



President's Report for 2024 AGM

It has been another busy year for the Committee in 2024 and I would like to acknowledge and thank each of the members of this years Committee for the long hours they have put in, including:

- Vice President – Craig Brown
 - Secretary – Colin Orchard
 - Treasurer – Jennie McKenzie
- and general Committee Members
- Damian Purcell (yacht clubs)
 - Peter Costolloe (sailing)
 - Richard McRae (communications)
 - Doug Shields (wise counsel), and
 - Ian Rose (legals).

Without your involvement I do not believe we could not have achieved so much and it has been a pleasure working with each of you this year.

1. Strategic Planning:

Following a suggestion at last years AGM, a Strategic Planning Meeting was held on 3rd February this year to inform and guide the association's sustainability and growth aspirations into the future.

Membership numbers have decreased steadily since reaching a high of around 340, 15 years ago and the Strategic Plan's aim was to set a course for the association to determine both where we will be in 5 to 10 years and how we can generate the revenue to survive and prosper beyond the racing on Port Phillip. Key points arising from this meeting were to:

1. Seek to increase benefit for our Members by:
 - Negotiating insurance discounts for members through an "official" CYAA broker. I'm pleased to announce that VP Craig Brown has been successful in preliminary talks with Tudor Insurance/Nautilus Marine. More details to follow soon.
 - Organising In person/on-line Technical Workshops on subjects relevant to the maintenance and upkeep of Classic Yachts. Unfortunately, the first one we planned for September this year was postponed due to insufficient Member interest.
2. Seek greater involvement with Classic Yachting in other states by fostering closer ties with Sydney and Hobart members plus our friends across the Tasman.
 - Our Sydney representative, Phillip Brown, has been approached to join the new Committee to assist in this regard.
3. Seek sponsorship for larger events (like the annual Cup Regatta) to ensure these can continue without significant impost on participants.

With the support of the Committee, historic vessel ZEPHYR was purchased by Ferdi Darley and Peter Lloyd and is currently on the hard at Seaworks awaiting restoration. Members attending the Friday Night Dinner during Cup Regatta would have had a chance to look over it.

2. Cup Regatta:

Building up on the success of last year's Regatta, the Committee elected to retain Mark Chew and Southern Woodenboat Sailing to promote and run the Cup Regatta this year with a few tweaks in format based upon feedback from last year and with an increased budget of \$15,0000 to ensure entry fees could remain as low as possible.

Unlike last year's event, this year VP Craig Brown successfully obtained sponsorship of the entire \$15,000 budget from Joe White Malting which made a significant impact to our bottom line.

Special thanks go to the Tumblaren group for arranging a 'race-off' between the Visitors and the Locals on the Friday which was a definite hit with the Kiwis and special thanks go to Ferdi Darley for hosting over 100 guests at his workshop on Friday night.

With minor changes to the schedule plus a few other tweaks, feedback I have received was that, despite the low numbers of entrants, this year's Cup Regatta was one of the best ever leaving the Association with a format we can continue to use and improve in coming years.

3. Now to the future

This Committee year ends with the Classic Yacht Association of Australia in good shape and in a better position to grow and support our Members both within and beyond Victoria now the COVID years are behind us.

To all our CYAA members, thank you and we look forward to 2025. See you on the water!



Cameron Dorrrough

CYAA President 2024