

Autumn 2012

Well another season has drawn to a close and the cool winds and rain of autumn have begun. Many of our members have had some interesting experiences including the following stories of "Five Fisherman Rescued" and the goings' on of the Yaringa Mariners Club.

For current news and events, don't forget to check our website www.yaringa.com.au.

Five Fisherman Rescued

The following story by Sam Rigney appeared in the Newcastle Herald on 07/03/2012. Mr Egeberg has kept his boat at Yaringa for several seasons and had a lucky escape when his vessel capsized off Port Stevens.

FIVE men are lucky to be alive after they were plucked from huge seas after spending two hours clinging to their capsized boat off the coast of Port Stephens yesterday.

The group, from Melbourne but staying in Nelson Bay for a week-long fishing trip, were returning to land about 3.35pm when a four-metre wave spun their eight-metre offshore fishing boat around and flipped it upside down.

The impact cannoned Alan Herdman, 54, and Paul Guest, 47, about 10 metres into the air and into the water. The remaining crew, skipper Tony Egeberg, 49, Michael Guest, 51, and Michael Swankie, 45, managed to remain in the boat as it was tipped over.

Mr Egeberg is being lauded as a hero after his quick thinking saved the lives of two of his fishing mates and alerted the authorities to the boat's whereabouts. Mr Egeberg told the Newcastle Herald that while treading water in the boat's hull he grabbed a distress beacon and lifejacket then tied a piece of rope to a chair before swimming to the surface.

"Without the EPIRB (emergency distress beacon) we were gone," he said.

"I managed to tie a rope to the boat and that way Alan (Herdman) and Paul (Guest) could cling to the rope while the rest of us hung onto the boat's motor.



“Without that rope those two would have floated away.”

The group admitted they were aware of the Hunter’s reputation for killer sharks and that during the two hours they spent clinging desperately to the boat the topic came up a couple of times.

But Mr Egeberg said the group remained positive throughout the ordeal keeping faith that the boat would stay afloat and that rescue services would be alerted by the distress beacon and arrive before dark.

“There was no talk of it being our last fishing trip,” he said.

The distress beacon alerted the Australian Search and Rescue (AusSAR) and a Westpac rescue helicopter which did a fly over of the area, about 51 kilometres due east of Nobbys headland. Westpac lowered a rescue crewman down into the area and plucked four of the men to safety while a Williamstown RAAF Search and Rescue helicopter saved Mr Egeberg.

Crewman Graham Nickisson said the group were “very lucky to be alive”.

The men were transported to the John Hunter Hospital last night to be treated for hypothermia and a few cuts and bruises. All five were able to be discharged about 7.30pm.

The group last night thanked Westpac, Australian Search and Rescue and the Williamstown RAAF for their efforts.

This is a timely reminder of the importance of ensuring that you all have safety equipment and, most importantly know where it is and how to use it. Tony and his friends all recovered well and Tony has plans to purchase a new boat and return it to Yaringa Boat Harbour.

Dirty Dottie Heads North



After almost four years of being at Yaringa and around Western Port, Dirty Dottie finally set sail heading north to warmer climates. Mark and Dorothy originally from Fort Lauderdale, Florida had spent many years sailing the Pacific before arriving at Yaringa. Now having moved to Hawaii Mark and Dorothy had been planning to head north again. They returned to Yaringa Boat Harbour in order to get Dirty Dottie ready for the voyage north and set sail, like so many of us dream.

“Well, we have finally arrived in Queensland (actually arrived on the 27th). It took us one month and 15 days since leaving Phillip Island – That’s 18 days actually “underway, making way”, and 27 days “waiting for weather” (a few of those days were spent catching up with old friends). Spent 12 days in Eden this time! Crossing the bar at Wide Bay was exciting – we had the lats and longs for inbound, but we also had 3 meter seas breaking and 20K of E’lys behind us – quite exciting! All in all Dirty Dottie has performed very well. We have survived and are now in a berth at Tin Can Bay Marina. We haul out on the 9th and will be flying back to Hawaii on the 19th”

We wish them best of luck with their adventures and hope to see them again soon.

News from the Yaringa Mariners Club

Since the publication of the Yaringa Magazine “Spring” issue, The Yaringa Mariners Club has been growing steadily. Membership has increased by some 30 to 40 per cent, The Club appeared on the radar of Yachting Victoria and received a letter of commendation for its efforts so a big “thank you” to all those involved.

Stefan has very kindly lent YMC one of his vacant offices for use as a club room, a facility which has been a very great benefit to the club, As we have a table and chairs we have already used it on a number of occasions for briefings and classes. It is hoped that we will have running water and a fridge in the not too distant future. Some kind soul has donated magazines for the use of members, to them our thanks. The Club room also has a new sign outside simply stating “Yaringa Mariners Club”.



The YMC is open to all who have an interest in things nautical and having fun. Be they Keel boat owners, Trailer Sailers, Power boaters or “just enjoy messing about in boats” All are welcome. We now have a Rear Commodore - Power Vessels to coordinate the growing interest in power cruisers.

The first long weekend of the New Year, saw a number of yachts under the tuition of Joe Tarantino, (The Yacht Doctor) practice berthing their yachts in and out of their pens and later anchoring techniques on Western Port.

About eight yachts from Yaringa, took part in a day sail to the Fairway Buoy that marks the main shipping channel into Western Port. I had the opportunity to join Col Barling and Chris on Col's S&S 34, a lovely yacht. I drooled as I placed my grab bag down below. We motored out of the marina and I noticed Mal Bowmaker on his yacht Skye leading the fleet out to sea. It was early morning, and French Island and Western Port looked stunning. From memory there was little wind as we raised the sails. Looking astern several yachts were in line ahead and looked most impressive, a “Master and Commander” moment. The entrance to Hastings glided past, followed by Sandy Point. The sea was flat calm with no breakers to be seen except near Shoreham. As we neared the Fairway Buoy we had Philip Island on our port side, looking enchanting. The sea state changed, with eddies and swirls, as the waters of Western Port started to mix with the waters of Bass Strait. Then the smell of the Seals from Seal Rock floated past our nostrils. “Someone isn't using their Mum” came to mind but the scenery was sheer magic. As we entered Bass Strait the ocean swell took hold and the yacht's motion changed. Had it been a little rougher we would have been swooping up and down the swell, as it was we had a very gentle ride instead. A number of vessels ventured further out into Bass Strait and upon their return to the Marina were very enthusiastic about their experiences.

We sailed back the same way as we came, Leaving Mal and Skye anchored and having lunch, with another yacht in Cat Bay. As we passed Sandy Point there were a number of vessels anchored and in some cases beached on the sand. People were having a great time playing in the water...a delightful scene.

We arrived back in the Marina for a lovely barbeque put on by Brian and Lindy at the Waterfront Cafe. We all had a great day on the water and the meal finished it off superbly. I for one slept like a log.

The feedback from the weekend was most encouraging so we have followed up with a passage planning seminar held in March for the six or so boats and crews participating in the Mount Martha cruise over the Easter Weekend which was also strongly supported.

Looking ahead YMC has two more on-the water activities – a ‘Round the Bay Rally (fun navigation exercise) on the 22nd April followed by a weekend cruise, probably to Rhyll on 26/27 May. These events are open to all at Yaringa who would wish to participate. The Annual General Meeting followed by the Annual Dinner and Prize Giving will be held on the 11th August – further details on all these events to follow and again all at Yaringa are invited to attend the dinner.

Tony Woollcombe – Commodore

YMC Tuition Photos



Flotsam & Jetsam

Number Plates

Over the years we have accumulated many number plates recovered from the storage yard or found at the bottom of the boat ramp at low tide. If you have lost your number plate, please ask the harbour office to check if we have yours.

Remember, Yaringa Boat Harbour takes no responsibility for “loose and dangly bits” and it is your responsibility to ensure that everything is 100% secured or taken away and stored at home when not required.

Airdock™, Seapen™ and Related Fixtures

Please note that as stated in the rules and regulations, no more of these devices will be permitted at Yaringa Boat Harbour until further notice.

Containers

Should you require storage at Yaringa whether refitting your vessel, tools, spare part or for other reasons we currently have containers available for rent? Please contact Jaimie or Sheryl at the Marina office for details.

Staff Notifications

In late 2011 Stefan Borzecki, owner of Yaringa Boat Harbour was appointed a director to the board of the Marina Industries Association of Australia. The MIAA is the peak industry body for marina industries in Australia, Asia and the Pacific region. The MIAA board “look forward to his extensive experience in public company directorships and marinas, contributing to the association and its members”.

After over six years of working at Yaringa Boat Harbour, Miranda Borzecki has resigned from her position to pursue other opportunities overseas. We will miss Miranda and wish her all the best for her future endeavors.



Vale - Oscar Whittley



Ossie Whittley was the industrious designer and builder of many hundreds of yachts including the 18' Kestrel, 22' Jedda, 23' Aloura and 30' Aroona. Ossie also designed and built many other boats in his time at Yaringa Boat Harbour including the restoration of the vessel “Komuta” and the Yaringa rescue boat.

Ossie passed away in hospital on 23rd March, aged 82. He was a true gentleman and a willing helper to many Yaringa yachtsmen. His death will weigh heavily on the hearts of many at Yaringa.

Steve's Marine Repairs - New Tenant

Yaringa Boat Harbour has been fortunate to secure as a new tenant in our boat services precinct the services of Steve Garth who specializes in the supply, building and installation of marine windows. Steve has rare and unique skills and has operated the business in Somerville for many years. There is no comparable business or such service elsewhere in Melbourne. We are delighted to welcome Steve and wife Shirley to Yaringa's services precinct.

Clow Marine Electronics

Bob Clow: This leader of the electronics business, who retired many years ago to operate a quiet business at Yaringa, has been forced yet again into a larger business premises at Yaringa. This is Bob's third move into bigger premises at Yaringa in nearly twenty years. Regrettably a larger showroom will no doubt create more business, more employees and no sign of retirement yet!

