

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Royal Brighton Yacht Club has over 1700 members it is timely to remind ourselves that our initiatives and activities are open to all, while understanding that to be inclusive and welcoming requires an open mindset and willingness to embrace change and continuous improvement.

As an accredited Australian Sailing Discover Sailing Centre, the club offers opportunities and experiences to suit all abilities. Royal Brighton Yacht Club has one of the most active sailing calendars in Victoria. With learn to sail courses, powerboat courses, social sailing, racing and volunteer opportunities there are several ways to get on the water. As well as Junior and Youth Training, RBYC offers a number of options for adults interested in sailing, whether on dinghies or keelboats. It is encouraging to see many adults who haven't sailed before taking an interest in the sport.

Our club membership structure and fees encourage new members to feel welcome. There is no joining fee at the club, and an intermediate membership fee for those under age 30. We provide Sail Pass at no cost to those wishing to sail casually, encouraging them to join as crew members once they have established a regular pattern of sailing.

We value our new members as well as our long-term members, some of whom have had members in their family for generations. Each new member receives a personal welcome and introduction to the club and is asked about their areas of interest.

Sailing events include casual as well as high performance racing, and our Cruising Group continues to get out on the water for Cruises in company, and on shore for monthly dinners with relevant speakers, which are open to all members.

At the same time, we value our non-boating members. The Aquatic members have a camaraderie we all appreciate, and the Social subcommittee has done an excellent job of running events that appeal to all members. As a growing and increasingly diverse club we have built and sustained strong community links. Opening our Club to the non-sailing community has boosted both sailing and social memberships. By welcoming the public to enjoy our lower ground floor dining and Port Phillip views, we've strengthened community ties.

Several members have enjoyed using their boats through support of the "Sailing Lifts your Spirits" program, an initiative that gives first time sailing experiences to the community of healthcare workers and first responders, promoting sailing for wellbeing.

We engage with the broader community through support of initiatives such as the Great Bayside Swim and Recycle Regatta in conjunction with Rotary, and the Big Freeze MND fundraiser.

RBYC's annual BLiSS regatta offers racing for women sailors as part of the annual Port Phillip Women's Championship series, with training options ahead of the regatta.

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