

# SCOOP

Newsletter of the  
Couta Boat Club

Incorporated

Registered by Australia Post  
Publication No. VBH 6953

Correspondence to:  
P.O. Box 2259  
Richmond South. 3121

Edited by Jamie Spencer  
Phone BUS 813-3355  
AH 818-5056

Issued September 3, 1986

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

The winter months have seen a period of intense activity for the Committee.

The most visible element was of course the highly successful display of "Muriel" at the Melbourne Boat Show. Our objective was to increase the profile of our Club among the recreational boating fraternity and other "interested parties" and we believe this was achieved in fine style. The number of times we heard "She is the only real boat in the show" became too numerous to count. Our particular and sincere thanks to Tim Phillips for his superb effort in completing a wonderful restoration in the time available. Thanks also to Marty McKinnon and his team, Committee members who gave generously of their time and the many Club members who manned (or is that personned?) our display.

Our next promotion will be participation at Sea Days to be held at Victoria Docks from September 18th to 22nd inclusive. Again we will be seeking support of members, mainly in the provision of boats for display (more details elsewhere in this issue of Scoop).

A key item that has received particular attention during the winter has been the Club Rules and Regulations. Several very long meetings have been devoted to a thorough review of the existing Rules and Regulations leading to a complete revision. As these notes are being written the revised draft has been completed and has been forwarded to the Club's Honorary Solicitor for formal drafting, checking etc.

The Committee undertook this exercise for two reasons - firstly in recognition of the continued growth of the Club and growing competitiveness of the fleet and secondly in response to some quite extravagant and inaccurate claims published in an article in the Melbourne Herald earlier this year attributed to a Club member.

The Committee's overall aim in reviewing the Rules and Regulations, and making revisions where necessary, has been to maintain the integrity of the Couta boat to protect the investment we all have in our boats and to enhance safety and seaworthiness considerations.

When members receive the revised Rules and Regulations we believe no major changes will be found but rather a broad range of revisions and adjustments to fine tune this important document.

The other key area that has also been given close attention by the Committee is the preparation of a long term development strategy for the Club. Since the races of Club activities take place at the southern end of the bay, this area has been the focal point for our thinking.

We have identified as our most important and immediate objective the provision of improved slipping facilities, ideally at Sorrento.

Our second objective is the provision of a traditional boat shed or modest clubhouse, also ideally located in the Sorrento area, as a focal point for the Club.

We have opened discussions with the Shire of Flinders and have received a most encouraging response. In these discussions we have indicated quite clearly that we are not after a substantial area of waterfront land for long term storage of boats. We have also indicated that our two priorities i.e. improved slipping facilities and modest clubhouse do not necessarily have to be located on the same site. In terms of long term storage for maintenance etc., we have indicated to the Shire that we would be quite happy to continue utilising the commercial facilities operated by Tim Phillips and/or Marty McKinnon.

As a result of these initial discussions the Shire of Flinders has suggested three possible locations for a Clubhouse. We have a preferred site which happens to be the lowest ranking from the Shire's point of view, so discussions will continue.

We shall also approach the Ports and Harbours Department to explore the possibility of up-grading the crane on the Sorrento pier. Should this be possible it would provide an answer to our slipping problems, eliminating damage to keels and dependence on tides.

The Club has also had discussions with the Shire on the proposed boat harbour development for Sorrento. These discussions have been fairly general and based on slipping requirements, usage, likely berths/moorings required etc. We shall closely monitor development of the feasibility plan implementation of which has been commissioned by the Shire.

As a general policy the Committee has also decided to study all boat harbour/marina proposals for the bay, prepare constructive comment and generally support all viable proposals. Clearly the only way boat owners will see an improvement in facilities in Victoria (which now lags far behind all other States) is to make one hell of a noise to offset the fuss created by anti-boating groups.

As a first step we shall soon be making constructive comment on the proposal for St. Kilda. Members who have anything to contribute in this area should contact Marcus or myself.

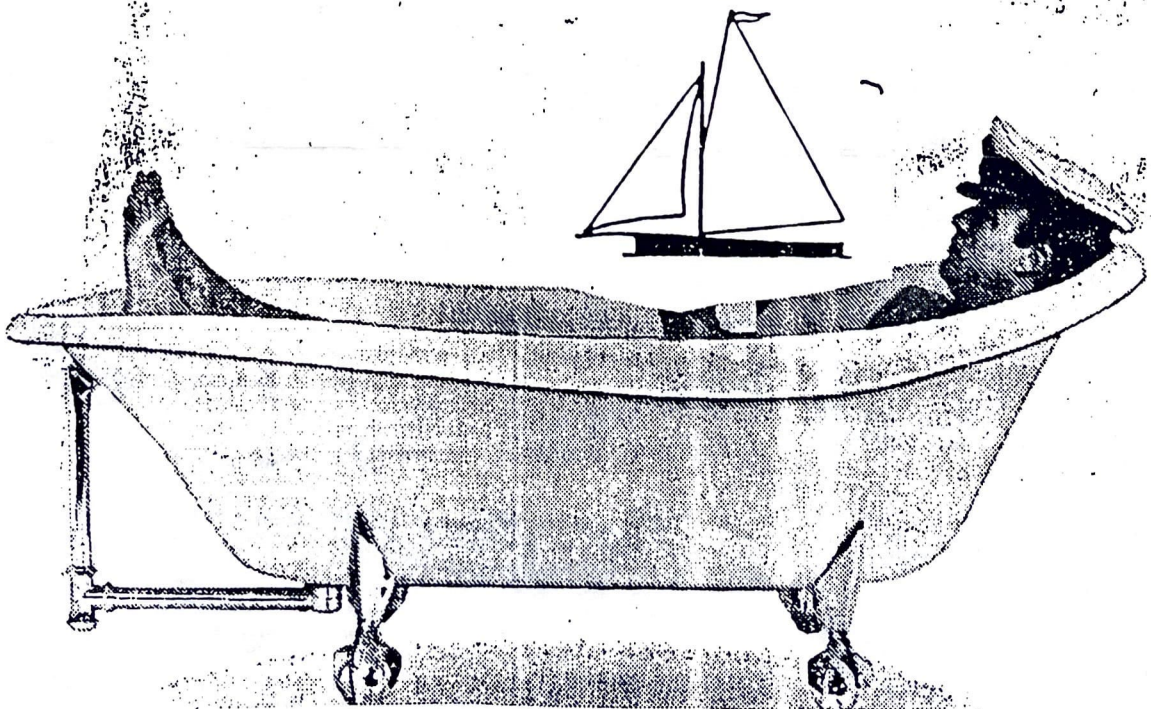
Naturally the achievement of the two objectives outlined above (improved slipping facilities and clubhouse) will not be achieved in the very short term. It is important therefore that the Club remains a strong, close knit body and that we continue to build our financial resources in anticipation of future plans. Members will see at the next Annual General Meeting that we have quietly been building a measure of financial backing and it is the Committee's aim to maintain this situation.

Finally, it is my sad duty to inform members of the recent passing of Jocka Todd, known to many of you. The Club has passed on its deepest sympathy to the family in the appropriate manner.

I hand the helm back to President Marcus next month on his return from a thorough exploration of Europe and its many attractions and delights! My sincere thanks to the Committee for their support and application to the issues outlined above.

John Ross  
VICE PRESIDENT

*Dreamtime is Over*



*Hurry onto the water  
Season 86/87 approaches -Martyn Bryan*

# 1986 / 87 RACE CALENDAR

1. PORT MELBOURNE REGATTA	SUNDAY	NOVEMBER 2, 1986
2. PETERSVILLE SERIES (HEAT 1)	SATURDAY	NOVEMBER 15, 1986
3. PETERSVILLE SERIES (HEAT 2)	SATURDAY	DECEMBER 13, 1986
4. SORRENTO SOUTH CHANNEL RACE (NOT INCLUDED IN AGGREGATE)	THURSDAY	JANUARY 1, 1987
5. SORRENTO SAILING CLUB INVITATION	SATURDAY	JANUARY 3, 1987
6. PORTSEA CUP	SATURDAY	JANUARY 10, 1987
7. PETERSVILLE SERIES (HEAT 3)	SATURDAY	JANUARY 17, 1987
8. CONNEMARRA CUP CRUISE TO MORNINGTON	SATURDAY	JANUARY 24, 1987
9. WILLIAMSTOWN CUP (AT MORNINGTON)	SUNDAY	JANUARY 25, 1987
10. QUEENSCLIFFE REGATTA	SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 21, 1987
11. CAMERONS BIGHT STERNCHASER	SUNDAY	APRIL 19, 1987

## COUTA BOAT CLUB INC BURGEE

The club now has the following Burgee. It is black with a white cross and gold CBC insignia. Club members should fly the Burgee from the masthead and any other flags (eg Red Ensign) at the end of the yard. The club is in the process of ordering a supply which will be available to Members by the Annual General Meeting.

