



HOBSONS BAY YACHT CLUB

EST. 1888

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MINUTES

GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING FRIDAY 27 Mar 2026 at 7.00pm at HBYC

MEETING OPENING

COMMODORE – DAVID GAYLOR declared the meeting open at 7.01pm.

Hobsons Bay Yacht Club acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and waterways on which we gather and sail, the Yalukit Willam clan of the Boon Wurrung people, part of the Kulin Nation.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise their ongoing connection to this land and waters.

- 1 A quorum was reached within excess of 25 members present.

ATTENDEES/APOLOGIES

- 2 Attendees

Rob Tanner	Pat Caruso	Tony Johnston
Colin Orchard	Kevin Le Nepveu	Rod Fuller
Cam Smith	David Judge	Patricia Mackevicius
Laurent Ailleres	Craig Jackson	Adele Seymon
Eddie Mackevicius	Barry Hynes	Paul Beresford
Robert Bradley	Simon Hobbs	Anthony Portelli
Joslyn Portelli	Peter Edwards	Cecile Simes
Tony Dawson	David Gaylor	Ryan Blackstock
Kim Girdler	Leo Eeckman	Robert Brown
Marina Monz	Philip Ophner	Coral Allen
Ray Allen		

- 3 Apologies

Paul Neilson	Tim Ford	Miles Williamsz
Jonathan Fryer	Georgie Mitchell	James Walsh
Rod Langham	Andrew Hesselmanns	Colin Leake
Leon Berry	Brett Blakemore	Lyn Dawson

- 4 There was no correspondence received for this meeting.

VALE

- 5 On behalf of Hobsons Bay Yacht Club, our deepest sympathy and condolences go out to those families, of members that have passed since the holding of our last General Meeting.

One Minutes Silence

- 6 Commodore requested if there were any amendments to the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on Friday 5 September 2025? There were none requested.
- 7 Commodore requested if someone would like to move and second that the MINUTES OF FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2025 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (On the Club Website) be accepted?

Moved: Tony Dawson

Seconded: Ryan Blackstock

Carried: Yes

- 8 Commodore welcomed any new members to the club. Nil responded.

COMMODORES REPORT – DAVID GAYLOR

9 Key Points Raised:

- A busy and productive period since Opening Day, with an active sailing program, engaging social calendar and strong office and committee activity.
- The office transition moved successfully through the induction phase and into full operation.
- Erica and Zoe were acknowledged for their hard work and willingness to go beyond their usual responsibilities.
- Lisa has commenced, and been welcomed by staff and members.
- Volunteers were acknowledged for their contribution on the water, on land, on the tools and on committees.
- General Committee agendas continue to be aligned with the HBYC Strategic Vision 2030.
- The Club's By-Laws, policies and sub-committee Terms of Reference are being reviewed, with a Policy Working Group established to standardise governance documents.
- Training plans for staff and volunteers include diversity and inclusion, budgeting and risk management.
- Staff development and succession planning for General Committee and sub-committee roles remain ongoing.

10 Other Significant Events/ Next Steps:

- POWAG continues to progress the seawall and safe harbour matters with State authorities.
- The suspension of Newport RSL resulted in cancellation of the ANZAC service, despite an approach to RSL Head Office.
- Parks Victoria re-engaged in March to progress the Club's lease application.
- The Risk Register is being updated to include psychosocial hazards, with climate change risk analysis also progressing.
- General Committee members and Club sponsors were thanked for their ongoing support.

11 Thanked Hobsons Bay Yacht Club Sponsors:

Flotek – Hydraulic Services	Jellis Craig - Real Estate	Scotchman's Hill - Winery
Peter Sadler - Removals & Logistics	Mech N Air - Construction & Access Equipment	Luxcel - Blinds
The Office – Williamstown	Stannards – Accountants	Signway - Signs
Mayvers – Nut Spreads	Aviso Speciality - Insurance	Hop Nation – Brewery PGN Geoscience

HON. TREASURERS REPORT – MARINA MONZ

12 Key Points Raised:

- Parks Victoria has contacted the Club to progress the lease application, with further information to be prepared by the New Lease Working Group.
- The Finance Sub-committee meets monthly and is seeking an additional member with a finance background.
- The Club holds a term deposit of \$168,474, and an application for a savings account remains pending ATO updates.
- The Club remains in a good financial position, although a substantial capital expenditure program and expected higher lease payments will require careful planning.
- Key expenditure included Angus Fletcher at \$245,000 plus \$16,844 fit-out costs, a \$5,300 glass wall for the BBQ area and a \$4,400 engine for the Tupperware tug.
- Repairs and maintenance included \$8,000 for the hardstand crane, \$2,500 for BBQ area steps, \$2,500 for the upstairs bar fridge and \$3,400 for swing moorings.

13 Other Significant Events/ Next Steps:

- The total Angus Fletcher acquisition cost was approximately \$261,844, within the \$300,000 approval granted by members.
- The start boat was funded over five years through a BOQ chattel mortgage and entered service without issue.
- Year-to-date start boat maintenance expenditure was favourable to budget, at \$4,411 actual against \$11,961 budgeted.
- The cash position was approximately \$619,000; however, retaining about \$400,000 as a three-month operating reserve was considered prudent while the long-term lease remains unresolved.
- The Club has a backlog of capital expenditure, including marina piles and repairs following receipt of the work permit.
- The Container Deposit Scheme has raised \$1,064 from 10,640 containers and reduced waste by approximately 4,000 litres.

Pat Caruso was also acknowledged for his services.

14 Commodore requested would someone like to move and second that the HALF YEARLY FINANCIAL REPORT for FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/ 2025 be accepted?

Moved: Marina Monz

Seconded: Ryan Blackstock

Carried: Yes

15 PROPOSED MOTION

There have been NO motions proposed for this meeting.

VICE COMMODORES REPORT – SIMON HOBBS

16 Key Points Raised:

- The fit-out of the new start boat Angus Fletcher is complete, with training underway for drivers and race officers.
- Collaboration with PPNYC has produced larger combined fleets, shared volunteers and race officials, a combined course book and streamlined policies.
- SailPro is being trialed for long-distance races and returns as a no-cost mobile tracking tool.
- SailPro is useful for race officials, friends and family, but remains limited by mobile coverage.

Challenges / Looking Ahead:

- Seventeen of 61 races, or 28%, were cancelled this season due to unsettled weather, extreme heat and more severe weather changes.
- Participation has declined across several race series, and a working group is reviewing the summer calendar and Club Aggregate.
- Next Gen and Novice return races were cancelled because of insufficient interest.
- Upcoming events include the Sea Pilots Trophy, Sheep Stations Trophy prizegiving and the Brass Monkey winter series.
- Sailing Committee members, race officials, drivers, volunteers and yard staff were thanked.

REAR COMMODORES REPORT – LEONORE EECKMAN

17 Key Points Raised:

- The training program has experienced a challenging season with limited participation.
- A strategic review is underway covering the Academy, Youth Squad, Sunday Squad, Green Fleet and Friday Night Dinghies.
- A Youth Information Night was held in mid-March to reconnect with youth sailors, understand their needs and develop suitable programming.
- Fifteen young people attended and provided valuable feedback to the Training Committee.

Other Significant Events / Next Steps:

- The mentoring program is intended to create a pathway from training to Club membership by connecting trainees with boat owners and rotating them between boats.
- The mentoring program commenced internally in December 2025 and externally in February 2026, with the first nomination received.
- Friday Night Dinghies ran for eight weeks, involving 15 boats from WSC, HBYC and RYCV.
- The program brought together novice and experienced sailors, youths and adults.
- Volunteers were thanked, particularly Ruth Morton for facilitating the Youth Information Night and Alex Morton for driving the Friday Night Dinghies program.

CLUB CAPTAIN REPORT – COLIN ORCHARD

18 Key Points Raised:

- Parks Victoria has issued an ongoing marina maintenance work permit expiring in 2036.
- Planning is underway for the Northern Arm, including replacement of 15 failed or poor-condition marina piles.
- The piles are intended to be replaced together to minimise piling costs, along with selected crossheads and running beams.
- An on-water survey by Elstone Diving Services confirmed that the overall scope of work is greater than first expected because some timber condition cannot be assessed until the walkway is dismantled.

Other Significant Events / Next Steps:

- The Club is working with Elstone to finalise the work plan and costs, with commencement targeted within four to six weeks of the presentation.
- Most boats on the north side of the Northern Arm may need to be moved from their pens temporarily.
- Members approved a four-year marina maintenance program of \$320,000 at the March 2024 General Members Meeting.
- Materials and works in FY25 cost \$70,740, with further work delayed until the new permit was issued.
- The next phase will be treated as a consolidated FY26 and FY27 program, with a further scope and cost update to be provided at the AGM.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT – CHAIR: PATRICIA MACKEVICIUS

19 Key Points Raised:

- Membership has gradually declined from 804 in 2023–2024 and 789 in 2024–2025; the current table records 741 members plus 30 Sail Pass members.
- Key priorities are to develop a corporate package and deliver the HBYC Day of Discovery.
- The Inclusion and Diversity Checklist remains a living document, with further diversity and inclusion training planned for committee members and staff.
- The Privacy and Social Media Policies were approved in October 2025 and are now published on the Club website.
- Membership application form updated so new applicants' personal details are not displayed publicly.

Other Significant Events / Next Steps:

- The Women's Working Group continues to support and attract women in sailing.
- Sue Burke and the all-female crew of Swallow won their category at the Marlay Point Overnight Race for the second consecutive year.
- The HBYC Day of Discovery is scheduled for May 2026.
- A trial 50% discount on Intermediate Membership was approved for students, apprentices and trainees aged 18–29.

OH&S SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT – LAURENT AILLERES

20 Key Points Raised:

- The sub-committee is working with the Policy Working Group to document the Club's compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004.
- Policies and standards are approximately 99% complete and now include psychosocial health.
- A Club risk register has been established, including psychosocial risks arising from legislative changes effective 1 December 2025.
- The risk register will be used to develop consistent management plans and safe operating guidance for Club manuals.
- Relevant documents will be shared with members and incorporated into the Club's By-Laws and policies.
- An electronic system for reporting incidents and near misses has been established through QR codes in the newsletter and around the Club.
- Garry Undy was thanked for contributing his professional OH&S expertise.

SOCIAL SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT – DAVID GAYLOR, INTERIM CHAIR

21 Key Points Raised:

- The Social Sub-committee was established to promote cohesiveness, inclusivity, member retention and a friendly Club environment.
- The committee provides a forum for members to propose social events and assists with the skills and resources needed to deliver them.
- The target is one social event each month in addition to regular celebration-day activities.
- Members are being engaged through workshops and working groups to identify and implement preferred events.
- The committee is considering facility improvements that support events, while ensuring financial sustainability and alignment with the strategic plan.

Recent Highlights / Future Events:

- Recent events included the New Year's Eve party, two Crime Nights, Las Vegas F1 and Nachos, Oysters and Champagne on the Deck and three February live music Sundays.
- Summer on the Lawn was rescheduled and subsequently cancelled because of rain.
- Planned events include Greek Taverna Night in May, Cheese and Wine Tasting in June, Trivia Night in August and a third Crime Night.
- Other events under consideration include Elvis Night, sing-alongs, a meat platter raffle and Crazy Whist.
- A soundbar and Google TV are being developed for sports broadcasts, together with a mobile bar in conjunction with Scotchmans Hill.
- The Functions Team led by Tania was acknowledged for delivering the hospitality elements of Club events.
- Consider an end-of-season event, including a dinner dance or other options.
- Decide the number of major events each year and continue an active winter program.

HBYC FOUNDATION REPORT – TONY JOHNSTON

22 Key Points Raised:

- The HBYC Foundation supports participation in sailing and associated on-water activities.
- Funding may assist with training services, equipment and facilities for existing and prospective sailors.
- Members are encouraged to support the Foundation through tax-deductible donations or bequests.
- The Foundation Committee comprises Tony Johnston (Chair), Rod Fuller (Secretary), David Judge (Treasurer), Craig Jackson, Colin Leake, Le Yen Boc and Kevin LeNepveu.
- Three specified funds have been established: Facilities, Youth and Equipment.
- More than \$12,000 has been raised to date.

Current Priorities and Challenges:

- Clearly communicate the purpose and benefits of the Foundation to members.
- Develop a broader fundraising plan, including events and bequests.
- Respond to suitable funding requests in accordance with the Foundation's purposes.
- Review the recent luncheon event, which was cancelled due to insufficient support, and seek member input for future activities.

GENERAL BUSINESS

23 AI Policy:

- Tim Metherrall asked if the club might consider developing an AI policy and consider its impacts on the Club. Club to consider.

24 Environmental and Climate Change:

- Rod Fuller discussed progressing a climate-change risk assessment.
- Consider engaging a consultant and/or Melbourne University, and collaborating with other Port Phillip Bay clubs. Stage 1: identify impacts. Stage 2: assess risks and adaptation options. Identify consequences and prepare a report

Commodore enquired as to other business and none was noted.

MEETING CLOSURE

25 Commodore thanked the General Committee & Club Manager for their efforts for the year to date.

26 He then declared the MEETING CLOSED AT 8.43pm, and thanked all for their attendance.

Commodore wished all a continued safe and successful sailing season and welcomed all to the bar.