

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO FORM THE:

"C O U T A B O A T C L U B"

You may have heard that a meeting between the Victorian Yachting Council and a group of Couta Boat enthusiasts was held recently.

The VYC was represented by Mr. Barry Scott, Senior Vice-President and Couta Boats by Messrs. Peter Graham, Tim Phillips, Tim Ryan, John Ross, Will Baillieu, Peter Burke and Marcus Burke.

Mr. Scott expressed official concern for the welfare of those people currently interested in 'Couta Boats'. Mr. Scott stated quite clearly that the VYC had no desire to bring unnecessary pressure to bear. However, the VYC is concerned that owners/crews of 'Couta Boats' take some action to form either an Association or Club for self protection (this Association or Club would affiliate with the VYC).

Mr. Scott went on to say that this concern had developed as a result of comments made to the VYC by the Water Police, organisers of the Sleigh Series, Sorrento Sailing Club and Hobson's Bay Yacht Club. The key issues evolving from these comments concerned registration and identification of the boats and safety.

Mr. Scott suggested that by forming an Association or Club and affiliating with the VYC these benefits would apply -

- * Owners, would not, in the foreseeable future, be forced to register and identify their boats as motor boats.
- * The boats would be welcome at other affiliated yacht clubs who might act as host venues for races because the identification problem would be resolved through application of sail numbers.
- * Suitable regulations would be adopted and policed (The Australian Yachting Federation Safety Regulations as in the Addendum B Part 2 of the racing rules book for 'keel type or ballasted yachts racing during daylight hours in other than ocean races' were suggested.
- * The Association or Club could develop and introduce its own rules/regulations to protect the aims and objectives of the members and the integrity of the boats.
- * It was suggested that VYC expertise could be obtained in the area of handicapping if needed.

Mr. Scott pointed out that to form an Association at least 60% of members have to be members of a recognised Club. On this basis it is clear that if any action is taken it would have to be the formation of a Club.

After discussion it was resolved that the group present would form a steering committee to develop the concept of forming a Club further. (Denis Wilkins has since joined the steering committee as well). After further discussion a decision has been made to form a Club. To this end you are invited to attend a meeting to be held at Royal Brighton Yacht Club on Tuesday 9th November, 1982 at 8.00 p.m. We hope that Mr. Scott or another senior VYC official will attend along with the steering committee, owners and other interested parties.

It seems clear that some form of registration is inevitable and can't be avoided. Along with this would be the compulsory implementation of some form of safety regulations. The decision appears to lie between allowing bureaucracy to catch up and do it to us or for us to take action now and affiliate with the well established state yachting authority. Whilst the necessity to carry sail numbers under the latter option may be irksome to some this is offset by necessity to carry large numbers on the hull under the first option.

It may be of interest to note that sailboard enthusiasts (the fastest growing water sport if not the fastest growing sport in the world), have elected to join the established yachting administrative structure in Australia. Already the impact of bureaucracy on this sport has been felt by recent decisions to confine sailboarding to restricted zones in some areas.

Since the decision to form a Club was made the steering committee has taken some preliminary action in order to expedite matters.

Following are the objects of the proposed 'Couta Boat Club' as developed for inclusion in the constitution -

- a) To promote and preserve material of historical interest relating to traditional Queenscliff type 'Couta boats.
- b) To collect and preserve material of historical interest relating to traditional Queenscliff type 'Couta boats.
- c) To organise and encourage sailing events for traditional Queenscliff type 'Couta boats in the spirit of early regattas.
- d) To prepare and maintain rules and restrictions to protect the integrity of traditional Queenscliff type 'Couta boats as originally conceived.
- e) To promote, encourage and assist the exchange of ideas and information between members.
- f) To promote social functions for members and guests.
- g) To promote safe and competent handling of vessels by members consistent with the principles of good seamanship.
- h) To encourage interest in other traditional fishing boats, work boats or yachts.

If you have any points you wish to discuss contact a member of the steering committee by telephone or at Port Melbourne Yacht Club on Sunday 31st October, 1982 and NOTE Tuesday 9th November in your diary now (8.00 p.m. at Royal Brighton Yacht Club.).

By the way, enclosed with this letter please find relevant details for the Port Melbourne Lagoon Fishing Boat Regatta to be sailed at Port Melbourne Yacht Club on 31st October, 1982 and Notice of Race for the Sleigh Series to be sailed at Sorrento Yacht Club on 29th November, 31st December and 15th January, 1983.

We look forward to seeing you on the 31st and 9th.

Kind regards,

YOUR STEERING COMMITTEE.

- Peter Graham, 9 Woodside Crescent, Toorak. 3142 241.9264 (h) 555.8488 (w)
- Tim Phillips, Delgany Avenue, Portsea. 3944 059 84 2664
- John Ross, 32 Service Street, Hampton. 3188 598.4709 (h) 699.8622 (w)
- Will Baillieu, 7 Hampden Road, Armadale. 3143 509.3508 (h)
- Peter Burke, 1 Winifred Crescent, Toorak. 3142 241 3634 (h) 240 1282 (w)
- Marcus Burke, 11 Stradbroke Avenue, Toorak. 3142 241 6576 (h) 240 1282 (w)
- Tim Ryan, 59 North Road, Brighton. 3184 596.3798 (h) 329.9955 (w)
- . Denis Wilkins, 60 Wattle Road, Hawthorn. 3122 818.6466 (h)

COUTA BOAT RACES 1982/83

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>HOST CLUB/VENUE</u>
Sunday October 31	Couta Boat Race	Port Melbourne Y.C.
Saturday November 20	Sleigh Series	Sorrento S.C.
Friday December 31	Sleigh Series	Sorrento/Portsea
Saturday January 8	Couta Boat Race	Sorrento/Portsea
Saturday January 15	Sleigh Series	Sorrento S.C.
February (proposed)	Couta Boat Race	Queenscliff
Monday March 14	Couta Boat Race	Hobson's Bay Y.C.
Easter	Couta Boat Race	Blairgowrie