



Invitation to Sail with *Alma Doepel* – Melbourne to Queenscliff, 5 March 2026

As part of the Queenscliffe Maritime Weekend 2026, the Queenscliffe Maritime Museum, the Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club and the Alma Doepel Trust would like to invite the Classic Yacht Association, the Couta Boat Association and QCYC members to take part in a special, one-off maritime moment.

The historic tall ship *Alma Doepel* is scheduled to sail from Melbourne to Queenscliff on **Thursday 5 March 2026**, with **Wednesday 4 March** identified as a contingency date should weather conditions require an earlier passage. A ceremonial escort and welcome sail is being planned to mark her arrival, bringing together classic vessels from across Port Phillip Bay and the local Queenscliff fleet.

Participating vessels should be prepared to take part on **either day**, with final confirmation provided closer to the event based on weather and sailing conditions.

The Concept

- A small group of classic yachts and heritage craft sail **down the Bay alongside *Alma Doepel*** for part of her passage
- Local vessels sail out from Queenscliff to **meet and escort her on approach**
- The combined fleet accompanies *Alma Doepel* toward Queenscliff, creating a visually stunning and historically evocative arrival

This is not a race or a parade in the formal sense, it is a **shared sail**, focused on seamanship, heritage, and visual storytelling.

Why Take Part?

- Be part of a rare and memorable maritime moment
- Sail alongside one of Australia's most significant historic vessels
- Contribute to a powerful visual narrative for television, drone footage, and public celebration
- Showcase classic yachts as living heritage, not static artefacts

Practical Notes (to be confirmed)

- Participation numbers may be capped to maintain safety and visual clarity
- Final timing and escort zones will be confirmed closer to the event
- All vessels will operate under standard maritime regulations and directions

Vessel owners interested in taking part are invited to contact the Alma Doepel Trust directly to register their interest.

Further details regarding timing and logistics will be provided once e arrangements are confirmed.