



## RGYC Vessel Towing Policy

<b>Policy Number</b>	8	<b>Version</b>	1
<b>Drafted by</b>	Greg Sinclair/Chris Williams	<b>Approved by Board on</b>	31/07/2017
<b>Responsible person</b>	Sailing & Boating Committee and Marina Manager	<b>Scheduled review date</b>	

## Vessel Towing Policy 2017

### Introduction

Royal Geelong Yacht Club does not offer vessel towing other than for situations described below.

- a) RGYC volunteers and staff are not trained in safe vessel towing practices.
- b) Crew may not have the physical capacity to deal with towing other vessels.
- c) RGYC vessels do not have the equipment that may be required to tow a vessel.
- d) RGYC vessels are not built for towing other vessels of greater weight.
- e) RGYC vessels are not suitable for towing in storm conditions.
- f) Vessels that are stranded or have a break down should telephone the Police on 000 and the Water Police may attend with a vessel that has the capacity to undertake a tow. Radio may also be used to make Securite, Pan Pan or Mayday calls. Volunteer Coast guard may be available to assist.

### Towing

*The safety of RGYC Members, volunteers and staff is paramount. No one should place another person at risk. RGYC safety vessels will focus on the rescue of people, not boats.*

In all circumstances the decision to tow another vessel must comply with the following conditions:

1. Crew on the towing vessel must be fit for the task, licenced as required by law and wear a PFD at all times. Appropriate personal protective equipment must be worn. eg. gloves.
2. Crew must inform a shore based, reliable person of the proposed vessel tow – location, vessel name, estimated travel time and return, contact numbers. Contact the VRCA on Channel 12 or 5247 0300 to inform them of your intention to tow a vessel.
3. Towing is only available in daylight hours.
4. RGYC owned vessels must not tow any other vessel that weighs more than the towing vessel.
5. RGYC rigid hull inflatable vessels may only tow Off the Beach boats or boats stored on the hard stand at RGYC.
6. RGYC rigid hull inflatable vessels will only be permitted to tow allowed vessels during daylight hours and within Corio Bay.
7. Alpha One and Eclipse are permitted to tow an allowed vessel during daylight hours on waters as far away as Point Wilson.
8. No towing of unattended boats.
9. Any vessel that will be used for towing must have the appropriate equipment such as towing bridle, lines of adequate strength and length and a snubber.
10. Staff and volunteers are not to be called privately to provide towing after RGYC operating hours. These hours include times when RGYC on-water events are in progress.

### **Assisting other vessels manoeuvring within the RGYC marina**

RHIBs with propeller guards may be used to assist other vessels to berth in the marina subject to these conditions:

1. Tow lines are not attached to the RHIB but are to be hand held.
2. RHIBs may push another vessel at low speed over a short distance if requested by that vessel and it is safe to do so.

**When yachts or powerboats are participating in an event sanctioned or organised by RGYC it is a condition of entry that should a vessel require towing under the conditions of this policy the vessel owner fully indemnifies RGYC against any claim for damage.**

**Royal Geelong Yacht Club reserves the right to recover costs incurred in providing a tow for any vessel.**