



Happy and safe boating

MLAC Bulletin

"Respect the Past - Create the Future"

NOVEMBER 2023

**NEXT
OUTING**

Merry
Christmas



**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

**2024 events
TBA**

Boats Present:
Alfred, River
Gypsy, Imagine,
Calypso,
Harmony, Toy
Ship, Carroa,
Spray, Ampolla,
Tri Relaxin and
Independence

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AGM and Christmas Dinner - November 2023 – Korsmans

4-5 November 2023

Once again, the promise of a Korsmans' spit-roast outing, combined with our AGM, proved to be very popular, with ten boats rafting together, and new member David's boat, 'Alfred' anchored a little way away. Other members came by car for the day or brought their caravans up for the weekend. Most members managed to get away on Friday and enjoy a peaceful night on the lakes, while some members arrived at Korsmans for a Saturday morning start to the weekend. Luckily for one crew (who shall remain nameless but we all know who they were) Commodore Rod arrived equipped, as usual, for all emergencies and was able to save the day for our hapless crew who, on the Friday evening, whilst attempting to avoid running aground on that tricky rock shelf off the beach, had managed to wrap their long shore rope around their boat's propeller... No fun diving under a boat as dusk sets in and the water gets colder! Thank goodness for Commodore Rod's breathing apparatus that made Saturday morning's diving and cutting effort a mere half hour's work for the stricken captain.



Saturday morning's weather was absolutely beautiful - sun shining, hardly any breeze and a perfect temperature. Members pitched in to erect the club's marquee and cooking tent, unpacking the recently renovated and immaculate-looking Prawn to put in place tables, cooking gear and all the accoutrements necessary for the evening's feasting. However, to the south, ominous grey clouds appeared to be piling up.

The storm hit suddenly and with frightening ferocity. Wind whipped up waves, and pushed the rafted-up boats backwards towards the shore. Rain pelted down, reducing visibility dramatically. The call came to de-raft and head for sheltered waters and captains quickly heeded the call and headed out to safety to a variety of quieter places. The storm moved off almost as quickly as it had arrived and two hours or so after abandoning Korsmans, all boats were back again and rafted up securely. No boats were damaged by the storm's assault - the only casualty was a snapped marquee post. Things could have been a lot worse as it truly was a most frightening storm.

The AGM commenced at 3.29 and some seconds, with thirty-one members (and one adorable 9 week-old baby boy, Asher) in attendance. Commodore Rod welcomed everyone and delivered a very full and informative report of the year's projects and activities. Top of the list was, no surprises here, the Prawn.

As we could all see, the 'Prawn Project' has finally reached its conclusion - and what a wonderful, totally rejuvenated Prawn we saw this weekend. The whole project had turned into a much larger repair and renovation job than anyone had originally envisaged, with each layer removed revealing something else in need of replacement or serious repair. Commodore Rod gave heartfelt thanks to all the people who have helped out with the Prawn, giving up their time and expertise, especially John (and Robbie) who took on the majority of the work in John's 'Boatyard' for the months and months the 'Prawn Project' took to reach completion. Commodore Rod neglected to mention the long hours he also put into completing the Prawn ready for the AGM launching. The belief is that this amazing 'new' Prawn will last the club for the next twenty or thirty years - and perhaps even longer - with only minor tweaks every now and then to keep it in tiptop shape!



The Executive have once again had a fruitful meeting with representatives from National Parks. It is a real plus for our club that relationships are now so strong between our respective organisations, as all undoubtedly benefit from the willingness of each to work together to achieve positive outcomes for the lakes and its users.

A major project that the club has taken on is the replacement of the Effluent Barge wharf. The importance of a safe, functional wharf cannot be overstated. The current contractors, our very own Mack and Linda with the Independence, provide an absolutely essential service to all the boating visitors to the lakes. It is almost impossible to imagine what would happen if the wharf was not

replaced and the current or future contractors had to come up-river for effluent collection each time that it was required. Imagine the summer season, especially Christmas to New Year and beyond to Australia Day when the lakes are absolutely crowded with boats!

Apart from the service to boat owners, an on-the-spot effluent collection barge undoubtedly saves the lakes themselves from potential pollution that would occur if some effluent found its way into the waterways. It is for the benefit of ALL boat owners, not just our club members, and for critical environmental considerations and protection that MLAC has decided to take on, and fund, the replacement of the Effluent Barge wharf. The floating pontoon from Tamboy has been repurposed and work to restore a safe and functional wharf is ongoing.

Treasurer's report:

Since our treasurer, Paul is currently enjoying boating of a different kind, cruising the Panama Canal, the Treasurer's report was read by Rear Commodore Rebecca. To summarise, despite expenditure on several important things, notably the club defibrillator, our financial position is very sound, largely assisted by fees from our increased club membership (currently at 160 members). In his absence, Paul was sincerely thanked for his on-going time, diligence and expertise as the club Treasurer and Public Officer.



The next agenda item was a Special Resolution for members to accept our updated Constitution. Changes to the existing Constitution became necessary due to new rules from the Department of Fair Trading, impacting organisations such as ours. After an informative outline of the new rules and necessity for change presented by Rod, members agreed unanimously to accept the new, updated club Constitution.

The last item of the AGM was the standing-down of the existing committee. Commodore Rod thanked all members of the 2023 committee, with special thanks for the tireless efforts of Linda in her roles as Secretary and Events Co-ordinator. Malcolm Muddle then acted as Presiding Officer for the election of the committee for 2024.



Rod Blanch is, once again our Commodore (what a champion!), with Alan (Shorty) Tennyson the Vice-Commodore. Rebecca Muddle was returned as Rear Commodore and Paul Bendy as Treasurer and Public Officer. Linda McIntosh is once again taking on the role of Secretary (a glutton for punishment but pretty much indispensable!). Four of the Ordinary Committee members for 2024 are Melissa Blanch, Narelle Tennyson, 'Mack' McIntosh and Christine Preston. Congratulations to the newest recruits to the team - Ordinary Committee members Shelley Battle and Tracy Hickey, who have volunteered to become Catering Officer and Events Coordinator respectively. Both new committee members were warmly welcomed by all members present.



2024 Committee (L to R) – Linda McIntosh, Tracy Hickey, Narelle Tennyson, Alan Tennyson, Melissa Blanch, Rod Blanch, Shelley Battle, Rebecca Muddle, Kerry McIntosh, Christine Preston.

The AGM closed at 4.12pm. The Huddle then commenced with Commodore Rod outlining several matters of interest to members. The issue of unavailable moorings and the frustration of boat owners being placed on a waiting list that is getting longer and longer, was raised by a member. Rod assured us all that discussions and negotiations with relevant people were on-going.

Even though the topic of the replacement of the Effluent Barge wharf was well- covered in Rod's AGM report, Mack stood up during the Huddle to give an impassioned speech, by way of informing us all about the dangers he and Linda have faced using the condemned wharf, especially in times of high and rising water, such as the floods of quite recent times. It is to the relief of all that the club has stepped in to ensure that the wharf is safe and functional for Mack and Linda (and all future contractors) who work so hard for the benefit of all boaters and for the protection of the waterways we love so much.

The Huddle finished at about 5.00pm, and so the feasting began! Afternoon 'nibbles' were served whilst the final preparations were made for dinner. The 'nibbles' provided by the club was one of the most generous and delicious spreads this Bulletin writer has ever seen. Thanks to Linda and her helpers for providing this wonderful afternoon 'tea' and thanks must also go to John who supplied a stack of super-fresh, super- delicious oysters.



The oysters were the first to go!

When it came to the spit roast, there was universal agreement that it was the best yet. The pork, the lamb, the corn, the gravy, the crackling...! Totally delicious! Dessert was supplied by Heidi, and included trifle, a delicious jelly slice, another slice I didn't really notice because *OMG* my eyes (and many others) were immediately drawn to the drop-dead fantastic Loaded Brownie!!! This amazing creation was something the like of which I have never seen before and, I have to say, disappeared in double-quick time. Thanks to Heidi for all her offerings - what a talent she is and what an asset to our club!



After a wonderful evening of friendship and good cheer, all members retired for the night, replete and happy. And during the night, the rain came down, and down, and down. A thoroughly wet morning greeted us all but the camaraderie and good cheer was too much for the rain to dampen. The marquee came down wet, as did the cooking tent, and the Prawn was repacked. Many helpers were also wet, despite rain jackets but the job was done in reasonably quick time. Then it was morning tea (left over from the previous afternoon 'nibbles' spread) convened on Harmony and Toy Ship. Finally, as the rain continued, members de-rafted and set off for the river and home.

What an action-packed, fabulous weekend we all had, working together, helping each other, eating, drinking and laughing together. It makes us all appreciate the wonderful club we have in MLAC!

We look forward to another year of fantastic boating in 2024. Best wishes to all members and their families for a Merry Christmas and a safe, fun filled summer of boating.

