

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DATE: Tuesday, 6 July 2010

Welcome to the beginning of the 2010-11 season for the Humpybong Yacht Club. I would like to extend a congratulations to the new office bearers and a vote of thanks to those who have recently stepped down from their roles on the club's executive. I would also like to thank those who stood behind me in my election to the Presidency and I promise that I will remember who you are!

For those that don't know my background, I am an Associate Director with an architectural practice base in Fortitude Valley and I specialise in project delivery and procurement strategies on projects between \$2m and \$100m. I run an office of 15 staff and work over 60 hours a week. I am telling you this so that you can understand my methods of leadership and how I see the club developing this year. I'll apologise up front for the time when I will seem blunt. The only way I see this club continuing to grow is for us all to share the burden of what is required to make this club a success, and I will not always be asking for volunteers. By nominating, and being elected, to this committee you have already volunteered to help this club throughout the year. I will be delegating a large number of the activities throughout the season so that we can all work together to achieve a number of goals I would like to set for the season.

Firstly, we need to further develop our Youth involvement within the club. I would stress the "involvement" as, unlike YQ's development squad which focuses on a few elite "athletes", I would like to see the club work towards a larger involvement of all levels of skill in youth sailing. By involving more youth in the club, the adult membership will also flourish. I would call on those of you with connections with the local schools to help me develop an involvement programme to get more kids in boats on the water.

Secondly, we need to find a way to achieve the completion of stage one of the building programme before the start of next season. I realise this sound like a big ask, but we have done enough planning. The grants programmes appear to be appropriate for funding a rescue boat or training vessel, but we may need to consider tightening the budget for the project and calling upon our membership and the community to help actually build their clubhouse. This goal would also include the completion of the Optimist trailer as soon as possible so that the Optimists can be housed out of the weather.

Thirdly, we have already begun to establish a reputation with the sailing community nationwide as a great venue for off-the-beach sailing. The feedback from everyone from parents to national champions is that Humpybong Yacht Club is a great place to host a regatta. We should build on this reputation to attract more titles and training camps and I hope to open future dialogs with YQ along these lines.

I welcome any suggestions that you may have on how we can achieve these goals, or any other goals you feel we should set for the year ahead, and look forward to your continued support throughout the next year.

Activities around the club over the past month have been minimal with the season not due to open until September but there have been a few goings on.

Recently Russ McDonald and I met with Councillor Rae Frawley and a representative of the Sport and Recreation department of Moreton Bay Regional Council. We discussed the expansion of the clubhouse and the increase of our lease area to the boat yard. With the council amalgamation still having effects the council is currently in a state of confusion with how to handle sport and recreation leases. The previous three councils of Caboolture, Pine Rivers and Redcliffe each dealt with sport and recreation leases quite differently and until the three different methods can be successfully combined into a workable policy the council is not entering any discussions on continuing or new leases. This has left some sports clubs in the area in a month to month lease situation and means that there will be no further discussions on expanding our lease area until the policy is approved by council. On the positive side council has agreed to support our efforts to expand the clubhouse within our current lease boundary and will shortly provide a letter of support to assist with our building approvals and grant applications. We also had some brief discussions with Councillor Frawley and the department representative on avenues available for funding the building programme.

Councillor Frawley also discussed the concerns that we raised with her at our committee meeting last season regarding the balloon fishing from the Woody Point jetty. She has raised the issue with council's officers but unfortunately as Council does not

currently have any local laws that prohibit the throwing of burley or the use of long lines from the jetty they would not be able to enforce any signage intended to deter the practices. Council have however referred the matter to Maritime Safety Queensland. As HYC has already referred this matter to both Maritime Safety Queensland and Environmental Protection Agency we don't expect to have a major win on this any time soon.

On the issue of our Yachting Queensland Affiliation I have reviewed the "Invitation to Renew Membership 2010 to 2011" provided by Yachting Queensland at the end of last season. It is evident that our arrangements from last year with the Executive Officer, Denis Cook, by which HYC pays the club affiliation fee of \$500 up front and pays member charges as members renew each month will be honoured again this year. I therefore propose that we pay the Club Affiliation fee as soon as practicable so that we honour our end of the agreement.

I have contacted Maritime Safety Queensland regarding our "Aquatic Event Permit" for the year. Due to a change in legislation we are now only able to book the water for a three month period. We then need to re-apply for the next three months once our first period starts. We will therefore lodge an application for the water starting in September and re-lodge again as required.

I have recently started updating our myClub profile with Yachting Queensland to reflect the new officer bearers. We will need to update the Office of Fair Trading with the committee details as well.

I look forward to a promising year with the new committee at the helm and invite anyone with any questions or ideas about the direction of the club to feel free to contact me at any time.

Matthew Johnson
President – Humpybong Yacht Club