

Houseboat

May 2020 Issue 101



The Amazing Race on Family Day

Before the Coronavirus closed our club! See pages 12, 16-21



Houseboat

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DWBC GPS CO-ORDINATES

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

Cover photo: *Darlingford Family Day*



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 18/05/20

Dear Members

We have all been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past 10 weeks. I hope that as the restrictions begin to lift and our government 'tests the waters' so to speak, with a return to some sort of normalcy, that each of you find yourselves in a similar circumstance to before all of this. I hope that your businesses can return to strength swiftly, that your places of employment reopen to the support of Australian's and that your families are in good spirits and even more connected.

Our boat club has demonstrated a sense of responsibility in playing our part throughout all of this, and I sincerely thank each of you for your patience and understanding. I understand the frustrations felt of not being able to access your boat without appointment and necessity, and I thank you for the excellent way you each handled this. We are a club of 98 members – that's 98 individuals and families who listened and acted according to government advice, the information of the authorities and the requests on behalf of our board.

At the time of writing, as a Board, we have recently announced a set of new processes for access to the site, which involves the completion of a COVID-19 Declaration before accessing the site and there again if your circumstances change at any time in relation to your health and movements. The Directors have remained abreast of the fast changing situation and available information, and we have created these processes with the health and safety of our members and employees as a priority.

I look forward to when overnight stays on the lake can be allowed again, and to us all enjoying our little piece of paradise – particularly as water levels continue to rise.

I would like to thank Scott Wikman from GMW, the team at Eildon Police Station, Murrindindi Shire's CEO Craig Lloyd and Martin Hunt from Williams Hunt for their ongoing advice, support and updates in relation to this situation and our club, as well as the other houseboat clubs and LEHIA for their camaraderie and approach. This has been a difficult situation for everyone involved and it's great to have everyone working together.

As we navigate the return to 'normal', I must stress that we should all continue to listen to the experts, follow the current advice of 'stay home unless it's necessary' and look after one another as best we can. We are not 'out of the woods' yet and we must remain vigilant.

Take care.



Brett Lewis
Board Chairman / Commodore
Darlingford Waters Marina Pty Ltd

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

COVID-19, Coronavirus, self-isolation, social distancing, remote learning, Zoom meetings – these words were not part of our everyday vernacular when I produced the last issue. How things have changed in just 5 months! Life is certainly very different living under Stage 3 Coronavirus Restrictions and I wonder, when all the restrictions are finally lifted, what our "normal" will be.

I'm sure no one expected our world would be so dramatically impacted by a virus originating in China but we have been, all similarly and yet differently. How are we coping? This magazine is primarily focused on just that, to record what living through this pandemic means. We have newborn babies and very young children in the club that won't know what all the fuss was about but they will be able to read all about it right here, when they're older. So don't through your magazine out, keep it for posterity!

Thank you to everyone who contributed their ISO story, and sent photos and other news items. It's always very much appreciated and you've helped create a bumper issue!



Margie Elliott
Editor

**IF IT'S NEWS AT DARLINGFORD OR
YOU JUST HAVE NEWS TO SHARE
SEND THE EDITOR AN EMAIL TO
magazine@darlingford.com.au**



Brad Junor mastering the 'foil'

THE SPIRIT OF SUMMER!



Chloe McLindin, Addiction



Luke Johnson, Cool Breeze



Ayla Junor, Metis, takes an impressive dive off the 'foil'!

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE

2020 certainly started in the right direction and with warm summer nights, social gatherings were the “norm” with many enjoying sunset sippers around the club. The Australia Day and Labour Day long weekends saw the rebirth of our “Nibbles on the Hill”, the smell of a snag cooking on the BBQ certainly drew a crowd and it was great to see so many happy smiling faces.

Our first social event was our annual Darlingford Day celebrations and once again what a fabulous day had by all – the proof is in the pictures!!!

Our next planned event was supporting the local region with the annual Alex Race Day. This event was building up to be a day filled with good old country entertainment and with a bus FULL of Darlingford members dressed to impress, we were ready! Then came the news a Global Pandemic had hit and the event cancelled - life and socialisation as we knew it changed forever!

So whilst we adjust to life in ISO with social

limitations, the Activities Committee at Darlingford still remains active!

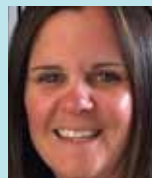
Planning for any upcoming social activities and events across the club for the remainder of 2020 will continue, however the type, timing and execution of all activities will depend on Government and relevant Authority guidelines at the time.

The Activities Committee will continue to support and follow instructions from the DWBC Board of Directors.

Although 2020 may not be the year for mass gathering – the Activities Committee are planning to return to a full Social Calendar in 2021, we are also discussing the “potential” of another major offsite event – so watch this space.

We thank our members for their continued support towards our social events

Stay safe and well and we will see you on the lake soon.



Kirsty Rogers
Activities Committee

The thrills and spills of waters sports!

Left & opposite page: These four fantastic action shots were captured by Jo Junor over the summer holiday period.

FACILITY MANAGER'S REPORT - 15/05/20

With the Covid-19 restrictions in place it's been very hard up here at the club; walking the marinas every morning and afternoon with no one to talk to, not even Macca to have chat with! It makes you wonder if this is ever going to end.

However, the Directors have just announced we can start lifting restrictions allowing club members gate access for the first time in 8 weeks enabling you to come in and check your houseboats. Unfortunately GMW still has the ban on staying overnight on your houseboat, but hopefully this won't last for much longer and we can start returning back to normality.

With the warm weather well and truly gone, winter has really set in with snow even on the nearby hills and freezing frosty nights to boot. There's been great rainfall during the last month and the lake is currently at 42.5% which is much higher than the 35.8% for the same time last year. I'm not wearing shorts any longer – it's back into the long pants and sometimes even thermals!

This time last year I was getting ready to go to New Zealand for a fishing trip – now I'm sitting here typing this and I haven't been able to go fishing here until 2 days ago! I've

been yelling at Dan on the TV to let us go fishing but Steph kept saying for the first month "he's doing the right thing". Well now, into the second month Steph is yelling at Dan to "let him go fishing" and is telling everyone that I'm driving her crazy!

All in all, Steph and myself are well and very happy to see the restrictions being lifted and Teddy and Scruffy are happy to see people coming back to the club. When all restrictions are finally lifted please support Bruce and his team over at 501 at Jews as they have been hit hard with the restrictions and are really struggling.

When you come up you will notice my work barge is out of the water and currently getting a much-needed face lift.

That's it from me, keep well and stay safe everyone. We look forward to seeing you all soon.



Ric Perna
Facility Manager



Breakdown - it happens to the best of us Ric...and someone always sees!



The wash bay has now been repositioned and there's plenty of room to manoeuvre your boats.

Welcome

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members

- Gavin & Ilona McArthur – Limited (C)
- Alan Trathan – Blinda II (A)
- Neil & Julie Jones – (B)
- Stephen & Andy Kiely – Rollerskate (B)

Unfortunately for Stephen & Andy they bought their boat just as ISO restrictions came in so they haven't even had a chance to use it!

Yes, footy is back on the 11th June.

That means our footy tipping competition will also kick off again. So don't forget to place your tips.



Thanks to everyone who joined up this year for our first comp.

Please note it is a winner takes all prize money!

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - 04/05/20

What a past 5 months we have had.

I'd love to be in a position to tell a story of history as I did last edition, but we are in the midst of a period in history that needs to be marked, so I will summarize where we are and how we got here.

- Late in March DWBC received correspondence from Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) stating that: "The government is saying to Victorians if they can stay home, they must stay home and avoid all non-essential activities. We have been advised houseboats are considered a non-essential activity. Please comply with the request of government to remain at home."
- By late morning that day the background of due diligence accrued by our Secretary, Chairman and myself, over the previous weeks from local government, Australian government, Covid19 helpline, DHHS, local police and our club lawyer, was provided to all Directors
- A phone hook-up meeting was held with the Board of Directors and it was agreed unanimously "That DWBC is closing its facilities and services from Monday 5pm March 30. Any access to your boat after this time will be by appointment only via our Facilities Manager, Ric Perna, via dwbcmarina@bigpond.com or on mobile. No member services will be available effective immediately."
- A number of members chose to isolate on the lake prior to the closure. Over the pursuant weeks, a couple of members remained in isolation on the lake until on April 8th GMW emailed the club: "As a result, with Lake Eildon closed for all recreation boating, including the use of houseboats, can you please request that any houseboats that are outside of the marina please return immediately."
- During this period, my reasoning for voting to close the club, was primarily the wellbeing of our employee Ric and his family. As Site Director I have a duty of care to provide a safe workplace. From the government directive to "stay at home", coupled with the non-essential travel notice from the State Government and with many, many phone calls, texts and back ground information gathering, it was clear to me that the best option was to close the club.

In order to address some concerns I have heard from members I offer:

- Why was the club closed?
 - To protect Ric and his family in their place of work
 - To comply with government and local council directives
 - To limit liability from advice of DWBC lawyer

- Why did the ruling around we can stay, we can't stay change?
 - Federal, State and Local government (including GMW) rulings changed almost daily in the early stages of the Level 3 restrictions
- Why is DWBC closed and not the other clubs?
 - Every club with the exception of EBC is closed
 - I was in constant contact with Bruce (Jews) and BJ (Harbour) and everything we did was in line with their closures
 - Jews had 1 permanent resident remaining onsite
 - Harbour had 4 members isolating on separate marina's
- Why did the board stop overnight stays?
 - In order to protect our employees, and limit liability to the club: e.g.
 - If members stayed onsite while all services were suspended, what if there was a medical emergency?
 - The risk to our employees and the club was deemed too high. Elimination of risk is the highest protocol on risk hierarchy management.
- As we now wait for the next government directive, the board has (on 23 April) lowered the restrictions around non-essential works onsite for local contractors, however:
 - Whilst overnight stays are still restricted, local tradesman are welcomed back via appointment through Ric
 - The traffic control remains in place to allow Ric control over people onsite – hence all fobs remain switched off.
 - *(Note: since Luke's report was written the fobs are now switched back on.)*

Other things to note around club maintenance include:

- Ric and Jimmy continue to service the club, marinas are currently been relocated, jumped almost weekly which is an incredibly good sign for water level recovery.
- The crane barge overhaul is a priority, however weather and a constant need to move blocks currently is slowing progress on that front.
- In last 5 days (to the 04/05/20) the lake has come up the bank 9M, hitting the 3M line of the boat ramp.
- Ric, Jimmy, Brad and I turned the wash bay around and jumped all 4 marinas and relocated blocks.

Cont'd on page 9



SECRETARY'S REPORT - 18/05/20

Dear Members

What a way to capture this profound moment in history – a COVID-19 version of our DWBC magazine. As I write this, I am as excited as you to read about the ways in which people have managed through this situation - with perhaps a few funny stories or pictures!

Times like these bring out the best in people, Australians in particular, and it has been heartening to see the innovation and imagination of so many. From repurposed distillery waste to create hand sanitiser, to a small company in country Victoria who are now producing almost 200,000 masks a day instead of their usual two million per year, creating more than 30 new jobs in their small town and working alongside the Australian Army, it really has been an outstanding response.

The Aussie spirit has also been evident in the community response to this crisis. There are now Facebook groups aimed at celebrating kindness (the kindness pandemic), I have witnessed great displays of patience and understanding in shopping centres as people are having a joke

whilst standing in long queues, and our nations' children have had to transition to learning from home and have been supported so well by schools and teachers. It really is evident how adaptable we are.

But what has all of this meant for our special home-away-from-home?

The restrictions that the pandemic brought about at the end of March translated into extraordinary processes being implemented at Darlingford. The Board of Directors worked closely with all levels of government and industry bodies to ensure we were acting responsibly with the health and safety of our members and employees a priority at all times.

It was a tough week for everyone, and as the world shut down, in effect, so did we. Whilst access was still possible to the site and boats via appointment for essential activities, for most of us, it meant we couldn't escape all of the craziness and seek refuge on the lake.

As we now begin taking steps to return to 'normal', we must continue to be responsible. Let's enjoy the freedom's of connecting with our

friends and family in person in small groups, online and over the phone and hopefully it won't be too long before we are all back, enjoying overnight stays on our boats. I know that my family cannot wait to return to the lake!

In closing, I wanted to make a huge shout out to Margie for creating this masterpiece – it takes time, but also lots of enthusiasm, which she has in abundance. To my fellow Directors, thank you for the hearty debate, good conversation and commitment to doing what's best for our club. To Ric, Jimmy and Steph, thank you for being so positive and adaptable, and finally, to all of our members, thank you for your continued support of our club. We are almost 'full' and that is a testament to the great community and family environment we each contribute to.

Wishing you all good health, warmth and happiness.



Lisa Glassborow
Secretary / Director



We never expected to see a sign like this on our gate. Nor did we expect to be practising social distancing for an extended period of time i.e. keeping 1.5 metres away from others and avoiding physical greetings such as handshaking, hugs and kisses.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

Finally, from a personal perspective, may I thank the entire club. The support I have had from your board has been first class. The work, particularly of the Secretary has been outstanding and I might say at times under extreme pressure.

And to those members onsite on 28 March when I visited every boat both on both the marina's and on the lake to advise of the closure, I thank you all, your response and understanding was wonderful. I could see and hear the disappointment from every member, particularly when Easter tends to complete the season on a high, and that was taken from us due to this virus.

Here is looking forward to 2020/21 season, and my hope that DWBC and our members are not touched directly by this virus.



Luke Brinksmas
Site Director

A RARE INTERNATIONAL TRIP FOR 2020!

Before the world was thrown into chaos and international borders closed, a few lucky people managed to get their long planned for holiday in and completed. One lucky couple was Stuart and Denise Steer – and they even returned safely home before quarantine was obligatory. The following is Stu's summary of their trip to Japan in February.

We flew into Tokyo where we visited cultural sites and temples during the day followed by a dinner cruise around Tokyo Bay. This was in a Japanese style houseboat known as a Yakatabune, not quite our style of houseboat! If you go to Tokyo, I recommend this cruise.

Then we were off to Hakone, the start to our traditional Japanese style of living. Our introduction included: toilets with heated seats and a control for warm water spray to wash your bum (working out the controls was a bit hit and miss!); and stripping off for the hot spring baths – separate for male and female, but no modesty allowed.

We had a cruise along Lake Ashi with great views of Mt Fuji, Japans highest mountain at 3776m. Then we travelled on a ropeway gondola to an open-air museum which included a display of Picasso's work. We travelled to Yudanaka, Takayama, Kanazawa and Kyoto over several days by bus and bullet trains. The bullet trains carry 1780

passengers and run every 5 minutes. On the way we visited the snow monkeys and a lot of historical sites.



A beautiful clear day to see Mt Fuji

Kyoto is Japans cultural capital and has been destroyed many times by fire and war. Due to its historic value it was spared the atomic bomb and air raids during world war two. There is a lot to see in Kyoto; we tried on traditional Kimono's, made some sweets and visited a Sake brewery. We were unable to see a Geisha show but managed a Meiko show, the apprentice Geisha's.

Next stop was Sapporo on the island of Hokkaido for the snow and ice sculpture festival, which was our main reason for this trip. Temperatures in Sapporo were -5 to -15 and there was a lot of snow, up to 10 mts on the local mountains. There are lots of shopping arcades underground where it was much warmer. The ice sculptures were

fantastic but the photo's do not do them justice. The snow sculptures are up to 6m high and include flowers, animals, buildings etc. At night they are lit up and spectacular.

The highlights for us were:

- Raw fish and rice which you can have for breakfast, lunch and dinner (but not for me!).
- The road and railway construction through the mountains are amazing – 10,300 tunnels.
- The longest tunnel on the mainland is 18km while the rail tunnel to Hokkaido is 53km with 23km under the sea.
- Kyoto was the most interesting of the cities.
- Sapporo for the snow festival which is held early February each year.



Stu & Denise on an ice sculptured lounge complete with masks!

SUMMERTIME FUN

Josh, Brad & Ayla Junor, Chloe & Emma McLindin, Amelia Feldtmann and Josh's friend Jack.

HAPPY ★ Australia Day

Australia Day weekend 2020 was busy as usual on the lake with plenty of sunshine, boating and celebrations.

We kicked off with a 'Nibbles-on-the-Hill' sausage sizzle which was very well attended and were joined by new members, John, Louise & Jeremy Ward, and Ellie Shaw. It was nice to see former member Kirsten Agius and her partner Gary up for a visit too.

Gough's Bay Boat Club held a fantastic afternoon of

"Goughstock" on the 25th with a few member groups joining in their music and dancing. Some may have enjoyed this a little too much! This event is well worth considering for next year if you're down that part of the lake.

Lots of Aussie pride was on display over the weekend. Great effort by those who showed off their flags and sent in their photos. Thanks!



Rose & Don just watching on



Joe & Mary Falzon and granddaughter Chelsea Portelli



Kirsty Rogers & Louise Ward



Ric & Joe



John Ward & Steph Perna



Anita Rennie & Ellie Shaw



Glenda & Ian Hudson



Mary, Chelsea & Terry



3 newbies...Ellie, John & Louise



Jedda's just filling a spot!



Olivia & Jasmine Rogers



Kirsten Agius with Glen & Gary



Here's a rowdy bunch at Gough Stock!



Brad, Ayla and Josh Junor



Ella Brinksma and Eloise & Carla



Luke Brinksma with his EBC mate Toolie, and Raz & Viney



Terry Stewart



The young girls from B Marina



Alison Brinksma with her EBC mate Marsha



The Goodrich and Elliott gang



The Evans clan from Joyrider



*The phantom wanted the front cover but it was bumped by a virus!
These Aussie kids from B marina are: L-R: Taya, Brodie, Lara, Ruby, Charlee, Gracie, Blake, Marli, Mia & Cooper..*

DARLINGFORD DAY

WOW - WHAT ANOTHER FABULOUS DARLINGFORD DAY HAD BY YOUNG AND OLD.....

This year saw a different format to our annual Darlingford Day celebrations with our Activities Committee hosting the event at water level and thankfully the weather gods were on our side!!

In previous years, the focus was on celebrating Darlingford Day with kid's activities during the day and then hosting a celebration in the big shed in the evening. This year the celebrations were shaken up with the entire event hosted on the work barge and WOW what an atmosphere the club created. With so many positive comments and member feedback received we will definitely continue with this format in 2021.

Our 2020 celebrations started in style with our own version of the "Darlingford Day AMAZING RACE". An event that has now become part of the inaugural "Darlingford Day Shield"

Over 70 spectators watched from various viewing points as 31 eager kids (some with a little extra help) were waiting patiently on kayaks, canoes and paddleboards to tackle the 11 Pit Stops which were spread over 11 houseboat duckboards. Each pit stop had its enthusiastic Pit Stop Supervisors ready for action!

The work barge and water between C & D marina were alive and buzzing with anticipation for what lay ahead So after a few small instructions the Race began. Our 11 pit stop challenges were made up of both physical and cognitive activities with each offering challenging fun. Points were allocated to teams at each pit stop which determined the overall winner. Challenges included: Darlingford Knowledge, Apple Bobbing, Memory, Bullseye, Straw Ping Pong, Word Search, Basketball and Bowling, I-Spy, Tiny Hands Challenge, Taste and Touch and Water Bombing Challenge. – Can you guess which activity was voted the most popular by the kids???

The good old APPLE BOBBING (Pit Stop 2) was the favorite, closely followed by the WATER BOMBING challenge (Pit Stop 11) and then the TASTE and TOUCH challenge (Pit Stop 10). Laughter, squeals or gags echoed across the water.

On behalf of the Activities Committee we wish to thank everyone who supported this amazing event and especially the Pit Stop Supervisors:

- Ilona & Gavin (Limited)
- Greg & Gina (Evening Skye)
- Paula & Michael (Driften Too)
- Stuart & Denise (Wizard)
- Jo & Craig (Metis) & Adam (Addiction)
- Terry (Time Out) and Janette (The Craic)
- Glen and Janine (San Simeon)
- Pete & Margie (KiknBak) & Judy (Shiraz)
- Gaz & Neisha (Out of Reach)
- Brett & Donna (Kokomo) & Frosty & Kath
- Shona & Brad (Imka)
- Mark & Darren Ford (Taurus II)

The Taste and Touch challenge certainly gave many priceless comments and facial expressions from our competitors. Comments such as "mum I think I ate dog food"- ummm ... no, just to clarify it was beef jerky!! Gag reflexes were also challenged with the taste of a litchi. So much fun was had.

An Amazing Race wouldn't be complete without a ROAD BLOCK OBSTACLE and thanks to Mark and Darren Ford (Taurus II) the kids were challenged to a Slippery Pole and Balance Beam. Told there was \$50 at the top for those who could reach it made this, not just a challenge, but a competition for young and old (Greg Walter)!! OH YEAH, did we forget to mention the pole was covered in Vaseline!! Hence why \$50 went straight back into the FORD KITTY!!

With each participant safely back on dry land and the Pit Stop Supervisors able to sit and relax the food, drink and music began to flow. The buzz was electric with lots of chit chat surrounding the success of another fabulous Darlingford Day and with that we are delighted to congratulate:

DANIEL COX (Dragon Lady II) – as the first member to win the inaugural "Darlingford Day Shield" top effort Daniel after winning the Amazing Race. (2nd Olivia Rogers, Chit Chat and 3rd Brayden Forsyth, San Simeon).

Our members were also treated to an amazing food offering across the day, including BBQ, party food, fruit and platters. A huge shout out to Anita (Wye Wurri) for her efforts preparing food on the day with helping hands from Mandy (K-Sera) and Mary (Weirwolf).

Overall, it was a yet another fantastic Darlingford Event. Seeing our members across all generations engage and participate in this event really does show the true "Darlingford Spirit" which is why we believe we are the "Number 1 Family Club" on the lake.

We look forward to promoting and creating yet another fabulous Darlingford Day and we hope to have your continuous support and assistance in 2021. Enjoy the photos!

Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all back at the lake very soon.

Kirsty Rogers
Activities Committee
Chit Chat



Kirsty with Daniel Cox, the inaugural winner!



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A very big thank you is extended to **Jo Junor (Metis)** for taking all our family day photos. This was no mean feat given the number of participants, pit stops, spectators and watercraft she had to cover throughout the afternoon! Jo managed to capture some fantastic photos including this group shot above. *It really didn't take too long to get us all in position to be seen...or too many takes to get a decent shot! Thanks Jo!*

You can see Jo's photos on pages 16-23. These are not captioned as I didn't know everyone in them and didn't want to get names wrong or omit anyone. If you would like a digital copy of any of the family day photos please email me at magazine@darlingford.com.au with the photo details and I'll be happy to forward.

Jo runs her own business '**Creative Eye Photography**' specialising in newborn babies. Check out her Facebook page.



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EARLY SOCIAL DISTANCING PRACTICE



23/03: A sing-a-long around the camp fire practising our social distancing, the first weekend it was really a 'thing'.



29/03: Some of D Marina crew packing up their boats in preparation for isolation. Good job keeping a safe distance.

ANZAC DAY

ANZAC Day 2020 was very different. There was a Dawn Service, wreaths were laid, the Last Post was played, and a minute of silence observed, but the public could not attend any services.

With ANZAC Day ceremonies being cancelled around the country we were encouraged to stay at home and "Light up at Dawn" by lighting a candle in our driveways, on our balconies, or in our loungerooms, at 6am and observing a minute of silence in respect of our veterans.

Thousands of people across Australia embraced this campaign in their streets at dawn, and our very own Luke Brinksma was one.

From Luke: "So my wife, God love her, volunteered me to perform the "Last Post" on ANZAC day in our street... I had not picked up my trumpet for anything real since I was about 20. In those days I played to a reasonable level! Would 10 days be enough to get



Luke playing the Last Post at dawn.

my lip back? I'm thinking, when did volunteering for anything end well?

Fair to say I was very nervous but I am reminded of my uncle Reg, my grandfather, and particularly my Pake (Dutch grandfather) - whom literally was another Anne Franke - hiding in a roof space to avoid the German SS. All I had to do is get up and play for 2 ½ minutes...."



Respect at Dawn in the Brinksma driveway.

Well done Luke, I believe you did your family and everyone in your street proud.

DWBC had planned to be represented at the Eildon ANZAC Ceremony as we have done in previous years. The Activities Committee were preparing to follow this with a BBQ brunch and the traditional ANZAC Day game of 2-UP back at the club.

However, as we were were unable to attend, Ric laid a wreath at the Cenotaph on our behalf.



Darlingford Day



The Amazing Race



Darlingford Day



The Amazing Race



Darlingford Day



The Amazing Race



Darlingford Day



The Amazing Race



SOMETIMES SOMETHING SPECIAL HAPPENS

A casual summer chat between the Junor's of Chameleon and the Johnson's of Cool Breeze resulted in a very special moment for the Junor children, Josh, Brad and Ayla. When it was mentioned that the boys would like to learn to barefoot, Barry and Michael said, "we're your men!". Next morning at 8am there was a knock on the door of Chameleon and the boys were roused from their beds. "Come on, we're going

barefooting." So, they did, and Josh and Brad learnt to barefoot on the ski bar under the guidance of Barry and Michael. They couldn't have had better teachers.

Not to be outdone by her brothers, 10-year-old Ayla said she wanted to learn too. So next day Barry and Michael took Ayla out (this time with mum and dad onboard to watch) and

she successfully managed to barefoot on the ski bar too.

Since that weekend Josh (16) and Brad (14) have continued to practice their skills and by the end of summer were barefooting independently behind their own boat.

Jo says that it was a very special experience for her family, and they are all very grateful to Barry and Michael.



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2020 BIKE RIDE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Karen and David were able to complete their annual Bike ride for Australian Rotary Health before restrictions came into force. Here's their story.

On the 15th March we set off from Bayswater, just in time as it worked out. We were joined by 18 members of the Warburton Ghost Riders (a riding group who hold regular weekly rides) and also riders from overseas and many of our regular Rotary riders. A total of 38 riders and 11 support crew took part.

We rode the Painted Silo Trail in Western Victoria. Karen and I, like many others, had heard about the painted silos but it is not until you see them and read the story behind the artist and their work that you start to wonder how they managed to get the proportions right on such a high curved surface.

The weather was on our side, not one day of rain, but the heat did get to us on one afternoon.

Here is a brief summary of the ride. We met at the Bayswater football oval early Sunday morning. Shia Smart, the District Governor of Rotary District 9810, sent us on our way at 7.00am driving to Lake Bolac where we then started riding towards Halls Gap stopping at Willaura for lunch. These country towns are doing it tough; our lunch stop was at a small bakery which is normally closed on Sundays but the baker opened up especially for us. Some locals came out to greet us and take photos and we had a tour of his bakery. The oven was first

used in 1919 and is still used today. I had the best Vanilla slice I have had for a while! This set the tone of the ride for the rest of the week.



Lunch stop at Willaura Bakery

Day 1: 89 kms on our bikes arriving in Halls Gap about 3.30pm. We stayed in Horsham for the next three nights driving out from our accommodation each morning and riding a loop along part of the silo trail.

Day 2: 104 kms riding Murtoa to Brim visiting the Sheep Hills silo on the way. This silo has an indigenous theme. We passed the Patchewollock silo more than once during the week and it changed in the different light as the sun moved around.

Day 3: Patchewollock to Hopeton. The first 50 kms was a free ride to lunch at the Lascelles Hotel who opened up their dining room for us and went out of their way to make us welcome.

Day 4: Horsham to Ararat 126 kms, a mostly flat to undulating ride. We finished the days riding at Moyston oval which claims to be the birthplace of Aussie Rules football.

Day 5. Ararat to Ballarat 98 kms through the gold fields.

Day 6. Ballarat to Lake Daylesford for lunch and the finish of the ride before driving back to Bayswater where we started six days ago.

What a difference a week makes. Restrictions were being introduced and had we been a week later starting our ride, it would not have happened.

We have raised over **\$53,000** for Australian Rotary Health to date and it is still coming in.

We are looking forward to March 2021. Rumour has it we will be visiting the North East based in Wangaratta for the five nights visiting wineries, historic country towns (who need our support), gold mines, Beechworth and Ned Kelly country.

David & Karen Brown
Rest Ashore, D Marina



Brim

Some of the beautiful silo art in Victoria's Wimmera/Mallee region.



Roseberry



Patchewollock



Sheep Hills



Rupanyup

CORONAVIRUS

COVID-19

WHAT IS COVID-19

The Australian Government Department of Health advises that:

- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause respiratory infections. These can range from the common cold to more serious diseases.
- COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new form of coronavirus. It was first reported in Dec 2019 in Wuhan City in China.
- Symptoms include fever, coughing, a sore throat and shortness of breath.
- The virus can spread from person to person, but good hygiene can prevent infection.

TIMELINE

25th January

The first 4 cases reported in Australia.

11th March

The WHO declares COVID-19 a pandemic.

13th March

National Cabinet is formed – PM and Premiers/Chief Ministers of the states and territories.

16th March

State of Emergency declared in Victoria.

18th March - Stage 1 restrictions introduced which included:

a limit of 100 people for non-essential indoor gatherings; 500 people limit for outdoor gatherings; cancellation of ANZAC day ceremonies; and restrictions on visitors to aged care facilities.

25th March

Australian citizens/permanent residents prohibited from travelling out of Australia unless granted an exemption. Only Australian citizens, residents and immediate family members can return to Australia. WA, NT, SA & QLD all plan to shut their borders.

26th March - Stage 2 restrictions introduced included:

No table service at cafes/food courts.

Closure of: commercial and business activities including auction houses, real estate auctions/open house inspections; non-food markets; beauty/personal care services; entertainment venues including cinemas and theatres; nightclubs, casinos/gaming venues; adult entertainment premises; concert venues; arenas, auditoriums and stadiums; amusement

parks and arcades; children's play centres; community and recreation centres, health clubs, fitness centres, yoga, barre and spin facilities; social sporting-based activities; swimming pools, saunas, bathhouses and wellness centres; community and recreation centres; caravan/camping parks; zoos, aquariums, wildlife parks (except for the maintenance, care or rescue of animals); museums, national institutions and historic sites; galleries, libraries, toy libraries; non-essential local government facilities and services, such as libraries and pools; community centres, youth centres and community facilities; places of worship, except for: Weddings may be held but only with the couple, celebrant and maximum of 2 witnesses in attendance; and Funerals may be held with a maximum of 10 mourners in attendance.

27th March

Self-quarantine measures introduced for travellers returning to Victoria from overseas - enforced quarantine for a period of 14-days (in the Australian state they arrive in, irrespective of where they live).

29th March

Victoria Police given the power to issue on the spot fines of up to \$1,652 for individuals and up to \$9,913 for businesses who refuse or fail to comply with the emergency directions or public health risk directions

30th March 5pm

DWBC closes it's facilities and services.

31st March - Stage 3 Restrictions introduced in Victoria – initially for 4 weeks. These included:

Gatherings restricted to no more than 2 people except for members of your immediate household and for work or education; if you can stay at home, you must stay at home; BBQs with neighbours

cannot happen; playgrounds, skate parks and outdoor gyms now closed; a moratorium on evictions introduced for the next 6 months for residential and commercial tenants.

There are only **four** reasons to leave home:

1. shopping for what you need - food and essential supplies
2. medical, care or compassionate needs
3. exercise in compliance with the public gathering requirements
4. work and study if you can't work or learn remotely.

12th April

The State of Emergency is extended until midnight 11 May 2020.

8th May

The National Cabinet release a 3-Step framework for a COVIDSafe Australia.

11th May

The VIC Government announces gradual easing of restrictions.

There are now **five** reasons to leave home:

1. shopping for food and supplies that you need
2. care and caregiving
3. exercise and outdoor recreation
4. work and education – if you can't do it from home
5. visiting friends and family – if you really need to

The new arrangements came into effect at **11.59pm on Tuesday 12 May** and included:

Outdoor gatherings permitted with up to 10 people; indoor gatherings at home permitted, with 5 visitors able to visit the normal residents of a household; the ability to leave the house for exercise expanded to include outdoor recreational activities. These activities can occur in groups of up

Cont'd next page

Information sourced from these websites: <https://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria>; <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-daily-update>; <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-current-situation-and-case-numbers>; <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-covid-19-coordination-commission>.



to 10 people outside, but the requirements on physical distancing remain; for weddings 10 guests are allowed, plus the couple and the celebrant; for funerals, 20 people will be allowed at an indoor ceremony and 30 people at an outside ceremony. This is in addition to the minimum people required to conduct the funeral; religious gatherings and ceremonies will be permitted with up to 10 people, plus those required to perform the ceremony.

13th May

G-MW reopen the lake and boat ramps.

15th May 1pm - DWBC opens for day visits only.

26th May

Victorian schools begin to re-open with all students expected to be back at school by 9th June.

1st June - DWBC is open with overnight stays and boating on the lake now allowed. Social distancing is required in all areas of the club, particularly on the marinas and observance of all club safety measures and protocols is expected.

Easing of restrictions from 11:59pm on 31st May include:

- Up to 20 people in a house, including members of the household.
- Public gatherings, indoor and outdoor, will increase to 20.
- Weddings increase to 20 people, plus celebrant and the couple.
- Both indoor and outdoor funerals increase to 50 people, plus people reasonably required to conduct the funeral.
- Restaurants, cafes and pubs can open and serve meals for up to 20 patrons per space. Alcohol with meals only.
- Overnight stays in private residences allowed.
- Camping and tourist accommodation allowed if no use of shared facilities.
- Beauty therapy, tanning, waxing, nail salons, spas, tattoo parlours, massage parlours to open with up to 20 patrons.
- Non-food and drink market stalls to open.
- Pools to open, to max 20 patrons and limit of 3 people per lane.
- Galleries, museums, national institutions, historic sites, outdoor amusement parks, drive-in cinemas, zoos and arcades to open with up to 20 patrons per space, while ensuring density limits are applied to the entire venue.
- Non-contact outdoor sporting activities will increase to 20 people plus the instructor.

11th June - FOOTY'S BACK!

Further easing of restrictions from 11:59pm on 21st June:

- Increased number of patrons in restaurants, cafes and pubs with up to 50 patrons per space.
- Up to 50 patrons in galleries, museums, national institutions, historic sites, outdoor amusement parks, zoos and arcades, while ensuring density quotient is applied to the entire venue.
- Ski season to start
- Indoor sports centres, physical recreation venues, gyms to open with up to 20 people per single undivided indoor space and up to 10 people per group/activity at any one time.
- Indoor cinemas, movie theatres, concert venues, theatres, arenas, auditoriums, stadiums to open with up to 50 seated patrons per space.

Late July

Up to 100 patrons will be permitted in enclosed spaces of dining areas.

POSITIVE RAMBLINGS

As we all know by now COVID-19 has wreaked havoc globally – the cost to human life has been huge and economies are likely to feel the effects for many years to come. Although it's tempting to focus on the negatives (like missing our houseboat community) this isolation period has actually brought many positives with it for our family.

In an attempt to share some positivity here are our top five points:

1. The slower pace has given us time to rest and be more reflective: something missing from our previous hectic pace. Even when things return to "normal", we now want to allow more "down time" in our lives.
2. A deeper appreciation for local community. Life is busy for everyone, and like you all, we aren't usually home much. Lockdown has meant that we have interacted with our neighbours more – we had an ANZAC day dawn service in our street, we've opened up a little book swap and we've been helping a little with the cute kids next door. It's lovely to see this reflected in the people around us – when passed on a walking track, or walking past somebody in their yard we notice people now take the time to make eye contact, smile and often share a word or two.
3. Lockdown has increased our appreciation for human physical contact. We will no longer take for granted the ability to hug those we love, physically comfort them when they are upset or actually see them whenever we want. Alternatively, we also have a heightened awareness of personal distance and more respect for those who choose to maintain increased physical distance.
4. Despite knowing the physical, emotional and cognitive positives of creativity, it has somehow fallen off our radar in the last few years. Lockdown has given us the opportunity to again build creativity into our lives – sewing, gardening, building and simply rearranging things so they work better. Having the luxury to slow down and actually feel the benefits of creativity has put it back onto our radar and, we hope when life returns to normal, we will maintain this practice.
5. Exercise! We all know it's important but, for most of our household, it's the first thing to go when we are busy or stressed. Isolation has allowed us to more effectively build exercise into our lives, appreciate the benefits more and realise more fully that it can be socially fun too.



When restrictions lift and we return to our beautiful lake once again, please feel free to drop by for a cuppa and share your positives too.

**Kind regards,
The Anastasi Family
Driften Too (D Marina)
(10/05/2020)**

CORONAVIRUS

COVID-19

LIVING WITH COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Marney Nicholas says "with so much going on with the COVID-19 virus I thought this might be of interest".

It began in February this year with our silver anniversary on the 18th so we booked for a week in Tasmania as I had not been to Hobart and was very keen to see the southern region of the Apple Isle.

I woke at 4am on the day we were flying out with extreme abdominal pain. Mike phoned for a doctor but there was none available, so off we raced to the emergency department at the Austin hospital. I was seen immediately then transferred to a bed in emergency and quickly whisked off for an ultrasound, bad news, acute appendix. Poor Mike then had the task of phoning the airlines, uber driver and accommodation place. More bad news, the hospital was full, but they could operate and then transfer me out. We told them I had private cover, so they arranged for me to go on the list for that afternoon at Warringal Private hospital which is over the road less than 50 meters away. Because they could not cross the road safely, I was taken via ambulance.

Surgery went well albeit after 6pm. The original plan was to go home on Monday. However, on Monday I wasn't feeling too well at all. Tuesday I was

worse so saw more doctors. Wednesday and Thursday, I was very sick. I had developed a serious complication so lots of x-rays, ultrasounds, nuclear testing etc., were carried out. At this stage I was being treated by 6 specialists. I couldn't keep anything down; it was 10 days before I could have some broth. I don't think I have tasted anything so beautiful!

After 12 days I was slightly improved then my heart caused a problem, so I was transferred to the cardiac wing for monitoring. After 3 weeks in hospital I was quite institutionalised and rather apprehensive about coming home, but I didn't need to be as my wonderful resident nurse has done a superb job of caring for me, and after being home for 8 weeks, I have gained a bit of weight and very slowly my strength is returning. In fact, I'm almost back to my young self! We are walking most days with me now able to make 2 kilometres, and madly hoping that they will open up the golf courses and I might be able to have a hit.

As most of you know we sold our houseboat earlier in the year and had arranged everything ready for a smooth change over settlement on March 28th. On the morning of March 25th (my birthday), Mike checked the emails to find one from the buyer withdrawing from the houseboat sale due to COVID-

19. His wife had lost her job the previous night and his company had several contracts postponed, as a result they didn't have the money to go ahead in these uncertain times. What a horrid start to a birthday in isolation.

Let's look on the bright side thinks me. We'll hibernate on the boat now and then as we can't go travelling, but no, the boat club was in the process of locking down with no access. We can't take a trick for now. The rest is history as the whole state of Victoria increases its fight to ward off this debilitating pandemic.

The good news is that while the weather is good Mike is getting lots of odd jobs done around the house, outdoor painting and gardening. We will have enough vegetables to supply the neighbours. This will be the first winter we have spent at home in Melbourne for 14 years and I must say Mike isn't looking forward to the cold weather.

By the time this goes to print I hope we will have been able to spend some time on our boat, waving to each other whilst social distancing.

We wonder what the new "Normal" will look like.

Cheers,

**Marney & Mike
SCHINOLA, A Marina (7/5/20)**

BABIES BORN IN 'ISO'



Kohen Ellis Farley

LEFT: We welcome a new arrival on D marina, into the Farley family on houseboat Destiny. **Kohen Ellis Farley** born on 29th April to proud parents Brianna and Emily. Kohen, a brother to Maddyn, weighed in at 8lb on the knocker. "The Grandparents, (Peter and Melanie) have taken to the bottle to recover!" Congratulations!

RIGHT: Congratulations to Kelly and Joel O'Brien (Top Gun, A marina) who welcomed their first child, a daughter **Harper**, into their family on 9th May. Kelly says "we may be biased but think she's the cutest going around. We're looking forward to being back at the boat as soon as possible to show her off and get her straight into life on the lake!"



Harper O'Brien



GRAHAM ARNOL, KINGFISHER (D)

I am currently working from home in what is termed an essential service (rail). I have set up a home office and work using Email, telephone and the "teams" app to carry out the work I need to do. In between times, whilst not being able to get up to the Lake, I have completed more work in my yard during isolation than I have for the past couple of years. I currently have a happy partner, sore muscles and a much improved back yard!

TERRY STEWART, TIME OUT (C)

The restrictions in place at the club meant that Macca couldn't hibernate on the boat so he's been staying at his son & daughter-in-law's house for the past 6 weeks, enjoying family time, especially with his grandchildren. I've been lucky enough to still be working - when work started getting really quiet and it looked like my co-worker & I were going to have to job share,

I volunteered to work in the factory which management were grateful for. This meant we could both keep working full time. So that's what I have been doing during the COVID-19 lock down!

While it has been great to be working I have missed seeing all my friends and family whenever I want. I miss all the hugs and kisses from the grandkids. I especially miss not being able to go up to the houseboat but am totally glad we've had the ISO as it saved us from getting the virus.

JOE & MARY FALZON, WEIRWOLF (C) (29/4/20)

The hardest part of being isolated is not being able to hug and kiss your grandchildren and having your family coming over for lunch or dinner. We are missing the lake, our houseboat and saying hi and having a chat with our neighbours.

We had plans to travel with our caravan to Cairns and Cape York leaving in June on the Queen's birthday weekend for 2 months. It's one of the places we have been dreaming about but unfortunately it's now been put on hold.

The only good thing to come out of this, is catching up with all those chores at home that we'd left aside for a rainy day. Now we are running out of things to do!

The day we were told we had to be off the boat and out of the marina was the day we had just started painting the inside of our houseboat. Now that's also on hold and unfortunately winter is just around the corner.

I'm sure we are all waiting for the restrictions to be lifted, hopefully on the 11th May, then we can all catch up again.

LIFE IN LOCKDOWN IN THE MANOR HOUSE

One minute everyone was here having a great time and the next, just an empty carpark. It was like Winter had arrived in March. Boats were shut down, fridges emptied, and when the bar fridges were emptied, we knew it was serious.

Saying goodbye and not knowing when you'd be back was rather odd, and with a shrug of the shoulders and a socially distanced wave you were gone.

The past seven weeks have been eerily quiet up here, although it gets quiet in Winter you still have the tougher breed of houseboaters coming up to brave the cold. You can generally spot them with their 3 extra bags of cloths, minky blankets, more beer and more warming spirits, and orders for 5 bottles of gas not one.

I know it's now getting cold because I can no longer see Ric's legs, and there are about 10 beanies lying around the office, house and car ready to go.

Going into town has been interesting, everyone gives each other sideways glances as if to say, 'are you a local, and do you need to be in town'? I couldn't just go into the supermarket to buy alcohol, nooooo, I made sure I grabbed some milk, bread or butter to make it look legit that it was a necessary trip. We won't be running out of these products anytime soon.

My hands are looking 100 years old with so much washing and sanitising, and no amount of hand cream will fix them.

So while you were all locked up it started raining, and raining and raining, for a solid week. It was another new experience for us, watching the rapid rise of the water and pulling marinas up to keep up with the rising levels. But the lake is looking quite a bit healthier now which is great.

We were really looking forward to the footy starting and watching plenty of games on TV, all I can say is thank goodness for MasterChef. We tried to sit out on the balcony to enjoy the beautiful view and serenity, but in March the mozzies attacked us because there was no one else up here to bite, then it got too wet, and now it's just too cold.

I have been one of the fortunate ones that has been working right through all of this, and so has Ric. Working at the nursing home has been interesting, temperature taken every morning, flu jab was compulsory, and then we were all tested for Covid by a rather enthusiastic nurse who did vigorous laps around my nostrils nearly tearing the lining away. She said it may just tickle a little, yeah right!

So it's been a very interesting time in our lives, and hopefully we will slowly get back to some normality soon, and see you all up here enjoying the lake once more.

Steph Perna (14/05/20)

CORONAVIRUS

COVID-19

LIVING WITH COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

SERENA Z IN ISOLATION

This may be a bit controversial, but I think I'm enjoying "ISO" time!

Of course, I'd prefer to escape to Eildon but what I love about houseboating is also what I love about this forced isolation – it's relaxing! Normally we're living supercharged busy lives so not rushing to be anywhere, being able to lie in bed, lazy weekends, with way too much alcohol is bliss and just like our houseboat life. Sadly we don't have the stunning views of Eildon but I love to laze on the couch watching the two giant gum trees in our nearby park swaying in the wind (a glass of wine in hand enhances the view).



Room with a view!

Ella (Yr 12) and Abby (Yr 9) have adapted to online learning. Abby's wagged one class but guess what, the school still send parents a text to say she was absent. The girls are breaking up their online classes with bike rides, kicking the footy, virtual 18th Birthdays and they keep asking to come to the supermarket just to get out of the house and load up on snacks. There is a benefit to iso home schooling: a practical assignment for Food Tech with Chef Abby (not in her natural habitat). No teens were harmed in this episode



Abby's home schooling exercise

We're lucky enough to live in a social street so when iso hit we introduced Nature Strip Sips where we were able to have drinks and socialise from a safe

distance. Our street held an Anzac Day Driveway Dawn Service featuring Luke blowing his own trumpet for the first time in 31 years. After 10 days of practice he nailed it and they're asking for an encore next year.

Stopping the Spread - apparently masks can protect us; Ella and I tried a couple of different options. We found the monster masks the most effective way to get people to keep their distance.



Alison & Ella masked up.

Let it be known that Luke and I are "essential", but you probably already knew that! As "essential workers" we get to head out of the house every day to work.

In the words of the song "I will survive", "at first I was afraid, I was petrified". In late March the Respiratory Clinics were set up, hospital entrances locked down with security managing who comes in and twice daily temperature checks for all workers. I was expecting Australia to follow the path of Italy, UK and US and was afraid to be going to work. But now I am thankful that I get to leave the house every day and go to work. Australia did a fantastic job of smashing the curve and stopping the spread but with the recent Covid-19 cluster outbreaks in Melbourne let's not rush back to normal just yet.

Western Health Sunshine Hospital – Covid-19 Testing Clinic – entrance through what is usually an exit door so people don't have to come into the main part of the hospital.

I added the CovidSafe App to my phone; the more people who have the app the quicker we can get back to normal. The app allows government to quickly contact you if you have been exposed

to coronavirus and as we're going to the bottle shop so frequently who knows who you could be exposed to!



Entrance to WSHS

And finally, I've been Covid tested – it's horrible! I had a Root Canal later that same day and let's just say that was easier. First they swab the back of your throat going around in circles three times leaving you gagging, then the same swab up your nostril so high it feels like it's poking your brain. Just check out the length of the swab in the photos – it's pretty long and that whole thing gets shoved up your nostril – eye watering stuff. Tested on Friday 8/5 – hoping to have the results soon – fingers crossed!



Testing - in!



Testing - up!

Looking forward to next summer where the only Corona will be one on ice in the esky.

Stay safe everyone.
Alison, Luke, Ella and Abby
Serena Z, B Marina (11/5/20)



SELF ISOLATING IN A PUB!

My name is Dave Cox, from houseboat 'Shilo' on A Marina. I live in Avenel with my two girls, Charlotte and Crystal, and own the Hop Back Brewery located at the Avenel Hotel. Avenel is a small town just north of Seymour and only an hour and twenty from DWBC. Many people don't realize that Ned Kelly lived here as a boy and went to the local school in Avenel.

We moved here in August 2018 with the plan of starting a Brewery. We had spent 3 years in Kilsyth, but city life was quite congesting after spending 14 years in the South Australian Outback.

A lot has happened in my life since I moved to Avenel, but who would have guessed that we would be hit with a world-wide Pandemic. It reminds me of the movie Outbreak, but back then it was only a movie. Now it's really happening! What will be next, cyborgs?

Late March it came as no surprise that I'd have to close the Pub to all on premises consumption of meals and alcohol. It was a surprise though, that restrictions did not get any tighter and we were still permitted to sell take away meals and alcohol. This was a great relief to the towns folk and kept us in touch with our customers.

Not all has been bad and some good has come from this. I have focussed my energy into packaging my beer in cans, previously I hadn't prioritised the time

for this. I have been totally amazed at how many craft beer drinkers there are in Avenel and it's not just the younger generation either! There are lots of retirees that enjoy the Avenel Ale, a true Aussie Pale that even non-beer drinkers enjoy.

I have also decided to do some much-needed renovations to the Bar, as it was looking very tired. I had sourced some old rustic corrugated iron from an old shearing shed and it looks great on the ceiling, next will be a little more iron on the walls, along with old fence palings to give the Bar that farm shed look.

Charlotte and Crystal have adapted to home schooling with mixed reactions, I think they miss the socialization the most. It appears that they may be back at school before the end of term, which once again is a surprise to me. This whole Covid-19 disease could have been so much worse! You only have to take a look at a handful of other countries to realize that Australia has dodged a bullet!

Not being able to use our Houseboat has been tough. When you live in a pub it's not much of a family home. Our houseboat is that home and the kids really miss it. It's where we can be a family and I'm not distracted by work.

I hope everyone is well and hope to see you all on the lake soon.

**Dave, Deb, Charlotte & Crystal.
Shilo, A Marina (12/05/20)**



Hop Back Brewery in the Avenel Pub



Dave's Classic Brown



Crystal cooking for home schooling



Deb & Dave at a local beer festival



Dave milling the grain

NO LAKE, NO WURRIES!

seeing as there was no other choice, the Rennies (Wye Wurrie) reverted to pre-houseboat days for their Easter break and went camping down on their very own river bank! Rain may have dampened things a wee bit but not their enthusiasm as I am assured a great time was most certainly had with no coronavirus fears stopping Hereford!



Camping on their very own section of the Acheron River.

CORONAVIRUS

COVID-19

LIVING WITH COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

SHELLE NAGY, PROGRESS HALL (C)

Before we even knew about this coronavirus we had sold our house and chucked in the business with the intention of living on our houseboat and finishing it off. Then we had great plans of heading away in our caravan. Well that didn't happen! During these ISO restrictions we have bunked in with Madison (our daughter), Budge and Calvin and are having the best time! The boat and caravan will wait. We are very lucky to be spending this time with Calvin as he gets bigger every day, growing so fast.



Grandpa Joe & Calvin

KIKNBAK IN 'ISO'

Like everyone else we have made adjustments living in ISO, well I have anyway. We are fortunate in that our business has continued, while some of our customers have been impacted others have been busier than ever. Peter continues to go to our factory every day (self-isolating) while I've been working from home (self-isolating) since the 31st March and only venturing out for essential activity. I'm saving lots on fuel as my car has only been driven 5 times since then.

I've discovered the benefits of working from home are many. Firstly, I stay in bed that little bit longer especially now its colder in the mornings. Jedda is really happy with that development too! Then I realised early on that I can dress in my comfy gear all day every day because no one is going to see me. The biggest plus is not being with Peter 24/7! That's not as harsh as it sounds – it just means we have more

to talk about at the end of our working day! Plus, he's doing the supermarket shops on his way home from work and I just love that. Some things just might not change after ISO! I even join him around his Friday night fire drum which provides material for some fierce photo competition with Brad and Kirsty – and who knew that watching the rising moon and setting sun would lead to a similar competitive photo frenzy?

Our first Easter at home in over 25 years was spent mostly in the back paddock having a great big twig burn (courtesy of storm damage) - just the two of us in isolation, staring into those roaring flames, with drink in hand and cursing that bloody virus for keeping us away from the lake. But again, a great photo opportunity to brag to Brad!

Like everyone else we've had to adapt to socialising in ISO... how good have we all become at using technology to stay in touch. Our 'Sunday Sippers Sessions' have been a very entertaining process – who needs a duck board when you can video chat or zoom!



A Sunday Sippers Session - Anita just disappeared to get a refill!

We get better at it each time! Even the boys got their heads on screen at some point. I've also continued with my 'book club' (that term is used very lightly) with regular Saturday afternoon sessions on messenger video usually with a theme thrown in just for fun. Peter's had Director meetings on Zoom and even some medical consultations, following hand surgery, via Zoom. Who said he wasn't computer savvy! Most importantly for us, we have been watching our precious 7-month-old granddaughter, Charlee Rose, on video chats too. It was so good to finally have that personal contact last Wednesday when restrictions eased just a little – straight down to visit for long overdue snuggles.

Of course there are negatives of this whole experience, the isolation from family and friends, not being able to use our houseboats and no footy! And working from home brings its own danger – every time I walk into the kitchen I open the cupboard or the fridge just in case some food fairy has added something more delightful!

Fortunately, no-one we know has contracted COVID-19 directly and for that we are very thankful. I'm glad that restrictions are now beginning to ease but I am more than happy for that to happen slowly to keep the virus at bay and hopefully prevent a second outbreak. Let's hope we all keep virus free and the lake keeps filling so we can have a fantastic summer when it comes!

Cheers, Margie (20/05/20)

So we never forget the impact that COVID19 had on the global community, here's some stats to consider. Note: as I have referred to everyone's most reliable source, the internet, I put a disclaimer as to the accuracy, however, the Australian Government Department of Health. Sadly, these numbers will have risen even more by the time you read this.

COVID-19 Statistics @ 19/05/2020		
Country	Cases	Deaths
Worldwide	4,894,071	320,180
Australia	7,060	100
Victoria	1,567	18
China	82,960	4,634
Italy	225,886	32,007
New Zealand	1,503	21
Russia	290,678	2,722
Singapore	28,343	22
UK	246,406	34,796
USA	1,550,294	91,981

And the last word on ISO goes to Donny who is about to spend a very rare winter at home instead of being far north. He said to me "I wish they'd hurry up and let me stay on my houseboat as I desperately need a beer". I discovered that Donny doesn't drink while he's living in Melbourne so it's been a long dry Autumn for him!

New Years Eve 2019

Here's some happy snaps from New Years celebrations.



B marina kids waiting for midnight?



B marina mums - recovering?



Gina, Ady, Tahnee, Amy, Bree



Sharpy preparing himself



Dazzling for a big day & night!



Jarred, Ady, Gina, Brett, Janine.



Everyone wanted Judy's pav!



Mum & dad are gone, Brad's partying!



Fluoro really works well on some!



Yes, it's really Glen under that blue!



Denise and a guest from Shiraz



Greg's life savers...!



Here's a good photo Janine!



Dave, Stu and Terry



Cousins - Jas & Ella

THE PERILS OF HOUSEBOATING



This rollover happend on 16th January 2020.



This fire happened in Jews Creek on 5th May 2020.



Darlingford Briefs

Summer Babies:

Mac Saunders - first child for Shenae Maroney and Martin Saunders of Working Class. Mac was born 2 weeks early on 30th December 2019.



Shenae & Mac now almost 5 months old.

Jerzy Lou Ward was born on 8th January 2020 – a daughter for Jeremy & Jade Ward, sister to Jaylah and granddaughter to John & Louise Ward. The Ward family are new members on Volare on C marina.

You've probably all heard that **Greg Walter** fell in again – on New Year's Eve! This time it was a little more serious, landing on a metal bar and injuring his posterior. Could have been sooooo much worse! And those photos....ewww!

Michael Johnson (Cool Breeze) had his summer cut short after suffering a little injury on the skis mid-January. Literally, his ski went one way and his knee went the other and his knee was dislocated and fractured. Needless to say Michael was out of action for quite a while! Rachel says "the 8 weeks at home were great, during which time we moved house and now he is home again more often because of corona! We are having quality time together!"



Michael in an unfamiliar pose!



Jesse & Lucy Nagy

Congratulations to **Jesse & Lucy Nagy** who were married on 10th January at Marybrook Manor in Sherbrooke. It was also Jesse's grandfather's birthday that day (that's Barry Gurierra ex Transcend). The day started off very hot and then it was very stormy. Shelle says: "we thought they were going to be picked up and blown away but despite the whether they stuck to their plans of having it outside. You can imagine how much I loved it (Shelle loves a good thunderstorm), we all had umbrellas and got drenched but it was so much fun. Jesse and Lucy don't let obstacles get in their way".



Proud parents Shelle & Joe with Jesse

These kids from B marina were excited to find this turtle that came to visit them in Elite Bay.



On the 15th February 2020 whilst the boat club was swimming, competing and playing on Darlingford Family Day, **David and Karen Brown** from Rest Ashore were puddling around in the mud.

Karen says: "It was our son's **Glen and Meg's** wedding day, a fabulous day and celebration despite the rain. Many of you will know Glen, Meg, Lucca and Aurora, as they have been frequent visitors to the club for a couple of years now. Meg was Cinderella at our Disney Sail Past. We are very happy to have our readymade family."



Aurora, Glen, Meg and Lucca



Megs very sensible wedding shoes and her stunning gown dripping in mud!

Not sure if Ric was trying to walk on water on Christmas Day or if that noodle was just pinching him!!



Darlingford Briefs

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

It's a big year of milestone birthdays in the Johnson household.

- Barry turned 80 in March (*and he's still barefooting!*)
- Nicole turns 13 on 31st May.
- Matt turns 18 on July 10
- Luke will be 16 in December.

That was well planned Rachel!

Ayla Junor turned 11 on the 27th March and was lucky enough to celebrate her birthday on the water just before IOS restrictions kicked in.



Gracie Glassborow also turned 11. Her birthday was on 29th April right in the middle of ISO but she still had all the birthday trimmings.



I hear that Barney Badrock may have turned 40 in isolation (26 April). No doubt he'll make up for that!

More ISO birthdays celebrated in April/ May (*the ones I know about*) are:

- Leanne Ford, Taurus 11
- Grant Copley, Atrocity
- Shenae Maroney, Working Class
- Dianne Callinan, Destiny
- Jenny Forden, Wahgunyah
- Mark Ford, Taurus 11
- Kevin Gannan, Intrinsic
- Chloe Lewis, Kokomo
- Rosemary Baxter, Summertime Blues
- Greg Rennie, Wye Wurrie
- Wes Ford, Taurus 11
- Steph Perna, The Manor House
- Ethel Ford, Taurus 11
- Alison Brinksma, Serena Z
- Danka Hycenko, Mystique
- Sandra Hollis, Barely-a-Wake
- Luke Ford, Taurus 11
- Patty Glassborow, Xstatic
- Joan Goodrich, Working Class

Brayden Forsyth (San Simeon) turned 18 on 13th May. He's now waiting in the queue to go for his licence! This is celebrating 18 in ISO!!



This was when the singing started!



They were clearly not amused!



I'm sure Alicia (Freedom) was thinking 'please don't watch me Margie'... but it was too late. Snapped! And you did good Alicia, no problems at all!

Isn't it great to see these young boys from B marina caring for our environment and cleaning up the banks when they're not doing water sports. Well done boys!



Marli and Lara, also from B marina, have some summer puzzle time.



Send your news & photos to magazine@darlingford.com.au



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- YANMAR
- MASE
- ONAN
- KOHLER
- WESTERBEKE
- PLUS MANY MORE

PLEASURE CRAFT INSURANCE AGENTS



OPENING HOURS

from 1st April 2020 until further notice

(due Covid 19 impact)

MON-FRI: 8am – 4:15pm

SAT-SUN: CLOSED

SALES AGENTS

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- MASE
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- ONAN
- KOHLER
- WESTERBEKE
- LOWRANCE
- RAY MARINE
- RUNAWAY BAY
PONTOON BOATS

