



# Houseboat

May 2018 Issue 97



## Budding Environmentalists!

What did you do over the Easter break? See pages 22



# Houseboat

## HOUSEBOAT EDITOR

Margie Elliott  
*Kiknbak*  
0408 544 814  
email: magazine@darlingford.com.au

## FACILITY MANAGER

Garry Forden  
Ph: 5774 2414  
Fax: 5774 2420  
Mob: 0428 994 090  
Email: dwbmarina@bigpond.com

## CHAIRMAN

Commodore  
Brett Lewis  
*Kokomo*  
0419 103 394

## VICE CHAIRMAN

Vice Commodore  
Ron Mulholland  
*Shiraz*  
0408 382 514

## SECRETARY

Maurie Callinan  
*Latise*  
0412 534 345

## TREASURER

Brad Rogers  
*Chit Chat*  
0412 355 298

## CLUB ADDRESS

603 Jerusalem Creek Rd  
Eildon VIC 3713  
PO Box 87, Eildon 3713

### Disclaimer

Darlingford Waters Marina does not accept responsibility for any opinions, statements, comments, procedures, services, or products offered or mentioned in this Magazine. Articles published are not necessarily those of the Marina, Directors, Committee, Editor or Publisher.

We also reserve the right to alter or edit any material presented for publication.

We do not guarantee or endorse any products or services offered for sale and readers should determine the suitability and/or reliability for their own particular requirements.

## CLUB WEBSITE

www.darlingford.com.au  
email: dwbmarina@bigpond.com

## DIRECTORS

Don Atkinson	<i>PAD</i>	0418 530 111
Luke Brinksma	<i>Serena Z</i>	0439 930 974
Maurie Callinan	<i>Latise</i>	0412 534 345
Peter Elliott	<i>Kiknbak</i>	0418 392 496
Shane Elliott	<i>Blinda</i>	0419 590 766
Jo Gardner	<i>Earnslaw III</i>	0409 216 566
Brett Lewis	<i>Kokomo</i>	0419 103 394
Ron Mulholland	<i>Shiraz</i>	0408 382 514
Brad Rogers	<i>Chit Chat</i>	0412 355 298
Stuart Steer	<i>Wizard</i>	0418 333 187

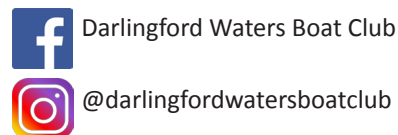
## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

<b>Chairman:</b>	Gary Crump	<i>Out of Reach</i>
	0414 578 797	
<b>Email:</b>	social@darlingford.com.au	
	Janette Deslandes	<i>The Craic</i>
	Anita Rennie	<i>Wyewurrie</i>
	Terry Stewart	<i>Time Out</i>

## DWBC GPS CO-ORDINATES

282m above sea level.  
South 37° 15.409. East 145° 58.053

## FOLLOW US ON



**Photos in this issue contributed by:** Shane Baring, Bernice Boland, Karen Brown, Dianne Callinan, Gary Crump, Margie Elliott, Ethel Ford, Jenny Forden, Mike Heine, Rachel Johnson, Mandy Maroney, Anita Rennie, Kirsty Rogers, Kirsten Steer.

**Cover photo:** "Budding Environmentalists"... photo courtesy Eammon Hamilton (Old Gold).



# Houseboat

## CONTENT

- Page 4 Chairman's Report
  - From the Editor's Desk
- Page 5 Facility Manager's Report
  - Site Director's Report
- Page 6 Vale Max Peters
- Page 7 Social Committee Report
  - Getting to Know Greg Walter
- Page 8 January - Australia Day
- Page 9 Australia Day Honours
- Page 11 Celebrate
- Page 12 February - Darlingford Day
- Page 13 Luke Johnson
- Pg 14-15 Darlingford Family Fun Day Photos
- Page 16 Kids at Play
- Page 18 Darlingford Day - Night Time Snaps
- Page 19 Organ Donation - The Gift of Life
- Page 20 March - Alexandra Races
- Page 21 David & Karen's Rotary Bike Ride
- Page 22 April - Easter
  - Vic Police Search & Rescue Training
  - Farewell Peter, Sue & Chris Smith
- Page 24 A Not So Happy New Year
  - Tree Change - Not Enough Time for the Lake
- Page 25 A Jet Ski Ride to Remember
- Page 27 Darlingford Briefs



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - APRIL 2018

Dear Members,

With the boating season now behind us and the weather starting to turn cool, it is a timely reminder to members to make sure that their boats are prepared for the winter months and all things stored on boats are packed away or secured.

As winter sets in we are hoping for some good rainfall to build on the current lake level of 56.5% (same time last year 65.5%).

During the winter months plans are in place for general maintenance including additional marina anchor points, concreting on D marina walkway and repair of marinas.

### BOARD

The new members on the Board are providing new energy and direction for the club.

Shane Elliott has taken on the role of Assistant Site Director, and is working closely with our current Site Director, Stuart Steer and our Facility Manager, Garry Forden.

Stuart has decided to step down from the Board at the November AGM after 32 years of involvement on the Board and committees at the club. We, as current members, are certainly very fortunate to have the current facilities we now enjoy and many thanks must go to Stuart and other long standing members that have guided the club for many years.

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Gary Crump has taken on the role to lead the Social Committee, with new energy and enthusiasm. A major club event is already planned. (See details on page 11).

Many thanks to Jo Gardner (Director) who stepped up to fill this role for the last 12 months. We are always looking for new members with new ideas to become involved and play and active part in the Social Committee. Becoming involved is a great way to meet other members. Please contact Gary Crump or any of our current Social Committee members to become involved.

Safe travels to our members who head off in search of warmer climates during the winter months.

We will see you back on the lake soon.



**Brett Lewis**  
Chairman  
Darlingford Waters Marina Pty Ltd



**DARLINGFORD WATERS**  
BOAT CLUB - LAKE EILDON

# club clothing

A wide range of clothing is available with club logo and (optional) houseboat and/or peoples names.

**Contact: Janette Deslandes**  
(The Craic - D Marina)  
Mob: 0432 381 144  
jdeslandes-mcgrath@hotmail.com

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Where did the season go? It was over way too quickly for me. With plenty of hot summer days and nights and autumn providing exceptionally warm and perfect weather, there was no better place to be than on the lake. There was the occasional very heavy downpour but these were few and far between so let's hope winter/spring rains come to fill the lake again.

It was an eventful season on and off the water; a couple of serious injuries, a young blind skier competing in the S80, a fantastic Darlingford Day event, a liver transplant, a long bike ride, a wash out at the races, Nibbles-on-the-Hill, and sadly, most recently, the tragic death of a long standing club member. You can read all about these happenings throughout the magazine. And much more!

Thank you to everyone who contributed their story. Your contributions keep the magazine going so keep them coming in.



Send me an email anytime.  
Now I'm off to hibernate for winter.  
Cheers, Margie.

**Margie Elliott**  
Editor

**SEND THE EDITOR AN EMAIL**  
[magazine@darlingford.com.au](mailto:magazine@darlingford.com.au)



## FACILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

G'day all,

Well there goes another boating season...Xmas...Easter... gone! As I've said in the past, time sure moves fast here. The weather was pretty good for most of the season but we did have a lot of wind and the place was certainly busy.

### WORK BARGE

You may, or may not, know that we hire our work barge out to Victoria Police Search & Rescue every year for two weeks immediately after Easter. They use the barge as part of their set-up for training divers in shallow and deep water exercises. With a team of 14, they also have trucks full of equipment, a decompression chamber, compressors etc. all set up on our work barge. During this year's training the divers were all new recruits to Search & Rescue, 7 in total, that were selected through the process of elimination out of 30. Only 1 out of the 7 will be selected! Most of their dives were done off the end of D marina for the shallow water dive training.

### MEMBERS

Since the last magazine there have been more farewells & new arrivals.

#### *Very recently we have farewelled:*

**Peter & Sue Smith from SOUTHPORT** on D marina, are long time members and have made a big contribution to the club along the way. Peter was instrumental in building the old boat trailer as well as building the big sheds and the retaining walls around the sheds. Peter was also involved in planning & building the Facility Manager's residence. Thank you Peter & Sue for your contribution to our Club, you will be sadly missed but we wish you and your family the very best for the future.

**David & Heather White from SO LONG** on C Marina, who have been with us since 2012. Thank you for being a member of our club, we are sorry to see your family go. We take this opportunity to send our very best wishes to Dave as he continues to battle ill health. You are in our thoughts.

#### *Welcome to:*

- **Shane & Lynette Chasemore** & their children Vann, Jake & Chloe, who were introduced to the club by Simon Cox. They are on A Marina... houseboat SHIRALEE

- **Robert Sharp & Donna Hoiles** and children were introduced by Shane Rowe. They have taken over EAGLES NEST on A marina.

- **Andrew & Melanie Dobson** and daughter Trinity were introduced to the club by Patrick Glassborow. They are on C Marina...houseboat PURE BLISS.

- **Bruce & Paula Woolcock** arrived in January after purchasing Lazy Days from Josie & Leigh Phillips. They are also on A marina.

### MAINTENANCE TO THE MARINAS

In the next few weeks or so we will be installing more anchor points (pegs) down each marina, 24 in total. These will be railway track driven into the ground, giving more stability & shorter cables down the marinas.

That's it for now... I look forward to seeing you all soon!



**Garry Forden**  
Facility Manager

## SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### CAMERAS

You may, or may not, be aware that we have been installing new security cameras around the club facility. All cameras have now been wired in with a lot of help from Ron Mullholland, Luke Brinksma and Simon Cox. I spent a lot of time installing and programming the cameras because it wasn't as easy as I was told it would be! However, I have just completed a course on programming them so that should make it a bit easier now.

### BOARD

This is a good opportunity for me to let you all know that I am retiring from the Board at the end of the year. It's now

time for me to step back and enjoy my "retirement" with Sweetie on the water and do lots more travel. Shane Elliott is taking my place as Site Director and I'm sure he will do a great job.

### NEW CLUB ROOM

After the great success of Darlingford Day it was suggested we investigate the idea of a floating club room. I have been in lengthy discussion with GMW since then and have provided them with concept drawings etc. If it is a viable concept we will present it at a general meeting.

*Regards*  
*Stuart Steer*

## VALE MAX PETERS



We were all shocked and saddened to learn of the tragic death of Max Peters during a yacht race, a sport that he loved. Max and his wife Annie have been members of our club for many years with their houseboat Toocawyle moored on A marina. They have many friends in the club, past and present, and will be sadly missed.

The Directors, on behalf of all members, offer sincere condolences to Anne, Erin, Christopher and families.

A Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Max Peters will be held at the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, 120 Nelson Place, Williamstown on FRIDAY, May 4, 2018, commencing at 1.00 p. m.

### FAREWELL MAX

It's a sad moment to be writing this farewell to a man so full of life and laughter.

The sport he was most passionate about took his life whilst racing his pride and joy "Top Gun" in the Association Cup, an annual event of the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria on Sunday 15 April.

Max was very proud about his achievements and loved to tell you a story about how he had pulled off yet another win with Top Gun.

Hugh and I met MAX at the Darlingford Waters Boat Club where we all became members as houseboat owners in the late eighties. We got to know Max and Annie over time and when we moved to Queensland in 2007 we found that Max and Anne had bought an apartment in Caloundra where they came and spent time together with their family.

On one of the occasions when Max was visiting Queensland he helped us find a Catamaran to buy. He was very knowledgeable and took us very quickly through the process of elimination. We soon ended up spending much more than we had budgeted for when we bought Catamaran "Sans Souci".

Another occasion Max and Annie spent a few weeks with us around the Whitsundays and sailed with us to Magnetic Island. Max was very keen to get Sans Souci sailing faster so out came the Spinnaker which we had only used on a few occasions and were very scared of. Next thing we knew Max had us doing 11.5 knots. Hugh was packing himself whilst Max was delighting in the speed. When we came to take the spinnaker down we put Hugh half way up the mast while he was frantically hanging on to the spinnaker sock line, Max was laughing so hard that we put him up there a second time. That was the end of the spinnaker for a while.

We loved his company, he was such a jovial character and always the gentleman. He will be sadly missed by all his family friends and the sailing fraternity.

Rest in peace Max may you find somewhere up above to continue your love for sailing.

Our sincere condolences go to his loving wife Annie and his daughter Erin, Son Christopher and his five grandchildren.

*Hugh and Julie Harvison  
Former DWBC Members*

We have known Max, Annie, Erin & Christopher since they joined our club and we know that Max was immensely proud of his children & grandchildren.

Max was a very gifted man & loved a challenge which included – designing a trike to cross Antarctica, building their houseboat, building a plane, racing yachts or racing one of his many Datsun 1600's. And yet, Max was never too busy to help others.

Max always had a story to tell (often full of bullshit) and we shared so many happy and funny times together, usually over a drink or two. These times, and his always happy smiling face and huge personality, we will miss very much.

Our deepest condolences & love go to Annie, Erin, Christopher & families.

Max was a good friend & we will sadly miss him.

*Glenda & Ian Hudson (Slakatak)*

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Firstly, I would like to thank Jo Gardner for stepping up to run the Social Club when we were left without a leader. Thanks also to Terry Stewart, Anita Rennie and Janette Deslandes for their continued effort and support.

As newly appointed Chairman of the Social Committee this is the perfect opportunity to invite new members to come on board and help out with the Social Club. This could be as an official member or a volunteer when available to assist.

The Darlingford Day/Shed Dance were both a great day and night, with thanks to Brad & Kirsty Rogers starting the day setting up and running the kids event and then Donna Lewis for organising and looking after the band.



The Alex Race Day was another excellent day even though the races were cancelled. There was plenty to eat and drink but not a lot of winners!

Keep an eye out for future advertised Nibbles-on-the-Hill and for Club Working Bees.

I am very excited to be part of our City event on the 1st of September which is in celebration of it being 30 years since we officially became Darlingford Waters Boat Club. This will be the time to step up and show your support to the Club. It promises to be a great night for new and old members to socialise and enjoy.

I really need to thank Margie Elliott as I would not have taken on this role without her backing and behind the scene support and work.

Thanks to everyone for your support.



**Gary Crump**  
Chairman  
Social Committee

**YOUR SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU**  
CAN YOU HELP?  
WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU!

## GETTING TO KNOW...

### GREG WALTER - KAPALUA, C MARINA

**Introduce your family:** wife Gina and daughters Eve & Skye.

**What do you do for a job(s):** engineering and manufacturing  
**Pets?** No pets but Gina would love a horse!

**What's your boating history?** I grew up at Lake Eildon on the weekends, my parents owned a couple of houseboats over the years.

**Why Darlingford?** I heard it was friendly! And it was recommended by others.

**I like Lake Eildon because:** there's no phone service. It's fresh water. It forces you to relax.

**Hobbies:** Travelling, anything with our kids, houseboating, skiing.

**Tell us something about yourselves:** Gina is from Oregon in the USA so we try our best to visit her family as much as possible.

**Favourite sporting team:** COLLINGWOOD! (Oh, I just knew I was going to like you Greg).

**Favourite food:** BBQ

**Favourite Music:** Country genre (Oh, now I like you even more!).

**The best movie you ever watched:** The Man from Snowy River

**What do you do when you are not working:** Either yard work or head up to the lake!

**If you were stranded on a desert island, name 3 people you would want to be stranded with and why:** Gina said I had to put her, Eve & Skye down or else! (Ha-ha)

**Name 3 things you can't live without:** Kids, coffee and sleep.



Greg, Gina, Eve & Skye at Darlingford Day.

Lake Level at 23/04/2018

**56.24%**

Contact the Social Committee  
**social@darlingford.com.au**



# January

## CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

This was an eventful period. The weather was pretty warm and dry for most of the time although as is so expected on Lake Eildon at this time of year, it was very windy some days and it did rain heavily for a day! Several white swans and pink flamingos required rescuing – they must have been popular stocking fillers! Even Macca proved very adept at saving the “wild life”.



Christmas day was simply sensational down at Coopers Point. A wet day followed leading up to a hot day on New Year’s Eve which was perfect for a ride to Bonnie

Doon pub for Sean's birthday lunch (a tad windy and bumpy as well) and many other boaters had the same idea.

Luke Stuart caught a 960mm 20kg+ Murray cod from the back of Escape on D Marina. This was proudly “caught, kissed and released”! But would you believe that the very next day Stewy caught another one. This one was only 650mm, so it was cooked in the webber and tasted yum!



*How's this for a big fish!*

Two serious injuries were sustained by club members in separate incidences which ended their Christmas holidays. You can read their own stories on page 24 & 25.

Accidents happen so easily. Are you prepared to deal with one if it happens to you on the water?



*Luke Ford - Taurus II*

## AUSTRALIA DAY

Australia Day is always a popular time on the lake and it was as busy as ever this year with perfect weather and many boats, of all kinds, proudly flying the Australian Flag. The water temperature was like a tepid bath and many hours were spent just “in it” celebrating Australia Day. There was no better place to be than on or in the beautiful Lake Eildon!

This is how some of our members celebrated on the lake.



*Jack Baring from Y-Knot just chillin out back.*



*Proud young Aussies - Breeanna & Khloe with some riff raff in the water*



*Now that is some play mat enjoyed by the Taurus II crew*





Happy Australia Day from Tightarse



Katie & Olivia on Chit Chat



The Rogers family and friends



Jack (Wizard), Sammy (Shiraz) & Oliver (Wizard)



Jack, Oliver, Grace & Ainsley (Wizard)

## AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Current member (and former Chairman), **Greg Boland**, received an **Australia Day Honours Award under Medal Order of Australia (OAM)** in the General Division for Community Service. Congratulations Greg, on this well-deserved recognition. Greg's wife, Bernice, provided the following career history and highlights which demonstrate just why he was awarded this prestigious medal.

### Brief Career History

Greg was with Victoria Police for over 35 years working in many and varied areas including: Northcote, The Mounted Branch, Echuca, Crime Car Squad, Detective at St. Kilda and Dandenong, at D24, and Prahran. Greg was the Officer-in-Charge of the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Coordination Office including the Family Violence Unit, Victims Advisory Unit, Video and Recording of Evidence Unit. He was responsible for the training of some 350 specialist detectives throughout the State, maintaining current best practice procedures and evaluating and advising on changes to legislation specific to child abuse. He represented Victoria Police on a number of high profile committees that had direct impact into legislative changes. Two such committees were 'the Law Reform Commission' and 'Health Services for Abused Victorian Children Advisory Committee' chaired by Judge Jennifer Coate (late of the Royal Commission into Child Abuse). Greg had experience as a full-time prosecutor and training officer providing lectures to police on legal issues and operational practices. As a Detective, he investigated and prepared complex briefs of evidence for numerous offences, including sex offences and attempted murder. He has been a District Detective Inspector responsible for management of multi-teams of Detectives. He held portfolios of Welfare Officer, Youth Advisory Officer, Multi-Cultural Liaison Officer and Aboriginal Liaison Officer. When Greg was employed as the Inspectorate Services Manager (Chief Inspector) with the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) he progressed the Inspectors to form a professional and accountable team. He was also responsible for legislative review and recommendations relating to animal welfare.

### Career Highlights

As the Liquor Licensing Inspector, he formed the local licencees into a forum, with involvement from the Australian Drug Foundation. Greg chaired the forum and had the licencees adopt a "Code of Conduct". This was the first of its kind in Victoria and was launched by the Minister for Business and the Alcohol Industry. He was



Greg, pictured with the didgeridoo which was presented to him by Aboriginal Elders in recognition of his contributions to the Aboriginal community in the Dandenong area.

also involved with the very first Safe Serving of Alcohol Course for licencees. As the Aboriginal Liaison Officer, he implemented an order that was designed to alleviate incarceration rates for indigenous people. Greg later sought funding and conducted police/Aboriginal youth camps. He wrote and published the first booklet on Reconciliation between police and Aboriginal people in Australia. The booklet was launched by Mr Pat

Continued on page 10



## AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

*Continued from page 9*

Dodson, the Chairperson for Reconciliation and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. He implemented a number of projects that were specifically designed to break down barriers between indigenous people and police.



*Greg, officially presented with his award at Government House on 17th April*

Greg was awarded a Churchill Fellowship and travelled to New Zealand, Canada and the USA to study the relationship between police in those countries and their indigenous peoples. He prepared a report making recommendations. This

is filed at the National Library in Canberra. He also co-authored with Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and developed the protocol between Victoria Police and DHHS on dealing with people with Mental Health issues. He was awarded a certificate from the Office of Public Employment for Managing People. Among numerous similar activities, he was a member of the establishment committee of the Visy Centre, the first centre in the State to offer a “one stop” venue for numerous youth services. He was also a member of the Statewide Youth Suicide Prevention Forum.

Greg was awarded the National Medal and Police Service Medal. He also has commendations for his work with Aboriginal people and also a commendation for bravery and leadership in disarming a person with mental health issues that was threatening his life and that of another officer, with a loaded crossbow and a machete. He was awarded the Amsden Scholarship for leadership whilst he was employed at the RSPCA.

He retired from the RSPCA in December 2011 and retired from full-time work. However, he currently serves as a Sessional Member sitting on the ‘Suitability Panel’ which conducts hearings relating to sexual and physical abuse of children by out of home carers. He has served seven years on the panel, having been re-appointed for a second and third term.

Greg was previously a member of the DWBC Social Committee and later became a Director and then Chairman of the Club, serving five years in that role.

A red banner with the text "MAXWELL'S UPHOLSTERY" in white, bold, sans-serif font. To the left of the text is a portion of a yellow floral patterned chair or sofa.



**Repaired and Recovered**



**New - Made to Order**



**Custom Interiors**

Skyline Road, Eildon  
Mobile: 0417 321 781  
Email: [max@maxwellsupholstery.com.au](mailto:max@maxwellsupholstery.com.au) Web: [maxwellsupholstery.com.au](http://maxwellsupholstery.com.au)  
Come and see me at Marina B on 'Bazinga'





*Celebrate!*

Darlingford Waters Boat Club

## Casino Royale

Saturday 1st September 2018

We are rolling out the **red carpet** to spoil you with  
a spectacular night at **RED SCOOTER**.

*Address: 25 William Street, Balaclava 3183*

**Start Time:** 7:00pm

**Finish:** midnight

**Dress code:** FORMAL

(men a suit & ladies "after 5" please)

**Normal price for this night is \$160 pp but with our club's support  
you only pay \$80 per person.**

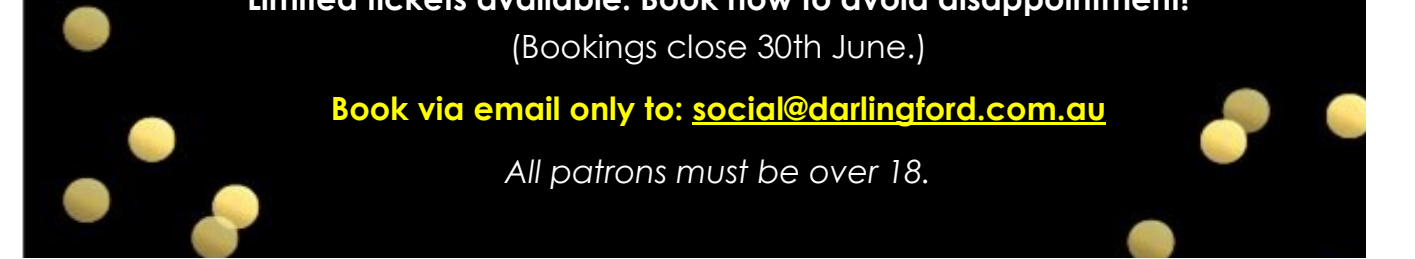
This includes: 3 course dinner, supper, music, dance, drinks  
and entertainment.

**Limited tickets available. Book now to avoid disappointment!**

(Bookings close 30th June.)

**Book via email only to: [social@darlingford.com.au](mailto:social@darlingford.com.au)**

*All patrons must be over 18.*



# February

## FEBRUARY ACTION

The Southern 80 was held on 9th, 10th & 11th February this year and of course attracted many members to the shores of the mighty Murray. For Michael & Rachel Johnson (Cool Breeze) this year's race was a special milestone with their 13 year old son Luke competing as a visually impaired skier, only the second to do so. Luke is also the youngest disabled skier to compete. Luke's story is on the opposite page 13.

The weekend after the Southern 80 was our very own Darlingford Family Fun Day. And what a day this turned out to be. The weather was simply gorgeous, Brad & Kirsty along with the Social Committee had set up a great area for the kids to "play" through the afternoon with the yellow slide being the hit of the day. The afternoon water and social activities on the barge were followed by the traditional "shed dance" which this year featured the very talented duo "Five O'clock Shadows" who were simply brilliant. Paul and Michael entertained as with many instruments including a digeridoo! And our theme of 'Denim and Lace' was well acknowledged.

Our major raffle of the "Boat Insurance" package donated by Griffiths and Goodall was drawn on the night and was won by Shenae Maroney of Working Class who bought the ticket hoping to win for her pop Goody. Congratulations Shenae & Goody!

## ODD SPOTS!



Stu won this Guitar at the Song Writers Award night at the Long Yard Hotel, Tamworth on 23rd January. *(I think in a raffle and not for writing a song....).*

It was presented by Greg Champion who is the writer and singer of Up There Cazaly.

Songs around the campfire now Stu?

Our fearless FM was spotted watering the garden one warm February day. All was calm until the ant nest he disturbed exacted revenge. Silently they climbed his legs. He was completely unaware and quietly talking to a new member when the ants made their presence felt, biting any flesh within reach. Taken by surprise TWOSIE valiantly tried to remove the offending ants while maintaining some semblance of decorum. Eventually he had to excuse himself and rush behind the shed to remove clothing and rid his body of the angry biting pests. Ooh Aah...Ouch!



## DARLINGFORD FAMILY DAY

Luke had a group of mates join him on B marina, including a couple of extra houseboats, Just Cruisin and Natualis which we welcomed with open arms. Rumour has it that Tooty reckons it's so much better down this end of the lake that he is really keen to switch clubs – I'm sure we'd find him a berth....



Luke and his mates reunited after 20 years

So his mates were here to celebrate Luke's birthday, not a biggie, just #47! Khan, Zack, Jason, Paul and Luke are all old Healesville boys but haven't been in the same room together for 20 years. Apparently they celebrated very well all day!

And If you wondered why Luke was a tad subdued cooking the barbie you probably need to speak to Eammon! I hear that payback was coming.....it probably already has!

It was lovely to meet Greg, Gina, Eve and Skye Walter (from Kapalua) who joined C marina late last year. While little Eve thoroughly enjoyed herself with the kids activities, even the waterslide, baby Skye was very content to be cradled by anyone who offered. Greg & Gina had a very eventful arrival at Darlingford – sending an SOS to Garry and having to be barged all the way from the boat club due to motor issues.



K&D cut up the dance floor

Chatting to Karen B. I discovered that David had recently suffered a stroke but has recovered well without any major lasting effect which is good news. He even managed some great moves on the dance floor!

We had Welsh guests join as this weekend, Pam & Dyfrig Jones from Pourthcall in Wales who were guests on Old Gold for the weekend. They said this was a unexpected trip on their Australian

holiday and were very impressed with Lake Eildon and our club.

**And how good was Jo Junor on the dance floor? A new Darlingford star is born!**

## LUKE JOHNSON

Congratulations to 13 year old **Luke Johnson of Cool Breeze** (C Marina). Luke entered the Southern 80 this year as a disabled entrant and completed the 20kms in 18.11mins. His boat Floor IT, was driven by Ken Merritt and observed by Nath Evans. Luke is the second (and youngest) visually impaired skier to complete the race. Luke also recently competed in the Mildura 100 held over Easter. His mum, Rachel, provided the following story.

Luke's first boat trip was when he was 2 weeks old, he has loved growing up on the houseboat and looks forward to each time he comes up to the boat. Luke began skiing when he was just two years old, first on the



*Learning to ski as a tiny tot*

kneeboard with his dad, Michael, and then on skies on the training bar. Luke loves to master any challenge set to him behind and next to the boat. At the end of the 2016/2017 season he began barefooting.

At the Southern 80 in 2017 we were lucky enough to meet up with Ben Pettingall after his race. Ben is the first visually impaired skier to enter and complete the race. Ben became an inspiration to Luke and after talking to him decided that this is what he wanted to do.

At the end of 2017 Luke was diagnosed as legally blind, instead of this being a sad time for Luke he looked at it as an opportunity to enter the skiing competitions as a disabled skier. He has skied with Disabled Water Ski Australia and after talks with Ski Racing Australia was able to enter the 2018 Southern 80 as the second visually impaired skier. Luke is also the youngest disabled skier to compete.



*Luke in race mode on the river*

On the morning of the race Luke felt a little nervous and excited but looked at it like it was one of the many practices and skis that he had had leading up to the race. He was confident and knew that this was achievable. He said it was great to hear people cheering him on as he skied past them on the banks and from houseboats. When he came across the finish line he was so proud of himself and even now when he thinks of it, he smiles.



*Luke's race team*

Competing in the race would not have been possible without the owner of 'Floor It' and driver, Ken Merrett, and the observer, Nath Evans. Both these men gave their time to Luke unconditionally – the practices, advice and support, he is very grateful for. Just the gift of giving Luke the chance to participate and succeed is something that, as a family, we will always hold dear to our hearts.

We surprised Luke with his best friend, Zak, coming down from QLD to watch his first race in the S80 which was very special.

We also have great friends and family who have been with us on practices and supported us on the day. Thank you!

**Rachel Johnson**



*Ken Merritt, Luke, Nath Evans*

Luke was recently asked **"Where do you want to go in the future?"**

"We have spoken to Ski Racing Australia and are working out what I can do in the future. I would like to compete in more competitions for ski racing and also I am practicing with Disabled Waterski Australia to join the team. I am pretty good with the slalom and am currently practicing the trick ski".

Luke was born with a genetic condition called Cone Dystrophy and Nystagmus and his brother Matthew suffers the same condition. Cone Dystrophy is a degenerative condition; the vision loss varies from person to person and also the conditions of the day. Nystagmus is a constant involuntary movement of their eyes. Currently Luke uses his cane for new environments only. In places like the marina which he is familiar with, he won't need to use the cane, usually. However, light sensitivity is a major factor to the amount of vision the boys may have and therefore dusk and night time are the best times for them. This also means that during the day the simple task of walking down the marina is difficult as they won't necessarily see obstacles on the marina or people at the front of their boats.

*This is a good opportunity for a timely reminder to all members and visitors to please take care not to obstruct the marina pathways allowing for people of all abilities to safely walk the marinas.*



# Darlingford



*Adam, Kate & Chloe from Addiction*



*Ethan, Isabella & Demsepy try out the mini golf*



*Brock, Sian & Lana Wilson from the Party Craft*



*Lachlan & Jorga from Liquid Assett*



*The gorgeous Molly & Zoe from Taurus II*



*Paula, Amanda & Lily from Lazy Days*



*Eammon Hamilton with Pam & Dyfrig visiting from Wales*



*Isabella & Jasmine from Chit Chat*



# Family Fun Day



Ayla & Brad Junor from Nymph



Brad & Donny - life guards?



Cooper & Brayden from Out of Reach



Daniel & Charlie from Vindicator



Miss Dempsey Feldtmann



Ethan Hamilton & Luke Ford



Eve Walter loved her gift bag



Mandy & Megan



Jo Junor and baby Skye Walter



Margie, Terry & Donny



Ryder Edwards looking very intense



Thomas & Mason from Wizard



Tia & Olivia from Chit Chat



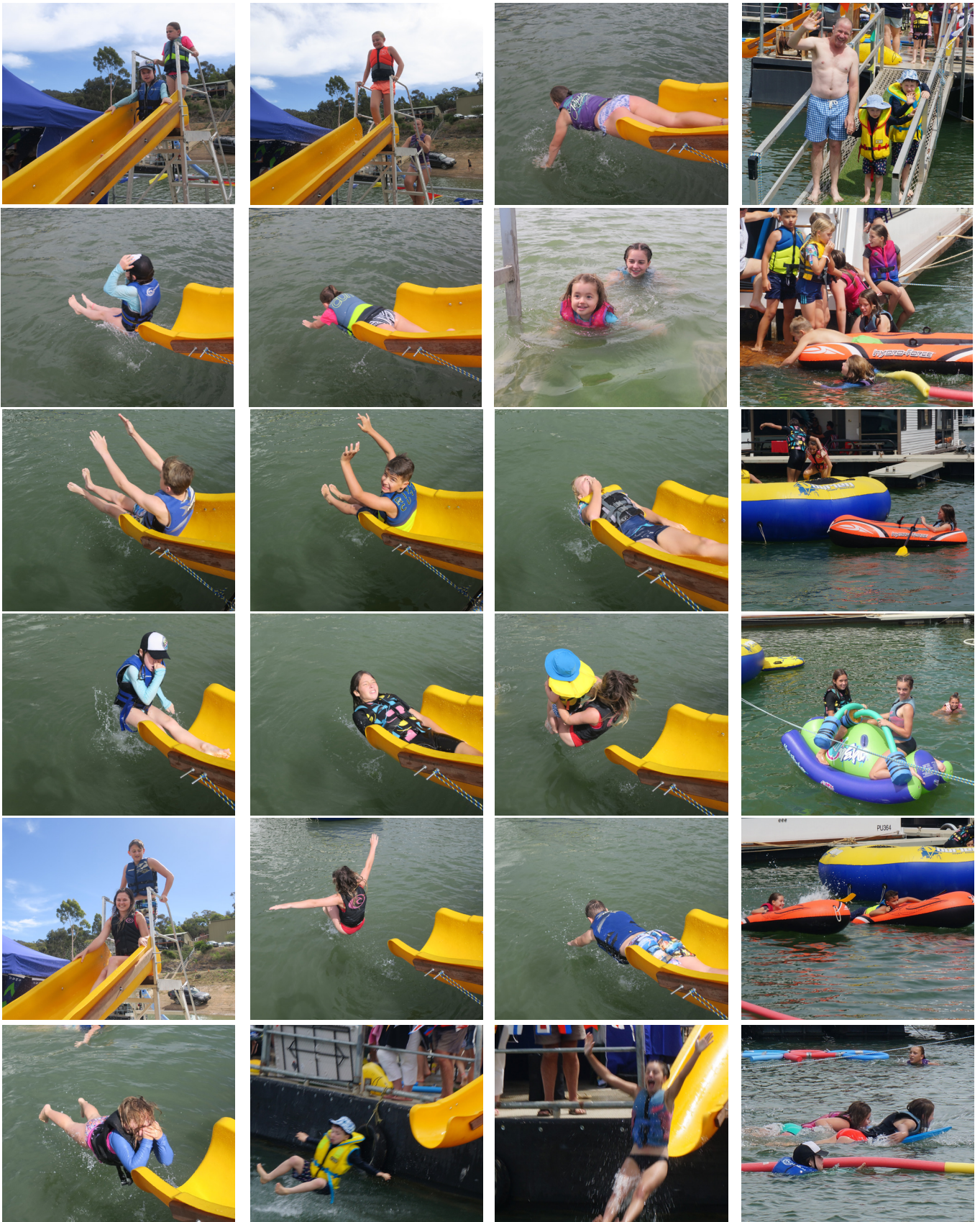
Gotcha Dad! - Adam & Emma



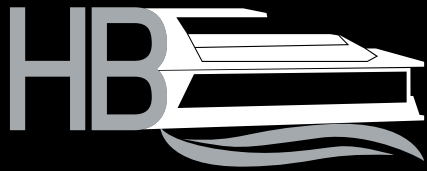
Stuart & Mara



# Our Kids At Play







HOUSEBOAT SALES LAKE EILDON

[www.houseboatsaleslakeeildon.com.au](http://www.houseboatsaleslakeeildon.com.au)

# LIVE THE DREAM

## Eildon's best place to buy & sell Houseboats!

We have been boating on Lake Eildon since 1970 over 45 years and three generations of passion experience and knowledge coming together to work for you. Please call Ray today, who is looking forward to meeting with you and working together to sell your houseboat.

Boat Sales Lake Eildon can also assist you with the sale of your Jet Ski or Ski Boat. Visit us online at [www.houseboatsaleslakeeildon.com.au](http://www.houseboatsaleslakeeildon.com.au), call Ray Van Schoonhoven on 0499 990 024 or drop into the office at Eildon OutBoards for a coffee and a chat.



45 YEARS EXPERIENCE

3RD FAMILY GENERATION LAKE EILDON



Eildon's most exclusive listings  
[www.hbpremium.com.au](http://www.hbpremium.com.au)



Build your own new houseboat  
[www.hbmarine.com.au](http://www.hbmarine.com.au)



BOAT SALES LAKE EILDON

Jetskis & boats for sale  
[www.boatsaleslakeeildon.com.au](http://www.boatsaleslakeeildon.com.au)

## DARLINGFORD FAMILY DAY - NIGHT TIME SNAPS



*Paul & Michael - the 5 O'clock Shadows*



*Adam & Kate*



*Anita & Marg Ivey*



*Brad & Kirsty - they love a dress up!*



*David & Gina*



*Here's trouble - Sean & Jarrod*



*Kim, Andy, Denise*



*Cooper & Brayden with their dad*



*Sue, Peter & Janette*



*Chloe & Ayla*



*Khloe, Mandy, Megan, Brad & Sean*



*Susie, Marney & Bernice*



*Tim, Daniel & Greg*



*Front row to the band*



*Neisha & Janine*



## ORGAN DONATION - THE GIFT OF LIFE

We recently received the greatest gift that anyone could ever give – a donor liver for Rodney. His call came at 6.30pm on Wednesday 28th February while out for tea celebrating Rodney's 46th birthday. That call meant we had to go to the Austin hospital immediately to prepare for the new liver. We were aware it could be a false alarm (the liver might not be suitable) but fortunately Rodney was the lucky one and 10½ hours later his new liver was in (they also took his gall bladder out).



Recovering in hospital just 11 days after the transplant

Rodney had a few hurdles in his initial recovery with high temperatures causing concern and the need for a further 2

hour surgery to put a stent in to help get rid of horrid kidney stones (which he still had nearly 2 months later and were very painful!). He also experienced a big rejection on the 8th day but this was successfully treated with more drugs. We were going to the Austin twice a week for blood checks and control of correct drug doses etc. but that is now down to once a week. Rodney is currently taking 13 tablets in the morning and 8 at night to keep everything on track.

It's been 8 weeks now and Rodney's body has taken to the liver quite well, and he has just gotten rid of those kidney stones, finally! This was a complication he really didn't need. He is still a bit weak but his energy levels are going up and after initially losing a lot of weight he is now regaining weight.

The reality for us is that Rodney only had 1-2 years left with his old liver and why he needed a transplant fairly quickly. His body will continue to try and reject the new liver every day for the rest of his life which will require constant monitoring and control of medication dosages to fend off rejection.

We can't thank the donor and the donor's family's enough for the special gift they have given Rodney, enabling him to return to a healthy, happy life and to be able to enjoy it without feeling sick,

to be well for his family and to watch his grandsons grow up.

Rodney is hoping to be fit and healthy enough to fly again by February 2019 so we can go to Bali for our 26th wedding anniversary as we missed going this year to celebrate our 25th because he wasn't well enough and was on the transplant list. He also plans to take our girls, their partners and our grandsons to QLD on a family trip in twelve months' time.

When the time is right we are able to write to the donor's family to thank them and tell them a bit about ourselves and our family. What we do know is that it was a very healthy liver and came from a man around the same age as Rodney. We can't possibly thank them enough. The donor and his family saved our family. Thank you is certainly not enough.

We would like to thank our family and friends who have been with us on this journey – we couldn't have done it without you.

To end, we would ask everybody to please consider organ donation to help save lives of ordinary Australians like Rodney. We will be forever grateful for this gift of life.

**Mandy Maroney (Working Class)**

### WHY DO I NEED TO REGISTER?

Joining the Australian Organ Donor Register is important. It leaves your family in no doubt of your decision about becoming an organ and tissue donor when you die.

The Australian Organ Donor Register is the only national register for people to record their decision about donating organs and tissues for transplantation after death.

The national Register provides a record of a person's donation decision for families and clinicians in the event of their death and can only be accessed by Authorised Medical Personnel to confirm your donation decision.

More than 1,300 Australians are on wait lists at any one time for a life-saving transplant. One organ and

tissue donor can save and transform the lives of 10 or more people.

If you are willing to one day save lives as an organ and tissue donor, please register your donation decision online today. It only takes a minute or two, all you need is your Medicare Card number.

It's also important to discuss your donation decision with your family and to ask and know their decisions.

If you previously recorded a donation decision on your state driver's licence, you still need to join the Australian Organ Donor Register.

South Australia is the only state where residents can record a donation decision via their driver's licence.

For information on organ donation refer to <https://register.donatelife.gov.au/>

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Happy birthday to:**

- Zoe Ford who was 15 on 16th March
- Leanne & Mark Ford both had April birthdays
- Shenae Maroney, 11th April
- Dempsey Feldtmann was 7 on 20th April
- Kevin Gannan's birthday was on ANZAC Day
- Bernice Boland, 27th April
- Kirsten Agius, 28th April
- Chloe Lewis, 30th April

**And having birthdays in May are:**

- Rosemary Baxter, 3rd May
- Greg Rennie, 4th May
- Amelia Feldtmann turns 9 on 5th May
- Ethel Ford, 12th May
- Danka Hycenko, 17th May
- Sandra Hollis, 17th May
- Luke Ford, will be 7 on the 20th May
- Joan Goodrich, 22nd May



# March

## NIBBLES-ON-THE-HILL

The Labour Day weekend was kicked off with Nibbles-on-the-Hill. What a fabulous way to start the weekend – a sausage in bread, dim sims on the barbie, a nice cold drink and a catch up with members. The Social Committee put on a great show so if you haven't been to one yet, make sure you get to the next Nibbles-on-the-Hill.



Dale, Twosie & Grassy

Greg & Rob



Barbara, Jenny, Denise, Terry & Jennie

Kirsty & Ethel



Neisha, Wes & Onsie

Greg & Barbara Martin & grandkids



Peter, Brad, Max & Janet

Ron, Alby & Stu



Looking good ladies!

Neisha's a winner

## ALEXANDRA RACE DAY

What started as a promising day of Picnic Racing (March 24), turned into a very wet affair. Unfortunately due to that huge storm front that hit the area just before the first race the races were subsequently abandoned. But we were not deterred. Fortunately our group had reserved tables inside the John O'Brien room and not out in a water logged marquee (thanks Anita) so whilst others packed up and went home the DWBC party stayed and...well...partied! There were plenty of races around the country so our "punters club" carried on albeit without much success. But a great time was had by all and some were even real winners on the day – SO WHITE so good!

Our Neisha managed to "win" the Fashions-in-the-Wet and Brett received a surprise birthday cake which we all enjoyed especially the locals! The rain stopped when it was time to go home so we continued on with Nibbles-on-the-Hill joined by a few more members who we found wandering the club. Thanks Donny for your catering efforts!



Anita & Gary - luv ya work Anita

Brad, Olivia, Jenny & Gary



Brett & Tim

Denise, Terry & Di



Happy birthday to Brett

Joanie & Goody (photo bombed)



Olivia & Jasmine entertained!

Homemade yuminess

## DAVID & KAREN'S ROTARY BIKE RIDE

David turned 75 on 3rd March, but had to wait till the 17th to celebrate with family and friends, as we had to be up at 5am on the 4th March to commence our annual Rotary Ride to Conference, raising money and awareness for Australian Rotary Health. I didn't fancy the chances of that even being possible. We didn't arrive back home till Friday the 9th and again, timing was a touch tight to prepare for a party on the 10th. So the 17th March was it.

I was so hoping to have the midday party outdoors and particularly under the 100 year old Oak Tree we have at home. Fortunately the weather was perfect.



Karen, son Glen & David under the big oak tree

David didn't want a party, or any fuss made about him (doesn't that sound familiar) but some things just need to be celebrated and I felt three quarters of a century was one of those times.

It was so good to catch up with long-time friends and family members, who we tend to neglect, due to... well, I suppose what we call other priorities, whatever they are. But it was a bit of a wakeup call to me that David's 92 year old aunt may not be around too much longer although, as fit as fiddle and as bright as you

would want to be at that age, her body is slowing a little and these really special people in our lives should not be put on the back burner whilst we do what we think is important right

now. Sorry, I digress, however it did highlight the importance of making time to just sit and have a cuppa with special people.



David ready to ride

Back to the bike ride: (for those of you that don't know, they are push bikes 'peddle power') the route was Bendigo to Wangaratta and believe me, there are no direct routes! We started from Bendigo, the first night was at Shepparton, the next night Mulwala, and then we had two nights at Albury and rode around Lake Hume, we did have to be trailered across some rough gravel roads but still managed to put in a 100km day. The next leg was from Albury to Bright – the highlight of this day was the descent from the top

of the Tawonga Gap into Bright. Those downhill moments make up for the many uphill our legs have to push their way through. Our final day was from Bright to Wangaratta along the rail trail.

Some statistics: - 2 broken spokes (both mine), 2 punctures (thankfully not mine), 29 riders and support crew, and we raised around \$30,000. We are the largest fundraiser for Mental Health in Australia, other than the Government.

Thank you to members of DWBC that sponsor us and have done for many years. It is greatly appreciated.

**Karen Brown**  
**Rest Ashore**

## SAIL PAST 2018

It's all about the **FOOD** this year.

**FOOD IS OUR THEME**

You can make it, bake it, roast it, fake it.....as long as it's **FOOD!**

Get your creative *juices* flowing...*serve* it up on the front of your boat!

→ **Saturday 3rd November**

*Our new look Sail Past on one great day!*





# April

## EASTER

While Easter officially started in March it was the start of the April school holidays and therefore many took the opportunity to have an extended stay on the lake. The weather was perfect yet again as was evidenced by the beautiful photos that were being uploaded to Facebook on the various local group pages. Gorgeous sunsets and mirror calm waters – ah the serenity.



Over Easter 3 budding environmentalists (our cover photo - **Ethan, Georgia and Lachlan** from B Marina) were spotted collecting rubbish from the area up towards the camping grounds. Over the day they collected 3 x large garbage

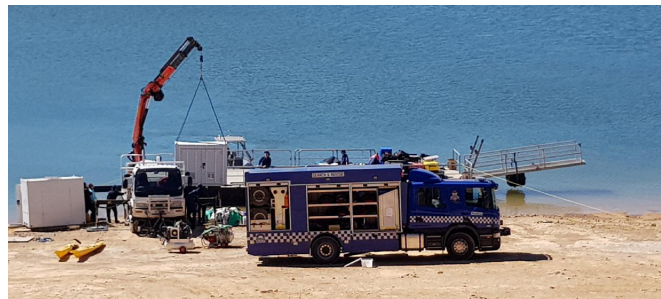
bags and items included clothing, car floor mats, bottles and cans etc. They also separated what they could recycle and had fun crushing the cans. That's a great job well done kids. It's just a pity that there was so much rubbish around in the first place for you to collect!

As mentioned by Garry in his report, the Victoria Police Search and Rescue training took place immediately after Easter with the use of our barge which provided quite a spectacle for those still holidaying in the marina.

As we go to print, a working bee is scheduled for Saturday 28th April. Hopefully some eager worker bees turned up to help out with a spot of gardening and general site clean-up.

Garry & Jenny were also planning to attend the Eildon service on ANZAC Day to lay a wreath on behalf of the club.

## VIC POLICE SEARCH & RESCUE TRAINING



*The work barge was transformed from the "family day" platform to the Search & Rescue dive training facilities within a very short time!*

## FAREWELL TO PETER, SUE & CHRIS SMITH

After 29 years on the lake Peter & Sue have sold their boat Southport. When they first came houseboating their daughter Melissa was a 15th month old baby. She is now a mother of 3 boys!

Peter says they will miss the lake but it's time to plan for retirement in 2-3 years which will probably involve a caravan or motorhome and seeing Australia.

Peter served as a Director in the years 1997, 1998 & 1999; Vice Chairman in 2000, 2001 & 2002; and Director in 2003, 2004 & 2005. He was also

the 2005 recipient of the Delia Ward Shield. Chris was a member of the Social Committee during 2012, 2013 & 2014. Sue was always a very active supporter to both Peter and Chris and the various committees.

We wish Peter, Sue and Chris all the very best in life off the lake.

The 2nd April was Peter & Sue's 35th wedding anniversary which they celebrated by holidaying in Bali. They had a great time but were glad to be home and out of the 100% humidity!

*Photo right: Sue & Peter celebrating in Bali.*



*L. Chris & Peter in 1995 and R. Chris & Peter in 2008*







Anchorage houseboats offer a wide range of services including

- Custom new houseboats built to perfection
- Renovations whether small or large
- Electrical services including solar, AV systems and lighting
- General engineering and stainless steel fabrication
- Sole NE distributor of Garmin GPS systems
- Houseboat sales

***Anchorage Houseboats 5774 2705***

Factory B, 11 Eildon Road, Eildon

[www.anchoragehouseboats.com.au](http://www.anchoragehouseboats.com.au)

[admin@ahboats.com.au](mailto:admin@ahboats.com.au) [sales@ahboats.com.au](mailto:sales@ahboats.com.au)

## A NOT SO HAPPY NEW YEAR

Margie Amoores holiday over the Christmas/New Year was abruptly interrupted on Thursday 28 December following an accident on the Wizard. She misjudged the depth off the step from the back deck on to the duck board and took a bad tumble.

At the time Graeme and Margaret were in Simpsons along with number of Darlingford boats and there was lots of support around to help. Eventually she was returned to the Marina using Maurie & Di's "Uber" boat. The return journey to the Marina was not without drama with the boat encountering a severe mini storm at the junction of Big River and Goulburn.



*Happy New Year from her hospital bed!*

Margaret was eventual transferred by Ambulance to the nearest suitable Emergency department- Maroondah Hospital in Ringwood. The diagnosis was a broken wrist and a ruptured Achilles tendon. She was transferred closer to home to Sandringham Hospital where the

wrist was plated and screwed and the leg enclosed in a moon boot.

All up Margaret spent 4 weeks in Hospital including 3 weeks in rehabilitation at Caulfield hospital. Even after discharge mobility was slow for several weeks with the wrist in a brace and on 2 crutches.



By 9th March Margaret was down to one crutch, weaning out of the moon boot and doing some good physiotherapy. During the recovery period and after 51 years of marriage Graeme has found many new skills he has never had to use before!

One important point from this accident is to remember to take your identification, iredit card, Medicare Card and medications with you if you have to take an emergency trip to hospital.

Graeme and Margaret are most thankful to all those people who helped out on the day and the many messages of good wishes.

By Easter Margaret was getting much more mobile and they now hope to be back on the water on a more regular basis, although the footy may interfere with that!

*I received this note from some weary travellers on 14th March:*

The Callinans are in Venice at the end of their 4 week trip overseas which started in Barcelona for a 2 week cruise down to Rome and back up to Barcelona. Unfortunately the weather has been very up and down experiencing snow, rain and strong winds which on several occasions, prevented us from docking in some of the scheduled ports. At the end of the cruise we flew to Milan, followed by Lake Como where it also rained continually. We are now off to Venice before we head home. It has been a beautiful holiday but we are looking forward to getting home to family, friends, Eildon, DWBC and seeing our boat. Australia is certainly the lucky country!



Daughter Krista was also overseas at the same time on an expedition to the Arctic Circle where she got to witness the magical Northern Lights.

## TREE CHANGE - NOT ENOUGH TIME FOR THE LAKE

After a very busy finish to 2017, we packed down our home of 20 years in Melbourne's inner west and moved one hour north of Melbourne.

Our new home is in Newham - a little village of about 25 small acreage



properties. Newham has a general store (well worth a visit), CFA, primary school and the community hall.

Our new place is seven acres - of which almost three acres is water - one of the main attractions of the property. We also look out over adjoining farm land to the infamous Hanging Rock. The views out over the dam to Hanging Rock don't match Lake Eildon views, but it's pretty good.

Between moving house, setting up the new place, and the girls starting at new schools, there's been no time for the lake - which we miss.

If we leave the lake one day we might bring the house boat with us - it would

make for great guest accommodation on our dam, with a pretty unique view out to the rock.

*Mike, Laura, Linda and Annie  
Moon Dancer, C Marina.*





## A JET SKI RIDE TO REMEMBER

It started as any normal Christmas break up on the lake. We were staying in Simpsons with a dozen boats from the Club. It was the afternoon of New Year's Eve and some of the boys and I planned a jet ski ride to Jamieson Brewery. We headed out on six jet skis – myself, Garry Forden, his son-in-law Adam, Luke Brinksma, Brad Rogers, Andrew Czompo and his son Lachlan. The ride took roughly 45 minutes; we sat up on the balcony and enjoyed a couple of beers before we headed back. On the way we stopped and had a beer with Dave and Rachael from Flat Out who were staying next to Allen Bay. On the trip home Andrew and Brad were a fair way in front with the other boys just behind me as we came across some rougher conditions as we passed Gough Bay. At a fast speed my jet ski hit a large wave, landing on top of the following wave with such force that my lower left leg was shattered and I was thrown into the water. Floating, I lifted my leg out of the water and what I saw was not a pretty sight, I immediately suspected my ankle was broken. Still in the water I waved over to Garry and Adam showing them my ankle. The decision was then made

for Adam to go back to Simpsons to collect a ski boat and Garry would ring an ambulance. By now it was 5:30pm and there was no sign of Luke. We later learnt he had broken down somewhere behind us. A ski boat offered to tow him but he said he had some mates on jet skis that would soon come looking for him. Floating in the water waiting for Adam I decided to pull myself up onto my jet ski and ride back to Darlingford with Garry while he attempted to call an ambulance. By this time Adam had arrived back at Simpsons, telling the others of my accident. The boys and Kirsty Rogers got a ski boat and passed Neisha, my partner, asking her to come with them. Neisha, thinking that it was Garry Forden that was hurt, declined saying that she wasn't good at dealing with things like this. Meanwhile Luke was still floating on his jet ski somewhere near Goughs Bay, thinking his mates will be back soon to get him. Finally arriving back at Darlingford I rode my jet ski up the bank next to C Marina as Anita Rennie and a couple of others rushed over to help just as Garry and the ski boat arrived. The boys carried me up onto the bank. Kirsty told me that Neisha was not coming

because she couldn't deal with it, which I thought was a bit funny. The police shortly arrived, followed by Neisha in Andrew's boat, quickly trying to explain that she didn't know it was actually me that was injured and that she really did care! Next the ambulance arrived giving me the 'green whistle'. The whistle was a long time coming but it was fantastic! Meanwhile, Luke, who is still stranded and starting to think he has no mates, was picked up by the same ski boat who offered him a tow earlier. It was a very slow and long tow back to Simpsons for him. Once finding

out about the accident he felt a little better about being left by his mates, who were a little preoccupied helping me. I arrived at Maroondah Hospital at 8:30pm New Year's Eve, was knocked out and had my leg straightened and put into plaster. When I woke up I was told that I had smashed my tibia and fibula bone and would have to be operated on in the morning. At 9:30 the next morning I had surgery on my tibia, with a plate put in, screws fitted and an external frame covering my lower leg and

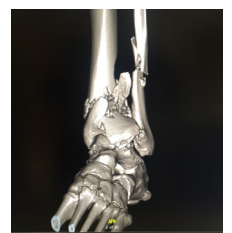


ankle, holding my fibula together. On the 15th of January I had my second surgery, this time on my fibula where I had eighteen screws and a plate fitted. On the 20th I was allowed to go home with my new wheelchair and crutches, with no weight to be put out on my leg for three-to- four months. Since I have been home I have been back to Darlingford 4 or 5 times, but spent most of my time sitting on my bum watching a lot of TV. On the 22nd of March I went to see Orthopedic Surgeon, Paul Rice, at The Avenue in Prahran. The good news being that he is happy with how the two operations went at Maroondah Hospital and the way everything is healing. However the bad news is that I will need to have my ankle fused and have the plates and screws removed in yet another surgery. This will have to wait until all the bones have recovered with no weight bearing for another month but will be starting physiotherapy next week. I would like to thank my family, Neisha, Ashton and Teagan for looking after me and everyone at Darlingford who have helped and shown their support.

*Thanks everyone.*

*Gary Crump  
Out Of Reach*

*That's one  
nasty break!*



**BSA**  
Battery Systems Australia

**BATTERIES and CHARGERS**  
Energy storage / Solar / Houseboat

**12V / 24V / 48V & Custom Systems**

**Lead acid for cyclic applications**

**Capacity to 2000Ah single string.**

**Installation available (REC13442)**

**Battery Systems Australia Pty Ltd**

**Bayswater and Bonnie Doon**

**03 9739 8371**

**Tony 0418 278 020**

[www.batterysys.com](http://www.batterysys.com)



## **LAKE EILDON HOUSEBOATS & SALES**

Rod Edwards: 0427 837 385. Factory 3/11 Eildon Road, Eildon, 3713



Lake Eildon Houseboats & Sales have two generations of houseboat builders working together to build and maintain your houseboat. Rod & Lisa Edwards; along with 2 of their son's Brock and Chevy; have always maintained an extremely high level of care and detail to everything they carry out for their clients. Rod and Lisa established their houseboat business back in 2004 and are Eildon's most experienced and reliable houseboating company. #edwardsbuilt motto is simple; do the job as if it were your own.

Lake Eildon Houseboats & Sales can cater for every aspect of your houseboating requirements; ranging from new boat builds, renovations, hardtops, pontoon replacements right through to general slipping. 2 of our recently launched super boats are Amore @ Eildon Boat Club and Carte Blanche @ Eildon Boat Club. Inspections are available on these 2 super boats (by appointment only).

As an approved Goulburn Murray Water Contractor and Compliance Inspector, Rod and the team can ensure your houseboat maintenance, repairs or modifications are carried out to correct standards and comply with all current regulations. Our quality of workmanship far exceeds our client's expectations; all of us at #edwardsbuilt pride ourselves on that level of quality.

If you would like to make an inquiry, please do not hesitate to call Rod on 0427 837 385 or better still; call down and see us at Factory 3, 11 Eildon Road, Eildon.



Max Power bow & stern thrusters are the top choice by prestigious boat builders worldwide for their **optimal performance, build quality, longevity and design.**





# Darlingford Briefs

Excited grandparents to be, Anita and Greg, are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their first grandchild. Stacey & Dale Penjin are expecting their first baby in July so there is much excitement building on D marina.

**The new look FREEDOM is back, finally! It's been so long Rob forgot the way in.**

SCHINOLA has had renovations too with a total recladding undertaken. Mike & Marney also celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary (on Feb 18) by attending the "Longest Lunch" (4hrs grazing) at Holmesglen, Snobs Creek.

**TIME OUT also had some time out from the water with Macca doing some maintenance (well so he claims) on pontoons and other bits. Rumour has it though he just supervised his boys, Toddy and Berty and others....**

Jo Gardner has certainly embraced her "retirement" from the ANZ. After 32 years Jo finished at the bank at the end



*So it's a bit of a different shot to the wine glass at Eildon. But what the heck!*

of March then promptly had an extended Easter on the lake with Tim, followed by a sojourn down the peninsular with girlfriends and topped off with an impromptu trip to Bali. And then there's a big trip to the States coming up. Now that's certainly a great start to life after the bank Jo!

**There is always work to do on a houseboat and we don't usually want to do the same job twice. Poor Jennie had just revarnished their duckboard when a dust storm blew up right over the top of their boat. Yep, one job had to be totally redone. Damn!**

In early March Donny enjoyed a lovely warm and DRY week at Trinity Beach (north of Cairns). Dry because he just



made it out in time before the big rains hit and the area copped major flooding. Good timing too Donny

– you got home in time to supervise Macca on the barbie for Nibbles-on-the-Hill!

**It wasn't a rumour, she really did turn 60, on April 19. Happy birthday Jenny Forden, hope you had a great weekend away with the family. Jen will be celebrating this milestone later in June when she and Garry go on their first overseas holiday, with all the family.**

On 10th March Garry & Jenny also reached that ruby milestone of 40 years married. A big year for you Jen!

**Other wedding anniversaries to mention: Maurie & Di celebrated 45 years 23rd March and Stu & Denise ticked over 52 years on 12th March.**

Talking of S&D, they woke to the sound of scratching under their bed on the boat recently. Wondering if their night was bigger than they remembered, they set out in search of the cause. Finally, the culprit was found, a small Bat, which they managed to catch unharmed and set free.

**The hosts on Carrera returned to their boat after an expedition to Alexandra to celebrate Alan Webb's Birthday and were taken aback to find a person in their boat sucking on a can of vitamin B. Seems that Donny decided he was not going to miss out on happy hour even if the hosts were absent!**

Best wishes to Trish Gurrieri who has been having treatment for serious illness over recent months. We hope you continue to stay well now Trish and that Shelle Belle keeps spoiling you.

**Cate from Black Marlin is 16 years old and all grown up! Cate is in year 11 at Salesian College in Sunbury and in March made her debut at her school's presentation ball held at Moonee Valley Racecourse.**



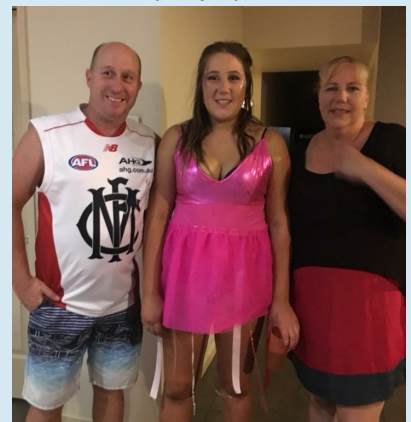
*Cate Agius & her deb partner John*

Two belated birthday photos that didn't make it in time for the last mag:-



Above is Braydon Ford at his 21st with dad Mark and mum Leanne.

Below is Jessica Ford at her 18th with dad Darren and mum Danielle. Jessica was dressed up as jelly fish!



**And WES is turning 70 on 4th May. Happy birthday Wes! It's been a big 6 months for the Ford clan! Anymore?**

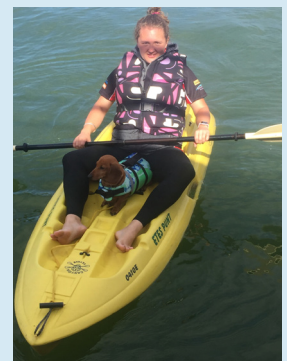
Happy 70th birthday also to the lovely Dianne Callinan (15th April).

**It's been busy in the McEldrew household over the past 6 months with 2 weddings to organise. Jenna & Luke Stuart were married in November and Kate & Casey Stewart were married in February. Grassy is still recovering!**

Did you hear the rumour that TWO Rs is really ONE R but hopes to be TWO Rs again. Well we thought it was funny!

This is a lot less strenuous than walking on those little legs!

Tabatha is along for the ride with Mikaela.





20 SUGARLOAF RD  
EILDON, VIC, 3713

**03 5774 2132**

[eildonoutboard@virtual.net.au](mailto:eildonoutboard@virtual.net.au)

**Tony Keddell**  
**40+ Years**  
**Experience**

### SERVICE AGENTS

- Inboard, Outboard, Sterndrive servicing & repairs
- Seadoo servicing & repairs
- Sales of New and Used:
  - Engines
  - Generators
  - Boats
  - Trailers
- Water Sports accessories & PFD's
- Safety Gear
- Large range of Marine and Deep Cycle Batteries
- Fibre glassing parts and accessories
- Pontoon and Deck Paint range
- Storage Sheds
- All your boat needs in one showroom

- MERCURY
- MERCUISER
- MALIBU
- SEADOO
- HONDA
- EVINRUDE
- YAMAHA
- YANMAR
- MASE
- ONAN
- KOHLER
- WESTERBEKE
- PLUS MANY MORE

### PLEASURE CRAFT INSURANCE AGENTS



#### **OFF SEASON OPENING HOURS**

**MON-FRI: 8am – 4:15pm**

**SAT: 9am – 1pm**

**SUN: CLOSED**

### SALES AGENTS

- MERCURY
- MERCUISER
- MASE
- YANMAR
- ONAN
- KOHLER
- WESTERBEKE
- LOWRANCE
- RAY MARINE
- RUNAWAY BAY  
PONTON BOATS
- SAVAGE BOATS

