THE CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

Incorporated Association No. A0034323W

CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT - 2026

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

CYAA has celebrated its 30th year in 2026. Inspired by restoration and maintenance being undertaken on Waitangi, that was recommissioned in November 1994 in New Zealand, the Association was formed by a remarkable group of leaders including Col Anderson, John Boyle, Lyle Close and Doug Shields.

To mark the 30th milestone, a significant project to establish a Register of Classic Yachts and Boats in the CYAA has been undertaken.

2. REGISTER

The coffee table quality book will be launched in February 2027, capturing 107 vessels, each celebrated for their design, construction, ongoing custodian's role and achievement in racing, social and adventurous expeditions.

The project team has been outstanding and led by George Fisscher, Philip Brown and Mark Chew. It will be an exceptional celebration, that has been well supported by Association members and financially underpinned by the Joe White Bequest Trustees.

It is the aim of CYAA to publish again in 2029 including the many other stunning yachts on our waters that also deserve recognition.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The role of CYAA is to encourage the restoration and maintenance of Classic and Modern Classics, but this is aided by the building of a connection between owners, clubs and regions of Australian waters, becomes part of the mission of CYAA. This year has seen a significant increase in our membership, and it will be the duty of each generation of leaders in CYAA to continue to build this sense of belonging and sharing a mutual respect for each of the vessels and their custodians who have the privilege to sail or motor these yachts.

There are 0ver 125 members of the Association, an increase of approx. 70%.

4. TROPHIES

In recognition of the effort (and cost) of restoration of a yacht is being promoted by CYAA through new trophies to align with the Regattas that are a gathering these beautiful vessels. Royal Prince Edward Yacht Clubs Classic Regatta, with leadership from Nicole Shrimpton, and the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club Gaffers Day Regatta, with leadership from David Brown, now have new CYAA perpetual trophies awarded in 2026.

In May 2027 the Derwent Class Regatta in Hobart will also be an opportunity to celebrate the work being undertaken each year to restore this fine, growing fleet of Derwents.

The Joe White Bequest Trophies in Victoria are quirky and filled with history in their own right, as an ongoing tribute to Melbourne yachts in the CYAA membership.

The Committee of CYAA will aim to continue to support Regattas around Australia that highlight the Classics.

5. 20th CUP REGATTA

In November 2026, the 20th Cup Regatta was hosted at RMYS, which is celebrating its 150th year as a Yacht Club. The Regatta was conducted over 4 days with a Tumlaren Challenge, supported by five generous yacht owners, David Bannerman, Jim Hutchinson, Gordon Tait, George and Sarah Low and Dave Allen. The crews from QLD, TAS, NZ, NSW and a home crew from VIC completed with a very appropriate level of sportsmanship and rivalry.

The sailing of the whole fleet for Saturday and Sunday - with a cocktail of Melbourne weather – produced some great results, and united almost 200 people in the conduct of a Regatta.

The fourth day was a bonus for those able to sail. The weekend was punctuated with social functions, with thanks to the whole Committee but especially to hosts Ferdi Darley, RMYS and George and Sarah Low.

To recognise the remarkable connection between CYANZ and CYAA, Iain Valentine was appointed a Life Member of CYAA, to express our thanks for his exceptional role over 20 years, in fostering the exchange of yachties and their partners at Regattas in Melbourne and Auckland.

6. COMMITTEE

The 2025/6 Committee has worked well as a team, and a united approach to Classics.

The Register project and 20th Cup Regatta are two highlights but there are steady hands from a strong committee:

VP	George Fisscher
Secretary	Colin Orchard
Treasurer	David McKenzie who has elected to retire after more than a dozen years in the role as a superb Treasurer.
Committee	George Low Philip Brown Richard Macrae Ian Rose
Handicapper	Peter Costolloe who continues to contribute at an exceptional level as the communicator on all CYAA events.

I express my sincere thanks to the Committee, that will continue to grow to reflect the membership across Australia.



J. Craig Brown
President
2024-2026

24 November 2026