

Appendix 1

The R. G. Y. C. Associates

Over the past 37 years the Associates of the R.G.Y.C. have raised a substantial amount of money for the Club and, in no small way, have made a significant contribution to the progress of the club and to the development of the excellent facilities which we enjoy today.

Some of their activities include Christmas parties, Australia Day .weekend breakfasts, smorgasbord luncheons, afternoon teas after races, Legacy day, coffee parties, stalls, tupper-ware parties, hat parade , shipwreck party nights, dinner dances, Hawaiian nights and wine tasting.

In addition they have cooked huge numbers of chickens and casseroles for the numerous functions catered for by the Associates, often providing for up to 200 people.

On November 15, 1950, a meeting was held at the Club for the purpose of electing office-bearers and a committee of the newly formed group of Lady Associates of the R.G.Y.C.

At this meeting Mrs. Loris Solomon was selected President, Mrs. Ranald McAllister, Vice-President, Miss H. Heath, Secretary and Mrs. Reg White, Treasurer. Mrs. John Taylor, Mrs. J.J. Cook and Mrs. Neil McAllister were elected to the committee.

At the same meeting it was determined that the newly formed Associates immediate objective was to set about raising the sum of 700 pounds for changing rooms and toilet facilities.

Various ideas were put forward as to the means to raise this money and, without delay, this enthusiastic group set to work, with the first step being to open a bank account

Afternoon teas were provided to members after Saturday races at a cost of one shilling (10 cents), per head. Dutch auctions were conducted, a cocktail party was arranged and a barbecue was held at Point Henry.

Less than five months later, on April 3, 1951, the treasurer reported that the Associates' bank account stood at 145 pounds! A goodly sum at that time.

On August 21, 1951, Mrs. Ranald McAllister was elected President and under her guidance, the Associates continued their fund raising activities, a feature of which was a cabaret at the Crystal Palace, with tickets at one guinea a head. And in the same year, the inaugural yacht race for a trophy donated by the Associates was held. The trophy was a silver tankard and this event is still a feature of the R.G.Y.C. yachting calendar.

The cabaret was obviously a success and the £55 raised swelled the bank account to £228.13.7d.

At the annual meeting in July 1952, Mrs. Hilary Blakiston (nee Heath) was elected President, followed by Mrs. Reg White in 1953 and Mrs. Neil McAllister in 1954. And in the meantime, the proposed toilet block was constructed at a cost of 600 pounds, with part of this sum being borrowed. However, in Miss J. Tripp's year as President, 1955- 56, the debt was finally paid off.

Presidents which followed over the next 10 years were as follows:

1956-57	Mrs. R. Sanderson
1957-59	Mrs. I. Wood
1959-60	Mrs. A. Allan
1960-61	Mrs. V. McCready
1961-62	Mrs. M. Donald
1962-64	Mrs. J. Walter
1964-66	Mrs. G. Armstrong

In the interim, in 1960, the club was granted a liquor licence in its new clubhouse. And the Associates were somewhat incensed when the General Committee stressed that on no account may they stand near the bar, but must be seated at the tables at all times! And, of course, at no time were children permitted in the new clubhouse.

Twelve months later the Associates' Secretary, Mrs. J. Walter, wrote to the General Committee requesting permission for Associates to wear slacks in the clubhouse up to 7 p.m. This request was granted. But it is recorded that at a meeting on February 7, 1962, Mrs. Randal McAllister made a bitter attack on the treatment of Associates generally and wished to know what purpose they served!

It is apparent that there was some unrest in the Associates, camp and also some probably unwarranted awe of the General Committee. This is revealed by some discussion which took place in February, 1964, when it was minuted that "some members desired to ask permission to wear slacks to a coming barbecue, but it was decided that if this request was made, the General Committee may rescind their decision to allow slacks to be worn until 7 p.m. in the clubhouse." How times have changed.

But perhaps their fears were well founded as when, in November, 1965, the General Committee noted that some Associates were wearing slacks beyond the stipulated time, the Associates Committee asked if the time could be extended. But this request was refused.

Mrs. B. Busbridge became President in 1966 and held office until Mrs. R. Batty took over in 1968.

In June, 1969, the General Committee formed a Social Committee to organise functions and invited representation on this committee from the Associates.

Mrs. Batty was followed by Mrs. D. Backwell as President in 1970 who carried on until June, 1972

At this stage due to the intended retirement of several of the committee and the inability to find replacements it was decided to advise the Commodore that a Committee could not be formed for the following year.

This move prompted an immediate response at the Annual General Meeting on July 27th 1972 when a Caretaker Committee was elected from the floor with Mrs. B. Fulton as President & Mrs. A. Allen as Secretary.

Then on August 17, 1972, it was decided to continue with the same office-bearers. Mrs. Fulton was again elected President in 1973 and it was apparent that the R.G.Y.C. Associates were gaining strength

Presidents for the next seven years were as follows:-

1974-76	Mrs. K. Baulch
1976-79	Mrs. B. Wookey
1979-81	Mrs. M. Scott.

In June, 1975 the Associates celebrated their 25th Anniversary with a luncheon. Many of the past Presidents, including the original President, Mrs Loris Soloman, were present and each of these made a short speech outlining the achievements of the Associates during her term of office.

During this time the Associates continued to raise substantial sums of money and to assist with the development of the clubhouse. Perhaps the most significant contribution during this period was the raising of almost the total cost of the construction of the upstairs balcony.

This subject was first introduced to the Associates Committee meeting in May, 1976, when plans for extensions, including the balcony, were displayed and the Associates wholeheartedly agreed that they would undertake the financing of the project.

The balcony was finally completed in Mrs. Wookey's term of office in time for the opening of the 1977-78 season, at a cost of \$21,000. The official opening of the new structure was performed by Mrs. Wookey.

The next two Presidents of the Associates were:-

1982-83	Mrs. K. Baulch
1983-84	Mrs. M. Dwight

For some years after the end of World War II, the Club had conducted an annual day on the water for Legacy children. At that time, some 100 children were taken sailing on a Sunday morning, treated to a picnic lunch and taken out again in the afternoon.

But as the years went on, due to the effluxion of time and the fact that these children of deceased ex-servicemen were growing up, the numbers started to dwindle. Finally, about 1978, by mutual agreement with the Geelong Legacy Club, the day was discontinued.

Then, in 1984, Legacy approached the Club and asked whether it would be possible to conduct a similar day for Legacy widows, the number of whom was steadily increasing.

The Club agreed on a trial run and at Legacy's request, the Associates Committee wholeheartedly agreed to assist with the preparation of a barbecue lunch for the ladies by preparing the appropriate salads and bread rolls and setting up the tables.

The only difference to these operations from the previous ones was that the on-water segment was confined to the morning, from about 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Some 70 ladies attended the day, which was an unqualified success and very much appreciated by the participants, most of whom had never been out on Corio Bay before.

President Marie Dwight reported on the day as follows:-

"This year, following a request from Geelong Legacy, the Associates Committee combined with the members to give some 70 Legacy ladies a day to remember. The whole day was most rewarding and I would like to see this function become a regular feature. Club members who took these ladies out for a sail had a perfect day to give joy to folk who had a wonderful time on the water and were then treated to a barbecue lunch."

This day has become a regular feature in the Club's social calendar and, with full support from the Associates' Committee, the number of Legacy ladies participating has swollen to over 100.

Mrs. J. Whineray was President for the year 1984-85 and it was in July 1985 that the then Commodore, Mr. Guyon Wilson, attended the Associates Committee meeting and explained proposals for the alteration of Associate membership. These proposals were as follows:-

1. Associate membership to be open to males.
2. Women to be eligible to apply for Ordinary Club membership.
3. Ordinary membership has full voting rights.
4. Associate members to carry on as before with an exception -will not be permitted to take part in club races except when stipulated by the General Committee.
5. Increase Associate membership ceiling from 250 to 300

Then at the Annual Meeting of Associates in August 1985, when Mrs. Jane Carlton was elected President, Commodore Bob Lucas explained proposed alterations to the club constitution following the introduction of anti-discriminatory legislation which states that any club occupying Crown land shall have no discrimination between the sexes of its members

Mrs. Carlton carried on as President until August 1987 when, in handing over to Mrs. Bev Fulton, she reported that during the year the Associates had purchased the following equipment for the club:

Gemi Pump and Ladders	\$3175
Binoculars and Stand	590
Salamander for Kitchen	400
	\$4165

Mrs. Carlton further reported that there was still \$5722 in hand for the incoming committee.

So with 228 members and a sound financial situation, the R.G.Y.C. Associates were in a stronger position than ever to carry on with their most vital and constructive activities in the affairs of the club.

It can be conservatively estimated that, over the past 37 years, the Associates have raised in excess of \$100,000 to further the development of the Royal Geelong Yacht Club.



Associates Committee 1988

Back row: left to right: Audrie Dodds, Barbara Wookey, Narina Mamone , Olivia Dwyer, Phillis Evans, Innes Friend, Florence Annear.

Front row: left to right: Carla Sexton, Beverley Fulton, Kendra Slater, and Betty Libby.