

Fidelis
Sydney to Hobart
Classic Yacht Regatta
December 2021



Photo Andrea Francolini

**Classic Yacht Association of Australia
Annual General Meeting
2021-2022
Sailing Report**

CATCH THE FIRE AND RUN

17th November 2022

Classic Yacht Association of Australia

Annual General Meeting

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Sailing Report

Our aim is to promote the appreciation and participation of sailing classic yachts in Australia, and help preserve the historic and cultural significance of these unique vessels.

Thank you, CYAA President, Members of the CYAA Executive committee and general CYAA Members. Your handicapper is pleased to present the CYAA Sailing activity report for the years 2021-2022.

To supplement the membership renewal initiatives by our executive, Classic Yacht racing in Melbourne, Geelong, Sydney and Brisbane since 1996, continues to be a critical CYAA activity to sustain the mission.

A significant classic yacht sailing feature of this year was how the Association managed their on water activity during the Covid-19 pandemic. Credit to ensure our members maintained their classic yacht touch must go to our then CYAA President, Martin Ryan. Evidence of the success of his endeavours is the post Covid-19 shutdown participation numbers in Port Phillip and Geelong based classic yachting events.

Melbourne events on Port Phillip waters for the years 2021/2022 were:

2021 Winter Series, nine races scheduled. Four races completed.

Congratulations to the **Kingurra** team, headed up by skipper Ian Macfarlane, for taking out the Rusty Shackle trophy for best point score for the series. Four out of nine race completed shows the impact of the Covid-19 shutdowns.

2021/2022 Summer Series, eight races scheduled. Six races completed.

Congratulations to the **Boambillee** team led by George Fisscher and Michael Rhodes, for taking out Locker 57 trophy the best point score for the summer series.

2022 February Cup Regatta.

Postponed from November 2021 to Feb 2022 this Cup Regatta was conducted of two tranches of races.

Four round the sticks and the re-instatement of Melbourne to Geelong passage racing.

Congratulations to Pete Jerebeck and his Laurent Giles designed **Baranne** for her c l e a n Sweep of all her division three races that gave her the Col Bandy Trophy.

Congratulations to the **Boambillee** team for their take out of the Cup Regatta passage race trophy. Although this race experienced glorious passage racing conditions in the latter hours of the race, it was the **Boambillee** team lightweight sailing persistence and skill to keep **Boambillee** sailing in the early no wind conditions that had her first over the finish line.

To cap off a successful the previous series sailing season the Tony Blake trophy was awarded to **Martini**.

For Covid-19 reasons our Trans Tasman Trophy was held in abeyance. No Kiwi visitors.

Your handicapper extends congratulations to all our classic yachts, skippers and crews who participated in this passage race. Your participation has ensured the CYAA continues to enjoy a strong relationship with the Royal Geelong Yacht Club.



2021 Tumblaren State Championships

Conducted by the RMYS for the CYAA to celebrate the 84th year of Tumblaren racing at RMYS.

This event was proceeded by the Tumblaren championship dinner hosted by George and Sarah Low at Oberwyl.

The T L Banks trophy for the best one design result went to Gordon Tait's **Etrick**.

The James Frecheville Perpetual Trophy for the best performance of the recent series racing went to **Avian** skippered by Roger Dundas.

The Knud Reimer trophy for best boat last race went to **Avian**

The Ferdi Darley Trophy for the best performing crew went to the Yvonne syndicate to recognize their commitment to the restoration of the Tumblaren **Yvonne**.



Tumblaren Association
Medallion for 2021
recognises
Craig Begbie
and his Tumblaren

Brisbane CYAA activity.

The principal Brisbane CYAA specific event circles around the Deanbilla Bay race. Our long time Brisbane member Ivan Holm, skipper of **Laurabada**, has provided us with the 2021 event wrap up story. His story has been attached as addendum to this report.



**Deanbilla Bay Trophy
2021 & 21st winner
Laurabada**

Our Brisbane members also participate in the RQYS Vintage Yacht Regatta and the Manly Wynnum YC St. Helena Island race. The Brisbane to Gladstone race also has CYAA Brisbane members competing. One feature of our Brisbane activity is the fleet of five of the Alan Payne designed Tasman Seabirds actively racing. This fleet is headed up by two of our long time members Peter Kerr with **Pagan** and Dan DeBuriatte with **Jo Ann Brodie**.

Our Brisbane fleet also frequents parts of their extensive cruising world. However, as we know you cannot take the country from the boy story, our Brisbane members are no different. A race set up concept used during their cruising stopovers by the skipper of **Skirmish** Tony Harland has provided your handicapper with a race set up concept that could allow non racing classic's to participate in events with our race minded classic skippers.

The CYAA recognises the membership support provided by our long time Brisbane members Ivan Holm Francis Mulchay and Peter Kerr. **Laurabada** was a voyager from Brisbane entrant to the 2021 Hobart Wooden Boat Festival.

Sydney CYAA activity

The Great Veterans of Sydney to Hobart Regatta May 2022

The Great Veterans Race is open to single hulled self-righting displacement boats only with a launch date prior to or in 1975, and have competed in a Sydney Hobart Yacht race or other "veteran" yachts invited by the organising authority.

Winner of the Great Vets Trophy and third in the S2H Classic Yacht Division one was **Fidelis** skippered by Nigel Stokes. Nicole Shrimpton's **Defiance** took out a magnificent third placing. A feature invitee of the Great Veteran race was the Mark Chew skippered Fair Winds.



**Great Veterans Trophy
2021 Winner
Nigel Stoke**

The Sydney - Hobart classic Yacht Regatta 11th - 12th December

This is a unique regatta that recognises the contribution of classic yachts to the traditions and history of the bluewater classic.

The Sydney Hobart Classic Yacht Regatta is open to any yacht, including IOR, that has a launch date prior to 1976 and has competed in a Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. Other classic yachts may be invited at the discretion of the Organising Authority..

Both events saw many CYAA members competing.

Nigel Stoke with **Fidelis** Phillip Brown with **Anitra V** Nicole Shrimpton with **Defiance**, David Chamtaloup with **Caprice of Huon**, David Salter with **Mister Christian** and Bruce Gould with **Margaret Rintoul**.

Of special note, **Fidelis** is along time entrant who voyages to many Hobart based Australian Wooden Boat Festival.

Our Sydney based member Nigel Stoke, who joined up as an original CYAA member, along with Phillip Brown and David Salter are owed a debt of thanks for their support of the CYAA presence in Sydney.

2022 Wooden Boat Festival at Geelong

While this bi-ennial event in March is meant to be a show and tell for wooden boat owners, it's the secondary events, ie classic yacht racing, that provide the extra incentive for CYAA members to participate. Classic yacht racing from Portarlington to Geelong is a much looked forward event by our Melbourne CYAA members This event was notable for two firsts: Being invited to sit with the organising committee and being introduced to the Making Waves Foundation.



Below is a record of how our members featured in the Wooden Boat Festival festival trophy allocations.

Ruth Plummer Grand Parade **Acrospire III** Concourse d'Elegance under 30ft Charlie Salter **Sirocco**

Tumlaren Trophy Charlie Salter **Sirocco** Concourse d'Elegance for Power Boats Jim Woods
Margeret Pearl

Portarlinton Passage Race Robert Pullin **Astrud**

Special Mention Joy Phillips **Holger Danske**

Special Mention Damian Purcell **Scimitar** – Phillip Rhodes Designed Boats

Special Mention Mark Chew **Fair Winds** – Phillip Rhodes Designed Boats

Hobart racing activity

While we may not be quite there on the racing scene just yet, we still enjoy CYAA support by our members Joy Phillips (chair of the AWBF) with her **Holger Danske** and our recent new member Blair Bryant with his Max Creese designed **Stardust**.

CYAA Race management

CYAA and Top Yacht race management.

As forecast in the previous years sailing report the use of a Top Yacht licence moved Classic yacht into the main stream of yacht racing administration. This move was followed by a strategic move to selecting RMYS to be the official organiser of CYAA racing. For Australian Sailing administration reasons, this move is critical to both RMYS and RYCV continuing their support of classic yacht racing on Port Phillip.

The impact of this move to Top Yacht and a single race organiser concept for the years 2021/2022 was safer racing and race results published shortly after completion of the day's race.

One important aspect of the Top Yacht race management system is we now have a standard process to report both "a race entry boat is racing" and the people on board count. What has complemented the importance of this feature has been the now 100% take up of this process by our skippers. Being able to show our race organiser records of our boat racing sign on's has been critical to sustaining the support by RMYS of our classic yacht racing. Take a bow skippers.

CYAA Handicapping

A feature of our Port Phillip racing has been the very close corrected times across the fleet. While our handicapper will continue generating handicaps indications are the next race handicaps generated by the Top Yacht system are very close to what the handicappers formula generates. While the role of our handicapper will continue, use of the Top Yacht system will allow other people to take over the role of CYAA Handicapper. Support for AMS measurement division in classic races is now possible if sufficient boats obtain an AMS measurement certificate. To place our fleet on an international basis, the classic yacht handicapping systems of the US CRF and the UK JCH system have been studied. While either system could be used, the associated administration processes are significant. With this admin overhead issue and the annual licence fee requirements, no use of either system is being considered at this time. In time, a joint global series similar to the S&S association could be a possibility.

Call for CYAA volunteers to assist with CYAA races at RMYS

One ongoing race management item is the request for CYAA members to support our racing activity at RMYS by volunteering their time to help out with CYAA race management on the day.

CYAA Race documentation

Since the move to have RMYS as our Series racing and Cup Regatta organiser, the production of documentation required, Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions, complies the Australian Sailing content and layout templates Thanks goes to Janet Dean, our member at RMYS who assisted in no small way to bring CYAA racing into the mainstream of Australian Sailing administration.

CYAA and Port Phillip Race scheduling

Fitting our many Port Phillip race dates into the sailing schedule of the RMYS and RYCV has never been an easy task. Again thanks to Janet Dean and both the sailing administrators of RMYS and RYCV, Ann Rogers and Andy Warner respectively, our Port Phillip event schedule was firmed up in early 2022. From July 2022 we have a confirmed racing schedule for Port Phillip extending out to Sept 2023.

CYAA Boat Register

Our face to the community is through our boat register. Our boat register status isn't good. This register is the place where the CYAA recognises the work of our Classic yacht owners to keep their boats on the register of their home clubs. To ensure our Boat register is recognised by the general community as a repository of Australia's maritime history we need to build it to a point where it sits equal to the Australian Register of Historic Vessels.

Tack Tracker

To provide the wider classic yacht world a website based view of our racing activity on Port Phillip the use of the Tack Tracker application was investigated. When the process worked it was good but problems such as maintaining satellite acquisition and administration and costs of the process across the fleet deemed it for future project consideration. When the CYAA administration has the depth of administration to manage the process it will be the time to reconsider. One consistent user of Tack Tracker was David McNeice of **Akala**. His single handed voyages to Geelong and Flinders, after **Akala's** cockpit rebuilt by Richard Blake provided excellent material for voyager stories to our members.

Our Treasurer.

Prior to the CYAA using Top Yacht, our race entry process was managed by our Treasurer David McKenzie. While not a true Treasurer's task, this and other tasks such as managing our Cup Regatta function ticketing process plus the organising and tracking of our member subscriptions were also looked after by David. The CYAA members and particularly skippers will appreciate as much as your handicapper does, the work put in by David to keep the association in a growth pattern. So here's to a recognition of the support David has provided to the CYAA.

But wait, there's more!!! We have another side of our Treasurer to thank.

For many years now, be it Scotland the Brave, the handicappers Skye Boat melody or Po Kara Kara Ana to bid farewell to our Kiwi visitors, David and his pipes have given our Cup Regatta a unique face. "They do it so well" is the comment overheard in boat yards around the bay when the Classic's Cup Regatta is spoken about. David and his pipes is why these comments are made.

CYAA and their new website

Our brilliant new web site! We will get there. The staging site is ready. Migration logistics and the handicapper continually adding material to the existing web site isn't helping the cause to make the new website go live.

Incidentally the two most viewed items on our current web site are Mark Chew's Top 42 and Noel Sutcliffe's 1934 Centenary Regatta program. Discounting search engine views, both items receive multiple views each week.

Building the CYAA Port Phillip fleet

During the year, contact with the Jubilee Association was established with a long term view of wooden Jubilee's participating in our Cup Regatta's. The first ever wooden Jubilee, **Freydis**, is the subject boat in these discussions.

CYAA and family based maritime history.

Throughout the year members of families whose forebears played a role in developing Australia's maritime history have contacted the CYAA. These contacts have evolved into the provision of substantial records in both photo's and document form that would normally not be published or archived. Today these families,

with their records, see the CYAA mission as a process to bring recognition to their long gone but not forgotten family members.

Technical aspects of our new web site service provider will allow the CYAA to store significant volumes of family and magazine records.

Melbourne fleet's post race social scene

Thanks to the efforts of Martin Ryan of **Mercedes III** and Ian Macfarlane of **Kingurra**, the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron marina has become the site of a healthy post race social catch up. Being a central point for all the classics home clubs and when the weather conditions are suitable, these post race catch ups are a great fun time, particularly when the RMYS Race Officer (the Handicapper) shows up. Say no more.

Pre and post race comments

One feature of our Melbourne classic fleet racing has been the continuity of the Col Bandy legacy where he generated his much awaited "comments from the couch". This legacy has been continued by your handicapper. This post race commentary is an ideal forum to recognise the effort of our Melbourne skippers to keep their classic yachts racing and maintain their crew's availability for allocating blame for those lost corrected time seconds. Although the manner of this recognition may be debated by some CYAA skippers and crews, the feedback (positive of course) on the comments come from unexpected sources. "Oh, when you gonna send out your story", or "let's see what the handicapper has to say" are frequent comments. This feedback continues to surprise the handicapper. Apart from going out to approx. three hundred recipients around the globe, the post race comments are occasionally rushed through to meet the newsletter deadlines of our various keel boat clubs.

While these pre and post race comments have been sparse of late due to extra time required to support our core activity, ie classic yacht racing, they will be continued. While it's one thing to generate these stories it's another thing to make them talk. Thanks to the photo's sent to the handicapper by Jane Williamson and Richard Stringer from **Mercedes III**. Scott McDonald from **Pastime II**, Dave Baskett of **Jedda** and Cam Smith from **Seabird**, we have ways to make them talk.

CATCH THE FIRE AND RUN.

Many analyses of what classic yachting means, have been done over the years. Apart being good for your soul it's the only scene, on a percentage basis, for an ever growing lowering of the age demographics within the general yachting world. This age demographic phenomenon is occurring on local, national and international yachting scenes. Our own CYAA membership now has a diminishing age demographic compared to two years ago. The word here is to encourage membership and for members to consider the opportunities that abound within all aspects of our classic yachting world. They are waiting for you to take on and run with. Our local classic yachting world is ready for you.

Catch the fire and run is the title of a North American Indian legend presented in a 1930's children's story book. It describes how the four legged forest animals worked as a team to bring fire to the human community. It doesn't matter if this legend is based on fact or fiction, it's a story about what can be done with team work. With team work, the CYAA, will see a significant growth of their pearl in the oyster of the yachting world.

Thank you from the handicapper.

As the CYAA continues to grow, your handicapper wishes to extend his thanks for the contributions and support of the CYAA mission from all its members over the year 2021/2022. Last but no means least, thanks must go to the sailing administrators of the RMYS-Ann Rogers, RYCV-Andy Warner and RGYC with Commodore Roger Bennett and our most notable supporter Bill Chittenden of Vic Sail Without their support of classic yacht racing, the CYAA wouldn't enjoy the healthy status it has today on Port Phillip and Corio Bay.

Thank you and a cheerio to Ron Macalister, our long time CYAA member from the Isle of Bute. Ron was always a welcome attendee to our AGM's.

Peter Costolloe CYAA (Vic) Handicapper.



**2021 Deanbilla Bay race
Laurabada showing her lines**