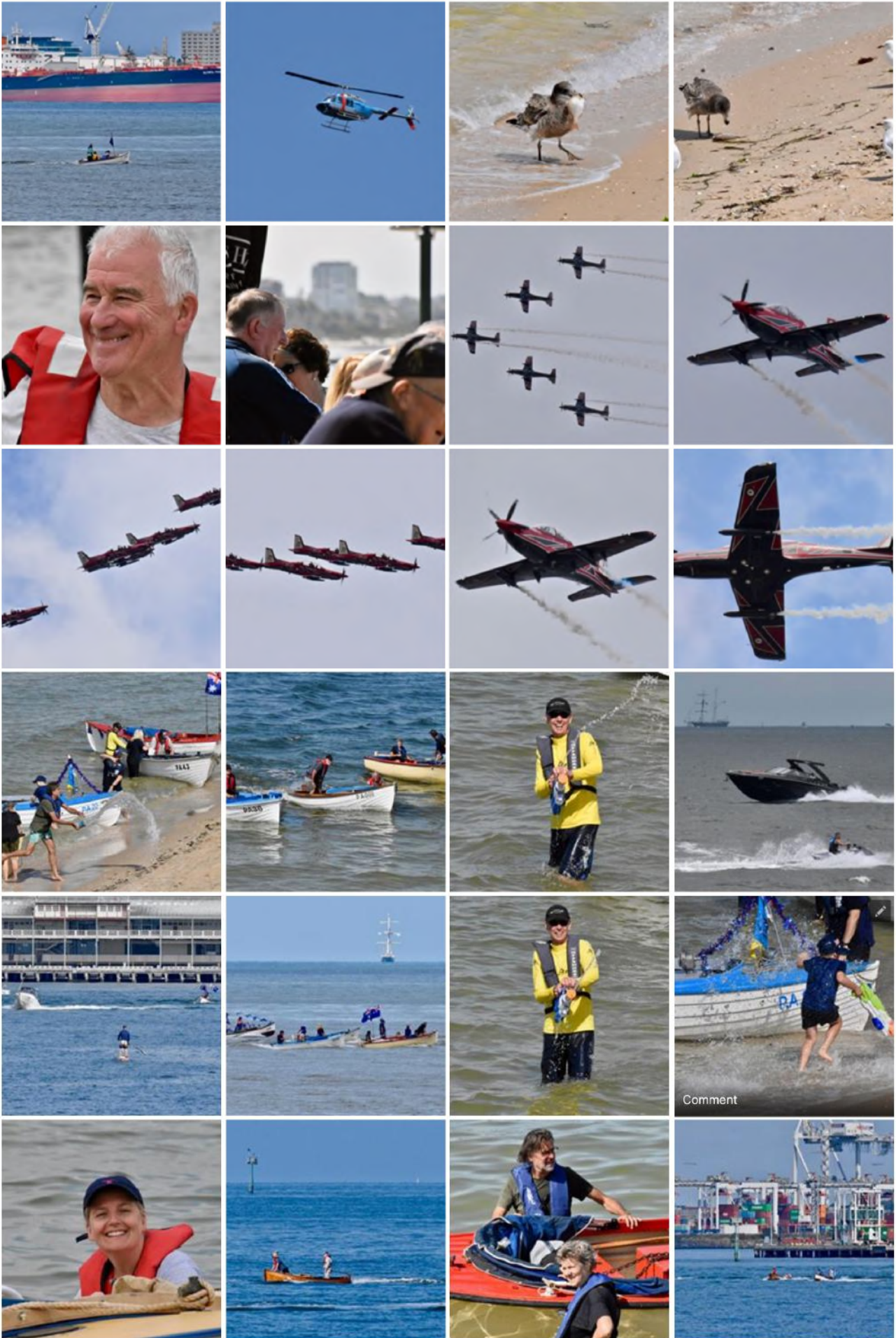
**Olga Harradine** proof read this copy of Snapper Snippets



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**Bob Pearce** co-ordinated the articles for this copy of Snapper Snippets





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**James Nixon** edited and produced this copy of Snapper Snippets