



Name: Karen Johns

Year first nominated for Membership of RBYC: 2010

Membership Term: 16 years

Membership Status: Senior Member



Professional Background:

I've been a Bayside local all my life, going to St. Leonard's College and then earning an Economics degree at Monash University. After that, I spent some time in retail with Myer. My last job for 17 years was as the Australasian Marketing Manager at Remington Personal Care. In my business career, I've managed big teams and always made sure to provide great service and value to happy customers.

Sailing experience:

Growing up with a father who loved sailing and was a keel boat owing member of RBYC, I started sailing at eight in a Mirror dinghy at Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron. After raising two sons who served in the Australian Navy, I got back into sailing in 2010 and was involved in the women's sailing program with Rosie Colahan and Cathy de Garis. Then, with a few mates, I bought an Etchells in 2015. Over the years, I've competed in several National and State Etchells titles, including the Etchells Worlds in 2025. After that event, we gave our boat to a group of enthusiastic young sailors at RBYC, hoping they'd bring fresh energy to the class. I've also sailed with my husband on our old ocean racer, Farr Fetched, and our International 8-meter, Frances.

RBYC Committee Experience:

With the help of some fellow club members and with Commodore Peter Strain's blessing, I brought the Social Committee back to life and have been chairing it ever since. This lively group of members has been working hard to make our club and membership even better by adding some fun.

I've also been part of the 150 year committee and have volunteered in various roles over the years.

Personal Goals:

The biggest challenge for our club right now is making sure we're financially secure. We all want RBYC to keep celebrating its history for years to come. I will,

1. Encourage young sailors and their families to join our club by offering top-notch training and a welcoming environment that includes everyone in the family.
2. Keep connecting with our local community through projects like "Paint the Sails" (which included local schools) and the car show, with the objective being to encourage new members
3. Do a thorough investigation into the viability, quality and delivery of the club's hospitality services to members.
4. Make sure the marina maintenance fund is used for what it's meant for, and take a close look at all ongoing marina maintenance issues.
5. Find ways to get more yachts into the marina. An empty pen is like an empty hotel room, it needs to be filled
6. Encourage more sailors to visit the clubhouse after sailing by offering an improved cost efficient service with an improved wine list chosen by qualified members!
7. Set up a program to help new members get integrated into club life (like a buddy system).