

Sailing Director's Report

Jim Boucaut

Did you know that the operator of any craft fitted with a motor which is under way is required to have a Boat Operator's Licence? Even when sailing, the operator of the above craft must have a Boat Operator's Licence.

Outer Harbor Committee Report

Phil Tassiker

The other members of your incoming committee for this year are Neil Dell, Mark Hentschke, Ivan Samartzia and Fred Howes. I welcome Fred Howes to the Committee, and also wish to express my appreciation to past member Ray Partridge for his contribution, and in particular for his generosity in providing practical help for the Squadron whenever it was required.

At last the dredging job is under way. The equipment was progressively moved to the Club during June, and the dredging itself was commenced in July. Members will recall the cumbersome and bureaucratic preliminaries we had to complete before the dredging could start. These included application for licences, analysis of soil samples and arranging for disposal of waste soil. It was also necessary temporarily to move a number of boats from the northern and eastern areas of the pool to enable their moorings to be lifted.

At the time of writing, dredging of the entrance channel has been completed, and work on the north bank is progressing well. Special thanks are due to Past Commodore and Life Member Alan Smith, who has voluntarily undertaken the daily supervision and monitoring of the dredging operation to ensure that the job is well done, and that we receive maximum value for the funds we are expending.

The new card-operated entrance gate was commissioned on Thursday 13 July. A few lucky Members tried out their cards before Monday 17 July, when the gate was hit and damaged by an over-enthusiastic delivery vehicle. Repairs

A recreational craft may be operated by a person at least 12 years of age, who does not hold a licence, when under the direct supervision of a person who holds a licence. Licences cost \$19 and last for a lifetime. Details of where to apply and typical examination questions are available at the Squadron Office. SQ

should be completed soon. Alterations will be made to the operating time and gate speed to prevent further accidents of this nature.

Under the Environment Protection Act 1993, the Squadron was required to submit an Economic and Environment Improvement Plan by 1 July 1995. This details the proposed changes we must make to the slips area during the next three years

Harbour, Harbor and Outer Harbor

This is a very ancient word, with 41 archaic forms. It comes from a Middle English combination of a word for an army or host with another for protection and shelter. In the sense of "a place of shelter for ships; specifically where they may lie close to and be sheltered by the shore or by works extended from it; a haven, a port", *harbour* dates from 1205.

English usage is *harbour* and American is *harbor*. Blythe Lindsay explained when he was Editor of this publication how the old Department of Marine and Harbors was gazetted with American usage. This applied to the extinct designation *Outer Harbor*. According to the Geographical Names Board, this has been subsumed in North Haven. For sentimental reasons, the Squadron continues to have an Outer Harbor Committee. In *Squadron Quarterly* our usage is *harbour* for generic purposes and *harbor* for those places so formally denoted, together with places in America. Readers who have noticed these variations may like to know that they are deliberate.

to ensure that all solid waste from this area is collected and disposed properly. It was drawn up in conjunction with the proposals of the Future Planning Committee, in order to ensure that the proposals which we must make under EPA Regulations are in line with changes we want to make as part of the overall improvements to the Squadron property.

The environmental regulations with which we must now comply are very strict. They require an awareness by all Members and those who undertake work on their behalf that pollutants do not enter the pool. In particular, Members are

reminded that under the terms of our present EPA licence, **grit blasting is prohibited at all times.**

Some minor damage occurred to the marinas and walkways during the storms and accompanying high winds of mid-July. At their peak the marinas were less than a metre from the tops of the piles. The Outer Harbor Committee is examining ways further to reduce wave action in the pool under these extreme and unusual conditions; and also to extend some piles and to strengthen those parts of the marina structure which are prone to possible damage. SQ

House and Social Committee Report

Allan Sinclair

Another year has commenced. This year the House and Social Committee continues unchanged. The members are David Borg (*Taworri*), Geoff Semmens, Helen Forsyth (*Freedoni*), Mark Daulby (*Fiona*) and Craig Williams, with myself as Chairman.

We have set our program for the year. The first function is on **Friday 13 October, an Irish Christmas**. This promises to be an interesting evening, so be sure to book. We will have our traditional **Christmas Luncheon** with a guest speaker on **Friday 15 December**. On **Boxing Day** we will again be setting up a large screen to watch the start of the Sydney-Hobart race. Details of functions after January will be given in the next issue of *Squadron Quarterly*.

In an effort to improve communication between Committees and Members generally we have drafted a three-monthly planner. This idea was developed after seeing a monthly planner produced by Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania. Ours contains not just reminders of social functions, but also events which other Committees wish to publicise. Please place it in a prominent position for easy reference. I would appreciate any comments as to whether it should be modified and how it could be improved.

The survey of Members produced some interesting results. We are pleased that the

dining facilities and service largely meet Members' expectations. Of concern though, is the fact that 41% eat in the dining room five times or less per year, while 10% do not use it at all. It is important to remember that the more Members who use our dining facilities, the easier it will be to maintain and improve the standards which we now expect and enjoy.

Finally, the Commodore's Dinner Dance was enjoyed by all those who attended. Our thanks go to the "girls" who devised the decorations, and the workers who assisted in their setting up and dismantling next day. SQ

