



T
h
e
J
u
n
d
Q
u
a
r
t
e

Presidents Report

Where have all the boats gone?

The VDBC has cancelled a race meeting due to poor boat numbers.

As a club we buy insurance at the start of the year to cover each of our race meetings. If we don't run the race meetings we are still liable for the insurance costs which these days is a pretty hefty amount which the club can't really afford.

As the president of the club I'm struggling to work out why our boat numbers are so low.

Is it that we run to many race meetings each season?

Is it that a lot of older people have left and we haven't had the influx of new members to keep the numbers up?

Is it the timing system?

Is it the committee and how the club is being run?

Or is it just a lack of interest by people?

We all have the club at heart but if any one has the answer or away of getting boat numbers up again, I and the committee would be interested to hear what you have to say.

VDBC goes to Koh Samui Thailand - Photo's in next issue.

Dale Bramhall
0414-836-168

Melbourne Boat Show

(Thursday 3rd July - Monday 7th July)

Any members that would like to be a part of the boat show and give us a hand at the display or just want to come and see the show we put on, please contact Wendy Howie on 0438 758 187.

It is a big weekend and it is your club we are promoting so any input would be greatly received.

Many hands make light work.

THE HOLDING ROPE

Next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday Night June 10th, starting at 8.00pm at the NWSC rooms and all members and friends are welcome. We would like to see more participation at General Meetings from members so remember, it's your club, put some input into it, and watch the success follow.

VDBC Web site

One of the tools that the club has available to it, is a very well designed, very often viewed web site, which we must say is sadly under utilised by the members of this club. The web site survives by material supplied to it. Gary James was given the task of 'Web Site Moderator' for the site, that means that all material goes via Gary to be filtered for use on the web site, edited, and formatted, so the web master, Aspen Business Systems (ABS) can easily upload the information on the site, with less expense to the club. This way, we don't have to worry about anyone sending heaps of stuff to ABS, none of which is filtered and will not be used. In other words, people sending ABS things that might not be acceptable for the site. In no way is Gary responsible for the upkeep of the site, especially supplying it with information. That is **YOUR** responsibility. Information doesn't just appear on the site because **YOU** think it should. If you have information and other interesting items, like photos, video clips, and a story of interest, a race report, and then **YOU** need to send it to Gary for editing & formatting, along with a little story and then it will be uploaded. As said, the site is only as good and up to date as you want it, and we know that Gary cops a fair bit of abuse over the web site, so take this as a 'get off your backside' and send Gary some information for the site. Contact Gary via email gary.james@kincromegroup.com or call him on 0409 550 823 for any info that you might be keeping to yourself. So don't complain to Gary about the web site, he's had enough of hearing it, it's up to you to help make it happen.

Annual General Meeting

Please take note that the Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Drag Boat Club will be at the National Water Sports Centre on Tuesday 8th July 2008 starting at 8.00pm. The evening will start with our standard General Meeting before moving into the AGM. Drinks and food will be available at the conclusion of the meeting.

All positions on the Executive & Committee will be declared vacant at the meeting and elections will be held for four officer's positions, and seven general committee positions. This is now your chance to vote for who want to lead the club into next season. So make sure you there as your vote counts!

Membership 'Early Bird' Special!!!!!!!

The 2008-2009 membership drive is now on! So, to entice all you 'early birds' to get a move on, the VDBC 'Early Bird' special is now open. Pay your 2008-2009 membership before August 31st 2008, and all members will go into the draw to win a new VDBC, fully embroidered Jacket of your colour, either grey or black and size choice. So join up as soon as you can and get your name in the draw NOW. Contact Gary James, the membership manager to register and pay your membership ready for next season. Don't forget, you can pay on line using your credit card, safe and secure, so log onto www.vdbc.com and go to the membership page and follow the prompts.

The club has been reluctant to increase membership fees and has resisted a price rise for a number of years. So for 2008-2009 Membership fees are set to increase by a small amount, only \$5.00 per member. The family membership will increase from \$95.00, which covers 2 adults, to \$100.00. The single membership will increase from \$60.00 to \$65.00. To help with the cost increase, the club has come up with a great incentive, a special VDBC \$20.00 bill, which can be spent at the merchandise stand or the bar, for purchases when you want. Look out for it in your 2008-2009 membership pack!

VDBC Caravan Update

Hello to all Club members

As we all know, about ten months ago the VDBC purchased an old secondhand caravan from Page Brothers in Seaford and about 3 or 4 weeks later, it was delivered to my factory in Hastings by Alan Muir. Alan, Gary James, Alan Joy, Burkie, Dale and myself (if I've forgotten anyone, sorry!) started to strip the van out. Over the next few days I looked at the poor state of the old van and decided to strip the van completely and start again. I lifted the caravan from and shell off the chassis, pulled the chassis out from under the van and started repairing the chassis and built a complete new sub-frame. I stripped all the suspension, re-bushed, repaired and refurbished it. I put 4 wheel push up brakes, cables and couplings to complete the underneath. Then I put a complete new floor from front to back on the chassis and sub-frame and rewired the whole thing. Then Dale, Alan, Peter and myself put the caravan shell back on the chassis and new floor, and bolted it all back together to make what I hope is a real good strong van again. Then I filled in the windows that we did not need, sealed them and strengthened all other window frames (that will be used as serving windows), removed old doors and door frames, made new door frames (nearly twice as big as before) and strengthened them to suit new doors.

On Sunday 18th May we had a working bee (again at my factory in Hastings) to help finish off the caravan. Many, many thanks to those that came along to give a hand – Andrew Cooke (Cut the Mustard), Chris and Tim Buhagiar, and Tristan McKill (Trippa Drag Boat Team), Rowan White (White Heat), Simon Davidson (Jet ski) with partner Amanda and her daughter Monique, Alan Joy and Dale Bramhall. We had a very good and productive day with everybody helping and doing an excellent job getting the van closer to completion (90% finished). After the days work we had a nice BBQ and a few drinkies!!! Very good.

From this point on with a little bit of luck and the wind in my favour, I should be able to deliver the finished van to the club by the June 22nd Race Meeting.

Best Wishes – Laurie Mills.

VDBC Drivers Representatives

In an effort to boost race boat numbers to VDBC events and to keep the communication channel open to all drivers, past and present, the VDBC are looking to appoint a drivers representative for each racing class.

The class reps role would be to:

- Stay in contact with race boat owners/drivers in that class.
- Supply competing boat numbers to VDBC committee 1 week before race meetings. (As a confirmation).
- Ensure all race boat owners/drivers have race entry forms and other paperwork.
- Contact past competitors that we haven't seen for a while, and entice them back.
- Contact potential new drivers, and help get them racing the liquid quarter mile.
- Create and maintain a class database. (Template supplied).

To act as a mentor to new drivers, so they feel welcome and any questions answered.

The following is a list of VDBC drag classes and class reps that have already put their hand up.

Class Name;	Class Rep;
Stock Eliminator:	
Mod Stock:	
Super Stock:	
Super Comp:	
Pro Comp:	
Unlimited Outboards:	
Blown Alcohol Displacement:	Russell Palmer; 0418 392 377
Pro. Hydro Classes. (all)	Laurie Mills; 0429 797 802

Please call Chris Buhagiar NOW on **0422 446 864** to discuss your participation in this new initiative. It is designed to bolster class numbers, while enabling the VDBC to improve communication to all drivers and owners. Get your name on the list NOW, and let's all. GO RACING!!!

Attention All Drivers!

It is your responsibility to inform us if you change your address.

If you change your postal address and still wish to receive correspondence from the club, please advise one of the following:

Gary James 0409 550 823

Wendy Howie 0438 758 187

Caz Colgan 0438 014 400

**2008 Signature Spas
National High Points Championships
Presentation Night**

To be held at the Village Green Hotel Cabaret Room
Corner Springvale and Ferntree Gully Roads, Mulgrave

On Saturday 2nd August
Dress to Impress (no denim)

Pre Dinner Drinks Starting at 7pm
Cost: \$80.00 per person
Includes: Beer, Wine and Soft Drinks

Contact Mark Potter: 0429 460 540 or (AH) 9700 3811
Reserve your seats now.

JOKE FOR THE MONTH

The very first ever Blonde GUY joke..... And well worth the wait !!!!

An Irishman, a Mexican and a Blonde Guy were doing construction work on scaffolding on the 20th floor of a building.

They were eating lunch and the Irishman said, 'Corned beef and cabbage! If I get corned beef and cabbage one more time for lunch, I'm going to jump off this building.'

The Mexican opened his lunch box and exclaimed, 'Burritos again! If I get Burritos one more time I'm going to jump off, too.'

The blonde opened his lunch and said, 'Bologna again! If I get a bologna sandwich one more time, I'm jumping too.'

The next day, the Irishman opened his lunch box, saw corned beef and cabbage, and jumped to his death.

The Mexican opened his lunch, saw a Burrito, and jumped, too.

The blonde guy opened his lunch, saw the bologna and jumped to his death as well.

At the funeral, the Irishman's wife was weeping. She said, 'If I'd known how really tired he was of corned beef and cabbage, I never would have given it to him again!'

The Mexican's wife also wept and said, 'I could have given him taco's or enchiladas! I didn't realize he hated Burritos so much.'

Everyone turned and stared at the blonde's wife. The blonde's wife said,

'Don't look at me. He makes his own lunch!'

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to the following members for May. Hope you all have a great day!



Laurie Mills
Rowan White
Gary James
Alan Joy
Brett Sheppard
David Howie
Noel Pool
John Bynon
Troy Hurst
Leigh Butcher
Jessica Peters
Aaron Craig
Bradley Crout
Annastacia Hutton

**The VDBC is
Proudly Sponsored By**



YellaTerra®