



House boat

DECEMBER 2025

Issue No. 109



Christmas in July Returns

Fugly Jumpers on pages 20-22 and lots more so look inside...



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Cover photo: Christmas in July came back! What a bevy of beauties!

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Published by Darlingford Waters Boat Club. Design and production - Margie Elliott.

CONTENTS

Page 4	Chairman's Report
Page 5	The Commodore's Chronicles
Page 6-8	Site Director's Update
Page 10	Secretary's Report
	Our Commodore, Brod Helmers
Page 12	Jimmy's First Report
Page 13	From the Editor's Desk
Page 14-15	Jet Ski Ride to Bonnie Doon
Page 16-17	Alexandra Cup Races
Page 19	ANZAC Day Photos
Page 20-22	Christmas in July
Page 24	Aussie Off Grid Lithium Battery Sales
Page 25	Vale Len Barnett
Page 26	Summer Vibes - Photos
Pages 27	The Rennie's Say Farewell
Page 28	Darlingford Babies
Page 29	Darlingford Birthdays
Page 31&33	Alison & Luke's 30th Anniversary
Page 32	Meet the Bakers
	Odd Spot Photos
Page 33	Delia Ward Memorial Shield
Page 34	Club Clothing
Page 35	Eildon Charity Golf Day
Page 36	Inaugural Commodore's Breakfast
Page 37	Grand Final Day at 501
Page 38	Strategic Plan Update
Page 39	Honour Board



Alex Cup Day pics P.16-17



ANZAC Day pics P.19



Christmas in July pics P. 20-22



Commodore's Brekky pics P.36

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Nov 2025

Hello members, finally warmer weather is around the corner, and another season of boating lies before us.

Over the winter our Facilities team has been busy. The crane barge, maintenance shed, extended car-parking, all major projects completed – which I am sure Matt will go into detail about. Supported by various members, this work is testament to our community coming together to achieve great outcomes.

Back of house, Melanie Farley and her finance team have been working toward tidying up our accounts, finalising EOFY budgets and bringing processes to streamline our business end as we move forward.

Nick Bodi has been toiling away creating a program to track and certify insurance details, ensuring we are all protected against incidents and accidents. All members being

reminded insurance of all your watercraft is part of your contractual obligations at DWBC.

Tony Rodis continues to fight for the road improvements with the first bend scheduled for tarmacking mid-November. Tony has been wonderfully supported by Mark and Deb Patman, who have delivered very high-quality information, water samples and air quality propaganda to support our ongoing efforts toward forcing our council/government/water board to get this roadwork done.

Brod Helmers, now officially “Commodore Brod” has had an immediate impact in resurrecting the Social Committee with improved participation from members as

each event came off. Margie Elliott continues to support Brod and our club as she has always. Brod remains a one man show in this endeavour, something I would hope will gain support from the members – the Social Committee is your face of Darlingford – your social scene, please help/join the committee to support Brod.

Megan Taylor has run her race and will step away from Secretary with Caroline Schmidt taking on the role. The Secretary role is by far the most important role within the board, ensuring our compliances, and mandatory reporting is kept up to date. I am sure everyone would join me in thanking Megan for her duty and welcoming Caroline.

Do you know that:

Darlingford, named for Sir Charles Darling KCB Governor of Victoria, was located at the junctions of the Big and Goulburn Rivers when gold was discovered locally. It housed seven hotels, five policeman, a log gaol, shops, post office and a small school. The town was flooded when construction of Sugarloaf Reservoir took place between 1915 and 1929 – the precursor to Lake Eildon as we know it now. One of the hotels, The Carriers Arms Hotel, was locally reputed as a favourite watering hole for Ned Kelly.

Lake Eildon, officially opened by Sir Henry Bolte on 19th October 1956, remains the only inland waterway where houseboats are permitted, with over 700 current houseboaters sharing the space.



Luke Brinksma
Chairman

THE COMMODORE'S CHRONICLES

Where do I start? Actually, how do I start?!

Some of you may know me, and there may be a few who don't, but it's safe to say that report writing is not my thing but throwing a party/event is...

I'd like to start by thanking the outgoing Activities Committee for building the backbone of some of the great activities we've achieved over the last 12 months. All outgoing committee members had great feedback from their time in office in letting me know what worked, and what didn't, so I wasn't reinventing the wheel. This was super helpful.

Starting this role as 'The Social Director' I thought we might ease into it kicking off with last year's High Tea in the big shed for our Grand Final party. It was a good day had by all... champagne on arrival always helps!

We rolled into the Jet Ski rally, which is always a fun day heading down to the Bonnie Doon Hotel for lunch. The BDH were the perfect hosts. The weather turned it on, and a great day was had by all.

Next was one of our great social days, the Alexandra Cup Race Day. It's certainly one of my favourite days of the year and with a VRC/Flemington spin on the day and full bus of racegoers, we headed off to the Cup. Champagne on arrival once again, delicious grazing platters, the world famous DWBC punters club, and naming rights to race 4.... what could go wrong!



Here's a lovely lot of lady punters at the Alexandra Cup

So, by now I'm up and about having three events under my belt, I thought I'd try to bring back a shed dance, in the way of a Midsummer feast, think Viking party. Sadly, it didn't get the traction I thought it would, and I guess the club is a changing environment. Some things work and some things don't and some things just run their course.

But this brought on the idea of the Christmas in July party. I chased around some venues in the local area trying



A very merry Christmassy lunch at E.B.C.

to support local businesses, and EBC came up with the goods. So, the rebirth of the Christmas July party begun. We went with an ugly jumper theme, and it was so good to see everyone getting involved. We bused 66 DWBC people into the EBC restaurant for a traditional Christmas lunch, EBC were nothing but helpful and accommodating, and just quietly I think they liked having us there.

Sticking with supporting the locals, when the grand final rolled around again for this year our neighbours across the lake, at 501 Café, hosted us for the grand final party with finger food and canapés.

Now for the stitch up (LOL). At the October Board Meeting of Directors, they decided that my title of Social Director, one which I gave myself, should be changed and we go back to the tradition where the head of the social committee is the Commodore of the Club. So, for my inaugural duty as Commodore, we put on the Commodores Breakfast before the our AGM.

I'm looking forward to another great year of club events in club life, and I hope you enjoy the events coming up.

Before I sign off, there's a few people I'd like to thank. They say behind every great man, there's a greater woman (I'm not great) but the four women that have supported me to no end, need to be thanked. To my two fairy godmothers, Margie Elliott and Anita Rennie, my mum, Marcia Helmers, and my beautiful wife, Brooke Helmers, thanks. I couldn't have done this without you.



Brod Helmers
Commodore

SITE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE - Nov 2025

Hello everybody, I hope you are all looking forward to summer with some warmth, sun, and fun on the lake. Winter was cold and at times very windy, but it didn't produce a lot of rain.

At the time of writing our lake level sits at 55% compared to this time last year when it was at 89%. The lake and its surrounding look very different at the moment and the walk from your boat to the big shed has got a lot longer and steeper. I hope this is translating into massive calves, quads and a new level of aerobic fitness not seen for a few years now for all our members.

So, what has happened over the last 12 months?

This time last year I spoke to you all about:

- Ric and Steph leaving, a recruitment process to find a new Site Manager, and that we didn't want to just hand Jimmy a job.

- The beginning of a project to build a new maintenance shed, which had been in the planning for some time

- A plan to take the Crane Barge (our most important club asset) off the water and give it some love and attention.

- The ongoing issue of sealing the first corner of the road to the club

All of these things were important to our club being a better place (hard to believe it is possible) for our members to enjoy. Each one of these items on their own would be a big achievement in a year!

Well, I would like to give you an update on all four items in my yearly address to our members.

I would like to start with the most important item/person:

Jimmy

When I sat down with Jimmy at the Eildon bakery to let him know that we were running a process to replace Ric, I could tell that he was nervous about having to write the application and then potentially interview in front of board members to get the Site Managers role. Many club members asked at the last AGM why we weren't just going to give the role to Jimmy. Because we knew that if Jimmy was the right person for the job that he would prove himself and then the position would unquestionably be his.

Continued on page 7

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Well Jimmy proved himself alright!

Jimmy has continued to prove himself maintaining and improving the club facilities through extreme wind, dropping water levels and aging infrastructure. Jimmy has taken to the job like a duck to the back of your houseboats and he has “shlt it in”. He has done an outstanding job in his first year. All while managing some of the biggest projects around DWBC in recent times.



Richard & Jimmy in work mode!

The Birch family theme has continued through the year with Richard becoming the new (old) Jimmy, learning the ropes around the club and supporting Jimmy very well. I welcome and thank Richard as well. They are doing a wonderful job for our DWBC community.

Jimmy has really built on his relationships with DWBC members and members of the broader Eildon community, to really put DWBC in a strong position as a well-regarded group on the lake.

One of the last remaining things that I need to work with Jimmy to get better at is taking leave. Jimmy loves this place so much, he doesn't like to be away from it. With Richard now confident with the operations

of the club facilities AND OF COURSE after the peak period over the next couple of months, I hope that Jimmy will be comfortable enough to think about some time off.

Some of the projects that Jimmy has overseen this year have been mentioned above, so here is a further update

The Maintenance Shed

This project started out before Christmas last year with excavation and concrete works being undertaken resulting in slightly reduced carparking over the Xmas/New Year period. It continued through the year, to the point that it is now completed. There are still things happening around site to relocate equipment and stuff from the cages and containers in the big shed and on the forecourt. Purchasing of shelving and new tools to replace VERY old ones that Jimmy and Richard are currently using. However, the shed is now functional and provides a safe and well provisioned space for work to be undertaken.



James Park on the job providing electrical service in the new shed

There are many members who have contributed their skills to allow us to deliver this project and to all those members I would like to say thank you.

There is still a continuing phase of this project to see the shed fulfil its complete purpose and that is the design and build of trailer accessories to assist with moving marina sections in and out of the shed and rotating them so that maintenance work can be undertaken.

I would also like to note that sections of the road above the big shed remain cordoned off reducing car park numbers by a few. The reason this remains in place is that when the original excavation was undertaken parts of the rock face were shaved. It was expected and possible that slivers of the face may fall away post excavation until the face is stable. We were expecting this to have happened with rainfall by now. However reduced rainfall has resulted in the potential for this to still occur. To be over cautious, the area will remain closed off for the time being.

Once this piece of the project is complete, we will implement a Program of Work to systematically maintain sections of the marinas. I am sure that members will easily be able to identify some sections that will be among the first pieces to be worked on.

The Crane Barge

There was a lot of planning that went into this, many services needed to be coordinated, and the timing had to be right. The water needed to be slack, and outflows had to be considered to ensure blocks or marinas didn't need to be moved.

But with great coordination and dedicated people, the crane barge

Continued on page 8

SITE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE *continued*

was slipped in mid-May and work began. Jimmy and Richard were assisted by Rob Dodge to pull the barge apart, through the coldest part of the year.

- First the motors which were serviced by Tony Kedell
- then the floor was taken up, the old pontoons were painstakingly cut off
- the diesel mechanics were serviced and brought into the new century (enabling greater control and functionality of the winches)
- cranes were brought in to lift the barge off the old pontoons and put onto the wonderful new pontoons built by Matt and Greg Walter
- Everything was then given a fresh coat of paint to protect it from the elements
- With no time to spare, (literally we were told that if we missed our slipping slot, the barge would be in the yard for another month) we paid the bill and got back on the water in late June.



Shiny new pontoons!

This is a very brief description of what was a very arduous, complicated task. Again, like the shed, many members contributed their skills to help to get this project completed.

The barge is now completely renewed and is back in action and good to go for another 20 years! The crane barge is the most important

asset DWBC has, prior to this work, an assessment was carried out on it for insurance purposes, where it was deemed in need of this work before it could be insured.



Refurbed, insured and ready for work!

It is now back in full operation and insured.

Sealing of the Road

The first corner of the road to the boat club is finally due to be sealed. Works were due to commence 1st Dec however, due to substantial rain that was forecasted for early that week, GMW delayed the start until 8th Dec.

There have been many members over many years that have led the fight to have this done. All of whom should rightfully be acknowledged here.

However, I would like to specifically acknowledge Tony Rodis for this work finally being completed. Tony and Jen relit a fire under the Shire, GMW and government departments. They set up a subcommittee of board and general club members, to get the corner sealed. However, the subcommittee

doesn't plan to rest with a sealed first corner, partitions have been written, grants sought, and politicians lobbied in an effort to get more of the road sealed.

Finally, these key projects along with the everyday maintenance items that are undertaken by Jimmy, Richard and in many instances, members, have resulted in a very busy 2025, but one that ends with DWBC in a very healthy position to ensure our club facilities meet, serve, and exceed the expectation of our members.

If anybody has any thoughts, suggestions, questions, or feedback, I am always more than happy to have a chat so please reach out. I'm happy to come visit you on your boat, or you are always welcome on mine, in the club or out on the lake.

I think the best discussions are always had with a beverage in hand on a boat deck in the sun.

Please enjoy the summer and be safe on the water



Matt Taylor
Site Director



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SECRETARY'S REPORT - Nov 2025

As I prepare to wrap up my time as Secretary and a Director on the Board of this wonderful club, I want to express how grateful I am for the opportunity to have served.

This role has allowed me to meet so many more members than I might have as a general member, and through it I've formed some fantastic friendships and gained a deeper respect for the many different perspectives that make our club so special. I'll always be thankful to Brad and Kirsty Rogers for inviting me to join the Board, it's been such a rewarding experience.

Over the past year, I've been genuinely impressed by what this relatively new Board has accomplished under the steady and thoughtful leadership of our Chairman, Luke Brinksma. Luke approaches his role with a wonderful balance of professionalism, care, and good humour, ensuring everyone feels supported and valued.

Watching (with admittedly limited "boatie" knowledge!) the planning and insight that went into the Crane Barge project was incredible. While the many drive-bys with Matt to check on its progress weren't quite as thrilling for me as they were for him, I came to truly appreciate the sheer amount of time, effort, and teamwork behind such an impressive achievement. Congratulations to everyone involved, it was a massive effort!

The Board also welcomed Mark Patman and Jamie Anderson, both of whom have been wonderful additions. Their contributions, especially as we've navigated "the road" and our ongoing dance with government processes have been invaluable. We've made great progress thanks to their insights and commitment.

I also want to recognise the unstoppable Brod, whose "one-man social club" efforts have brought so much fun and connection to our members. His appointment as Commodore is incredibly well deserved, and I know he's grateful for those who lend a hand behind the scenes. Our club truly

shines because of the enthusiasm and contributions of our members, it's what keeps DWBC such a special place.

A special thank you goes to Nicole Powne (Kindred Spirit) as she enters her second year as Assistant Secretary. Balancing full-time work alongside volunteer commitments isn't easy, but Nicole has been such a help, and her support has made a huge difference to the efficiency of the Board. Thank you, Nicole, your efforts are so appreciated.

And then there's the ever-amazing Margie Elliott, what a force of nature! Margie's support, energy, and generosity come not from obligation, but from genuine love for this club and its members. She gives so much to make everyone feel part of something special, often without any recognition (because she'd never tell you herself!). Margie, you are the heart of the club, the green and blue of our flag. Thank you for all that you do.

As I close out my time as Secretary, I want to thank the entire Board for their continued support. And to Luke, thank you for your incredible leadership and endless energy. I honestly don't know how you fit so much into a single day, but you do it with grace and good humour.

Finally, I'd encourage all members to consider volunteering for a role on the Board or a committee. It's been an immensely rewarding experience that's deepened my appreciation for our club, our members, and just how lucky we are to be part of such a fantastic community.



Megan Taylor
Outgoing Secretary

Our Commodore Brod Helmers



Meet **Brod**. He's our Commodore. The most important position in our Club – in charge of all things "social".

Having picked up from where the previous Activities Committee left off, he had big shoes to fill! Luckily, he's got big feet and is doing a fantastic job.

BUT. He needs some help. Brod desperately needs a committee to support him. Can you help? No experience necessary – just energy and bright ideas!

If you are willing, go see Brod on Binalong (A Marina) and have a chat or send an email to social@darlingford.com.au



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JIMMY'S FIRST REPORT!

Hello Members, as the weather warms up, I hope you are all looking forward to a great summer on the lake.

The water levels are not as high as last year but there is still plenty of water for boating and water sports and just enjoying the atmosphere of the lake and everything it has to offer.

I can't believe it has been 12 months since I started as the Facility Manager. The time has gone by so fast. I would like to thank all the members for your support over the past 12 months. With the lake dropping so fast Richard and myself were kept busy moving marinas and also had a few other projects going on around the club during this time.

I have had great help from Matt Taylor, Luke Brinksma, Stuart Steer, Ronnie Mulholland and Margie Elliott; Steve and Nicole Powne have been keeping the ice freezers full, so members have plenty of ice to keep their drinks cold; Matt and Greg Walter made the new pontoons for the crane barge; and Joey Nagy has helped me when I've needed a hand. Thanks to you all.

I would like to congratulate Brod Helmers on the hard work he has done with the social events held this



Jimmy welding on the crane barge

year. What a great job his is doing. Let's all get behind Brod and give him our support.

As the summer gets closer and the club gets busier, I would like to remind members to make sure you have your boat licences and safety gear on board your watercraft. It's no fun getting pulled up by the Water Police and copping a fine! Please also keep an eye out for trees hiding under the water as the lake will most likely keep dropping over the summer.

I ask all members to keep your visitors informed of the club rules about parking. If you or your visitors don't have parking permits you can obtain one from the office. We need to know who to contact if you or your visitors are parked behind another car that needs to get out. Also, boat trailers are not to be left attached to your car in the club grounds. Trailers can be taken to the yard in town or if the lake level is low enough there may be an allocated trailer parking area if we have enough bank space.

If you have a dog at the club, please keep in mind they must be on a lead at all times and clean up after them. There are doggie bags located on the wall of the big shed if needed.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.



Jimmy Birch
Facility Manager



Unfortunately there were several instances where members narrowly avoided stepping in dog poop left on C marina, B marina and at the top of stairs on A marina, over Melb Cup weekend.

Folks, this is just not good enough.

We welcome dogs in our club however, you are expected to pick up any dog poop every time.

PICK UP YOUR DOG POOP

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Here we are again, the start of another summer. What summer? Hope it arrives before our Christmas/New Year break! Regardless, we'll still manage to have those boating experiences that we are so very lucky to enjoy.

This magazine is a recap of our 2025 events with lots of photos and the usual updates from the Executive plus a bit more. I hope that our first attempt at an online version is successful, but we will always have some hard copies available.

Thanks to everyone that contributed a personal photo or took photos at events for me. I encourage all members to consider sending me your photos and updates of what is happening on your boat and with your crew. I won't know about it unless you tell me. We love to share marina news!

A big thanks to Brod Helmers. We are so lucky to have you step up. What a great Commodore you are proving to be. Come on folks, let's give him all our support!

I must mention Anita Rennie. I, we, will miss her presence in the club. Her support of and service to the DWBC over many years has been tremendous and her local network connections have been invaluable for us when organising events. She has always gone about things quietly but passionately, with great energy and determination. Anita, thanks so much for everything you have done.

I'll miss you here, but I look forward to seeing you at the races and any other event that you can get to! I wish you and Greg the very best in your next adventures. Go Pies!

Merry Christmas to you all. Stay safe on the water. (1/12/25)



Margie Elliott
Editor

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JET SKI RIDE TO BONNIE DOON - 18/01/25

Don't we just love the 'jet ski/boat ride' to the Bonnie Doon Hotel. Whatever your watercraft you are welcome to join in. We've been blessed with great weather for the three years we have held this event, and it was another wonderful turnout of members this year. This is a day that is truly about boating, and socialising. The service at Bonnie Doon Hotel was once again terrific and the beer garden is the perfect spot for our group.

We have scheduled a date for 2026 (17th Jan) but the water level will dictate how we can run this so watch out for communication early in January.



Luke, Alison, Helen, Matt



Jennie & Jaz



Livi & Josh



Brooke, Ben & Marcia

Lake Levels (G-MW Data)

01/12/25 - 55.79%
01/12/24 - 84.35%
01/12/15 - 51.46%
01/12/05 - 49.13%
01/12/1995 - 73.81%

Have you joined our
private Facebook group?

"DWBC Members" for
members & family only.

Join to keep informed.

Hey dog owners, PLEASE
pick up your dog poop.

Dumps have been found
ON the marinas and in
areas where we all walk!



MEMBERS ENJOYED A GREAT DAY OUT TO THE BONNIE DOON HOTEL



SAVE THE DATE



Saturday 17th Jan. Jet Ski Ride

What we do and how we do it will all depend on the water level but save the date in readiness for something!

2026

Alexandra Cup Race Day

How good was this day? Very. Excellent in fact! It was a hottish day, perfect for country races. You don't have to be a punter to join in and have fun. A full bus load was testament to that. Our spot in the 'rooms' reserved again guarantees us a chair and shade if/when required. Thanks, Brod, for the champagne on arrival and an amazing grazing table. Our theme was club colours so there was plenty of green and blue and Neisha's hat was outstanding! Our punters club did much better than last year, ending with a tidy sum. We donated \$400 of this to the Eildon CFA which was greatly appreciated. We tried to become millionaires with the rest, rolling over from one draw to the next until our luck ran out.

This is proving to be one of our most popular events on the calendar so save the date for 2026 and we'll see you there!



Neisha, Louise, Hilly, Nick, Helen, Matt, Kath



Bruce, Jill, Alan & Gill



Hilly, Nick, Gary, Greg



Joey, Gary, Goody, Peter



Diesel and ARGO unite



Margie, Anita, Shelle



Kath & Shannon, the Diesel Dynamos!



Anita & Neisha



Eve & Skye Walter



Our Punters Club race ready and raring to go!



Ben, William & Lucy



Margie, Shelle, Helen



Joey & Shelle, Progress Hall

SAVE THE DATE



Saturday 14th March. Alexandra Cup Race Day

Another bus load of fun is predicted!

Further details will be released closer to the date.



2026



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ANZAC DAY

Lest we Forget

Our own Dawn Service on ANZAC Day was very well attended with Luke playing the bugle, Matt providing a solemn ANZAC story and Ronnie reciting the ODE. The service was followed by a well received gunfire breakfast.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT E.B.C. - FUGLY JUMPER PLEASE!



The girls made the front cover but the boys are worthy of big space too!

What a day. If you missed it, that's a real shame. We all turned up in our fugly Christmas jumpers which added colour and festivity to the occasion. The EBC club house was a great venue which we claimed as our own for the afternoon. The bus in and out was a bonus so we could all relax and really get into the festive spirit. And we did. It was great to see so many of our newer members participate, the best way to meet your marina neighbours.

There was an impromptu, albeit reluctant modelling of club clothing which is now available to order (see page 34), but I think the models were wonderful! 😊

I encourage you to save the date for next year's Christmas in July. It promises to be awesome!



*This photo has absolutely nothing to do with Christmas in July.
It's just a great photo and I couldn't fit it anywhere else!
Matt chillin' at Easter ready for a beer shot contest to begin!*



Well done Commodore - it's official!



Andrea and Jamie in the BEST outfit!



Mrs B channelling Mrs Clause



Kath, one half of the Diesel dynamos!



It was a great representation enjoying our first club function at E.B.C.



Chairman Luke & Mrs B.



Geoff & Jennie



Cheers to you too Joe!

LOTS OF GREAT FUGLY JUMPERS HERE!



Greg & Anita



Cool mums, Megan, Helen, Kath, Kristen



Billabong's Steve & Dianne



Mark, Karen and Deb



Ethel & Wes



Is green really my colour?



Donny and Didee



Kath & Nick



Brooke, her parents & Tom



Matt & Helen



Kristen, Brad, Matt, Megan



Mary & Denise



Nicole, Steve & Darcy



David & Karen



Matt & Megan



**Once they were Darlingford tiny tots...
Now look at them all grown up!**

*Celebrating Ainsley Steer's 21st in September are:
Oli (Wizard), Josh (Chit Chat), Livi (Chit Chat), Ainsley
(Wizard), Abby (Serena Z), Lucy (Y Knot), Jas (Chit Chat)
and Ella (Serena Z)*



The Brown boys from B marina had Dad driving many kilometres all around the east coast and Victoria for them to compete in the 'Off Road Enduro Series' for Australia, New South Wales, and Victoria.

Blake Brown (15) overall for the year, placed: Australia 2nd, New South Wales 1st, Victoria 3rd

Brody Brown (12) placed: Australia 5th, New South Wales 6th, Victoria 7th.

Congratulations Blake & Brody on such a great result.



SAVE THE DATE



Saturday 11th July. A Country Christmas in July

A night time event at Holmesglen, Eildon. Kids welcome. Pricing and all the details will be advised in due course.

Get your country and western gear organised!

2026



Aussie Off Grid

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Please call me if you have any questions about your application, or you'd just like to understand why you should change to **LiFePo4 Lithium batteries**.

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David Cox 0408 337 195

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VALE LEN BARNETT

Len Barnett sadly passed away at home on 17th Feb 2025, after a long illness. Len and his wife Jill were members of DWBC for about 20 years only retiring from the lake and houseboating in 2022 when Len's health deteriorated.

Len & Jill started their connection with 'The Weir' in the early seventies, sharing a campsite with friends at Jerusalem Creek Camping Ground where there was much skiing, drinking and laughs around a campfire. They had a break from the lake due to purchasing a caravan park, thinking that it would be like holidaying at Eildon. That couldn't have been more different. Seven days a week with long days of hard work! That was followed by another stint at the weir with a great site at the caravan park. However, Len had always yearned for a houseboat, and they eventually purchased Harmony, followed by Jenny Lynne which morphed into Knight Torque, moored on D marina. They had many happy times on board enjoying and cherishing family and friends.

Len was a character, a very well-liked and respected man, who, with Jill, loved to join in our events and having a good time. Many members will remember him fondly. Vale Len. RIP.



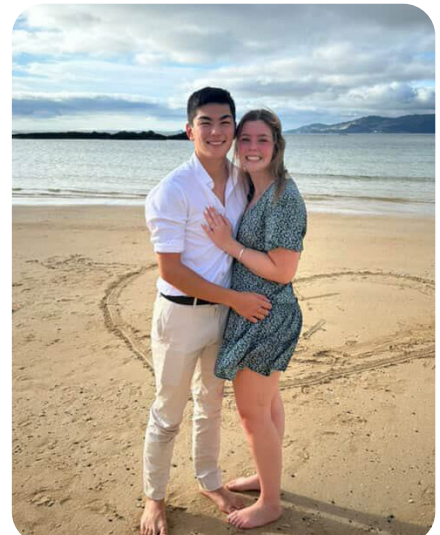
Len & Jill Barnett at Sail Past 2016



*This is Logan Morris with our Jude on Shiraz in January 2025. When this photo was taken Logan was still celebrating his Premiership win with the Brisbane Lions in 2024. Now, he is a **two** time Premiership player and Jude has claimed him as her own!*



Congratulations to Lara Brown from houseboat Wahgunyah. Her 11&U netball team won the grand final after being superbly coached by her mum, Connie!



Liv Rogers (Chit Chat) and Josh were engaged in Japan in April. Congratulations to you both.



Not the Commodore's breakfast, this was the Safety Day Snags



The crew from Diesel went for a walk... all the way to Foggs and back.



Kerryn, Kristen & Stacey. The sisters who grew up on Kokomo!



New Year was in the air when DWBC took over Goughs Bay Boat Club. One hot, sunny December day (the 29th)!



It goes better if you undo the rope Goody!



This is Bob Watts, father of Shannon from Diesel. Bob is 80 yrs old and still managed to pull off a jump start and deep water start over summer.



Summer cruisin with Martini and IMKA



Loving lake life - Tahnee, Jarrod, Martin, Shenae, Khloe & Tom



Australia Day - Kiknbak, Progress Hall and Working Class grandies: Charlee, Calvin, Lewis, Taylan, Mac, Laekyn & Ryder. And Shelle & Joey!

THE RENNIE'S SAY FAREWELL

It is with a heavy heart that, after 19 wonderful years, we bid farewell to Darlingford Waters Boat Club. What a time it has been. Over the years, so many friends have become part of our family, and the memories will stay with us always.

Let me reminisce for a moment.

We joined in Sept 2006 in “Wye Wurrie” on D Marina. By 31st Dec that year the water levels dropped to 11.93%, and all the marinas had to be shifted out to the island. For those who have never experienced it, all four marinas were joined together into one long L-shaped marina coming off the bank just past the entry to Wilson’s. Where you all are now was completely dry, with barely a trickle running down the original Jerusalem Creek—so narrow you could jump from one side to the other.

It turned out to be the perfect way to get to know every member of the Club. You’d set off for a walk and return many hours later after countless chats along the way... and perhaps a glass or two. Many a party was held on the work barge. Sail Past trips to Allen Bay and Big River were unforgettable—spit roasts, dancing in the marquee on Saturday night,



2008 Sail Past

followed by the annual tug-of-war and awards on the Sunday. For those who stayed until Tuesday at Allen Bay, there was the trip to the Jamieson Pub for lunch—ski boats, jet skis, and tinnies all lined up as the day’s transport.

In later years, when water levels were too low to find banks big enough to fit all the boats, Sail Past moved into the big shed. Not quite the same as being out on a bank, but wonderful fun all the same.

Grand Final Day—instigated by Peter Zab—became another great tradition. Stuie would set up the projector, a sheet was hung on the wall, and hot dogs and Four’N Twenties were served at half time.



2009 Winners at Sail Past

Then came Family Day, another fantastic event run by the Social Committee, where the only rule was that everyone have a great time. Like Sail Past, it too has quietened a little in recent years, but hopefully it returns in full swing in coming years. Mid-year dinners, the jet ski trip to Bonnie Doon, Race Day... all incredible events. And of course, Nibbles on the Hill—nothing better than sitting on the hill with a glass in hand and the barbie sizzling away.

There have been sad times too, as we’ve said goodbye to some truly wonderful members. Their memories live on, woven into the history of the lake and the Club.

The lake has always been a huge part of our family. I grew up at Goughs Bay Boat Club, where my father—an



2013 Dinner Dance

ex-commodore—built the original clubhouse. Summer or winter, our Sundays were always spent there. My great aunty and uncle had a property in Allen Bay before the lake was built—and, fittingly, the area was called Darlingford. Greg’s grandparents had a property in Rennies Inlet. So, the lake isn’t just a place to us; it’s part of our family story, and deeply special to me.

So, for now, it’s hoo-roo. But we’re not far away, we’ll certainly see you around.

All our love,

Anita & Greg Rennie

Stacey, Dale, Cooper & Willow Penjin

Mikaela Rennie, Jack & Ivy Wells



2025 Xmas Lunch at EBC

DARLINGFORD BABIES



2025 is the beginning of a new generation – Gen Beta, and we have several new Beta babies in the club already! Introducing the new generation of Darlingford babes:



Spencer David Barwick, born 17th August. Spencer is the first child for Michelle and her partner Jayden and fourth grandson for Jamie and Andrea Anderson (Torque).



On the 19th August the Farley clan celebrated the arrival of another male member, Harrison. 'Boys' rule' says Pete. That is now 5 grandsons and 1 granddaughter for Peter & Melanie (Destiny). *At this rate they will need a bigger houseboat!*



The beautiful Isla Terray McArthur was born on 16th October and has captured the hearts of her parents Gavin and Charlotte (Cool Change) and everyone else she's met as well.



Proud new Grandpa, Robert Eadie (Freedom) with his first grandson, Harrison Robert Skinner, born 4th Nov. First child for Rob's daughter Kirstyn and her partner Luke.



Joey & Shelle Nagy (Progress Hall) have welcomed grandchild number 5, Tommy Nagy, third child for Jesse and Lucy Nagy, born on 12th Nov.

HAPPY Birthday To You

2025 has been a big year for milestone birthdays. 18^{ths}, 21^{sts}, 40^{ths}, 50^{ths}, 70^{ths} and 80^{ths} (*the ones I heard about*). Happy birthday to everyone, looks and sounds like you all had amazing times celebrating in ways that were special and meaningful to you. Besides those in pictures here, also celebrating big birthdays were: January - Jax Anderson (Torque) turned 10, Chelsea Badrock (Sanity) hit 40, Gabbi McArthur (Cool Change) was 18; May - Logan McKenzie (Trident) turned 21, Nicole Johnson (Cool Breeze) turned 18 (*I tried hard for a photo ☺*); Eve Walter (EveningSkye) turned 10 in August, and one coming up on 7th Dec is Luke Johnson (Cool Breeze) turning 21.



Ronnie and friends (the regular visitors to Shiraz) were at Goughs Bay Boat Club celebrating his birthday way back in January. This was just the practice run for his BIG number birthday on Jan 6th 2026!

Not only is Ronnie turning 80 in January but so to are former long term members and friends of Darlingford, Margie Amooore and Barry Gurrieri (father of Michelle Nagy). Early birthday wishes to you all!

DARLINGFORD BIRTHDAYS



Not so quiet celebrations for Gina Walter (EveningSkye) when she turned 40! The Flemington Members still haven't recovered. (09/10)



Commodore Brod turned the big 40 and had a big bunch of rowdy club members amongst his guests at Trinity, St. Kilda. *We know how to party!* (27/06)



Peter Elliott (Kiknbak) marked his 70th (yep, I'm married to an old bloke...) with a dinner in the city as well as a quiet pub tea with daughter Jodie and granddaughter Charlee Rose for the obligatory cake and candles! (15/09)



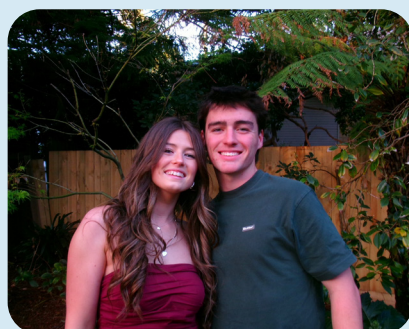
The ever elegant Kristen Steer (Wizard) joined the 50 club in September.



Shelle Belle (Progress Hall) celebrated her 60th with a High Tea at Rivers of Yarrambat with her family. (07/06)



Hard to believe that our Stuie is 80! But he must be, because here he is with a cake that says so! (26/10)



Lucy Taylor (Y Knott) and Ollie Steer (Wizard) celebrating Lucy's 18th. (06/11)



Daniel Brown (Wahgunyah) celebrated his 40th on a trip to NZ with a bunch of mates. In this photo you will spot Shane Rowe, Barney Badrock and Daniel Thomas, all from B marina! Can just imagine that party! (15/08)

IF IT'S NEWS IN DARLINGFORD SEND IT TO THE EDITOR!

magazine@darlingford.com.au | 0408 544 814 | 'Margie Elliott' on Facebook Messenger

MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS



General Director, Mark Patman

I'm Mark, from The Doc's houseboat on C Marina. I've been on Lake Eildon my whole life and have been houseboating for the past 12 years. I was once a tournament barefooter, and these days you'll usually find me wake surfing or wake foiling.

I'm married to Deb, and we have two adult kids — Keira (25) & Josh (22).

I currently work as an Operations Manager at ANCA, where we manufacture CNC machines across our sites in Australia and Thailand.



General Director, Jamie Anderson

Hi I'm Jamie Anderson. I'm a retired 64 year old bloke, I have a lovely wife Andrea also retired. We have owned houseboats on Eildon Weir since the mid 80's predominantly at Jerusalem Creek Marina. We moved over to the bright side in 2020 onto marina B with our boat Torque. We have two grown children. Michelle who has a new baby Spencer with her partner Jayden. We also have a son Sam who is married to Blair and have 3 boys, Jax 10, Hayden 8 and Huxley 5. Sam has recently bought Shilo on Marina A, bit like having holiday homes in the same street. So the Anderson family are here for a while. We had a motor mechanic business for 25 years before retiring. We are happy to help where needed, I'm always in for a chat, so just ask.



Soon to be Secretary, Caroline Schmidt

My father built and launched our boat in 1973, the year before I was born. Since then, I have spent around a quarter of my life on the lake. One of the original Jerusalem Creek houseboats, we joined Darlingford at the same time as Don, when the swing moorings were taken away by GMW (which I think was around 30 years ago). I took ownership of the boat when my father, Bill Schmidt, died in 2011. We did a big reno of the houseboat in 2020 and she's now called Courage (after the beer), which was the name my dad always intended for her to have, but never got around to naming her. When not on the lake, I work in marketing and also volunteer for Kyneton Theatre Company as company secretary and Musical Director.

ALISON & LUKE'S 30th ANNIVERSARY - ALONE IN THE US! (by Luke)

Covid robbed us of our 25th wedding anniversary, so we made good on our 30th. My request to Alison was anniversary in New York, history and my childhood fantasy – Philadelphia – home of Rocky.

Alison has always been good at planning, and surprising me with the detail she manages to incorporate. Our first holiday alone post children, and there was to be no holding back.

New York via LA made for a long arduous start. New York was fantastic, if not a little “familiar” as we have seen so much of it on telly, at times it seemed like I knew it. Fine dining, Central Park (Alison meeting Richard Branson and thanking him for Virgin Records), Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Brooklyn, Empire state, Lombardi's Pizza and a cigar bar in Little Italy where we finished our wedding anniversary evening highlights.

Onto Philly and my first taste was of course “Philly steak” – overrated for mine, but a must do. Of course, Philly is known as the city of brotherly love, but I was there for Rocky. The steps

nearly killed me (and if you want a laugh ask Alison or anyone friends with me on Facebook to show you my Rocky training montage video), Mickey's gym is located in a very dubious suburb of Philly, but we had a great experience with the guy who owns the Pizza Restaurant across the road (used as the bar in Rocky 1 x Rocky 5). When we told him we were heading to Rocky's house he simply said “don't go there” – full of drug dealers and trouble. A highlight was Adriaan's Restaurant – Rocky Balboa, actually called Victor Café. It has surprisingly great food, and live opera from the wait staff, worth the effort if you are in Philly. Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, (Declaration of Independence and the American Constitution all formulated here) and

Continued on page 33



Then and now! 30 years. Congratulations!

Lake Eildon

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Meet the Bakers Rippatoo

We welcome to our community Brent, Karen & and their teenage daughters, Ashlee & Taylor, who are the new owners of Rippatoo now moored on C marina. They also have a very friendly golden retriever named Radar who loves to say hello to everyone. They live in Emerald & love to travel & value their family time.



The Baker family, Rippatoo

Brent and Karen are no strangers to Lake Eildon as they have been coming here on camping & houseboat holidays for about 30 years. They enjoy fishing, boating, kayaking & swimming, so have come to the right place!

They are looking forward to this new adventure, meeting everyone & the houseboating lifestyle, so say g'day as you walk along C marina.

Odd Spots



Ryden, Jarrod & Taylan with Tay's fish



Nick, Hilly, Kath & 'Dot'



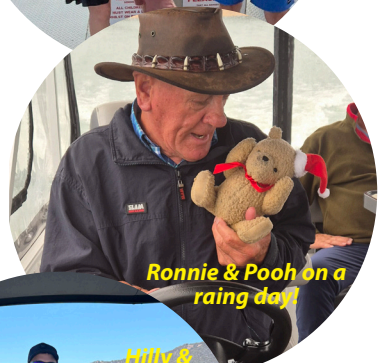
Mandy & Megan



Nicole, Steve, Jimmy



Joey taking a breather!



Ronnie & Pooh on a rainy day!



Greg



Hilly & Aiden



Diesel's guard dog Zeus



The grandies on Working Class

ALISON & LUKE'S 30th ANNIVERSARY *continued*



Rocky Brinksma made it to the top!

our first taste of Grid Iron with the Philadelphia Eagles.

Annapolis is built around a large Naval College and is stunning in its architecture, on the way there you can stop in Lancaster County and ogle the Amish community. Their food is excellent, and they really do live life off grid.

Washington D.C. Home to America's democracy, Smithsonian museums, Arlington Cemetery and Georgetown where Alison surprised me by booking us the Proposal Booth at Martins Tavern (look it up) – a most beautiful town, with picture postcard avenues. More fabulous food options and of course Capitol Hill, The Pentagon etc.



Martin's Tavern, Georgetown

Lastly, we flew to Dallas Texas, this was to fulfil my curiosity around Elm Street, one book depository and the JFK conspiracy. We had our trip a little scewif, having seen JFK's burial site at Arlington, his homes before and after marrying Jackie and of course the proposal booth prior to Dallas, but the trip book ended the story. Believe what you like, everyone has an opinion, but it is certainly confronting to see in life, and the Zupruder footage remains gruesome, and fatal.



Surprise!

Fort Worth Saleyards are worth a visit but make sure you are there on a weekend – bugger all happens on weekdays. And when they talk about "Longhorns" they mean long!! The Texas BBQ was very good, but personally I preferred Terry Black's in Dallas.

We covered an inordinate amount of ground considering the heat, at times I was exhausted, but looking back, I am thankful Alison pushed me – we saw more than I could/would possibly cover in this article.

As you know, Alison is British but has lived here now longer than she had there. It is testament to her strength and patience that we have managed 30 years.

Thank you, Alison, I love you.

Delia Ward Memorial Shield



Congratulations Neisha Roberts on being awarded (belatedly) the 2024 Delia Ward Memorial Shield.

This was presented to Neisha at the Alexandra Race Day in March, in recognition of her many years of tireless support on the Activities Committee.

Club Clothing



Adult Hoodies - \$45

Adult Tees - \$25

Kids/Youth Hoodies - \$35

Kids/Youth Tees - \$20

Singlets available - TBC



Available colours
BLACK BLUE GREY
PINK PURPLE

**Get your club gear on! You too can look as fabulous as our (reluctant) models!
Order forms will be published soon.**

In the meantime you can email social@darlingford.com.au



EILDON CHARITY GOLF DAY

Thanks again to Stuie Steer for co-ordinating DWBC's participation in the Eildon Charity Golf Day that was held on Friday 14th Nov. Our avid golfers turned out again with a couple of extra's who just went for support!



Jas Rogers (Chit Chat) with dad & mum at her Year 12 Validictory Dinner



Lucy Taylor (Y Knot) with mum & dad at her Yr 12 Graduation.

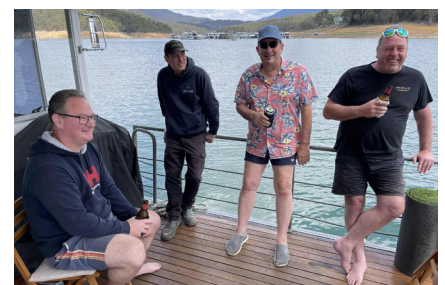


Our assistant Secretary, Nicole, and Treasurer, Melanie, at Safety morning.

INAUGURAL COMMODORE'S BREAKFAST

What a great idea, to have a Commodore's breakfast as a lead into the AGM, a new way to start the boating season. Brod (with great help from Marcia) put on a fantastic spread, like a hotel buffet. There was a good turnout at the AGM no doubt fueled by this hearty feast.

Later in the afternoon, as a nod to past tradition, the Commodore jumped on a barge with his little men, Ben & Tom, so the Chairman could 'Sail Past' him. Luke just loves tradition! Half of B marina plus others jumped onto Serena Z and Joey commandeered the uber, for a salute to the Commodore. Serena Z stayed out for a cruisey afternoon - looks like a great time was had by all!



GRAND FINAL DAY AT 501

Instead of a GF party in our shed this year we took it to 501. The Eildon minibus taxi had a busy day ferrying us to and from, including a group from the Ski Club who joined us. And there was a full load on the Noosa boat which was way rowdier on the home journey. It was a great atmosphere even though the footy wasn't necessarily the best but the entertainment sure was especially the pool table challenge. Who knew we had a pool shark amongst us? Shannon challenged some young lads who surely regretted it when they were beaten by our Diesel Dynamos, more than once! We had plenty of finger food, the bar was very well patronaged and Ashlee Taylor from Rippatoo won the 501 raffle which was an amazing pink swag. Thanks, Brod, for a very successful day.



The winning ticket for the pink swag!



The Hewlett's from Diesel



Jimmy, Brent, Luke, Alison, Marcia



Nicole Powne



Suzanne & Kevin



The Baker family, Rippatoo



Pool Sharks, Shan & Kath



Winters - Devil's Playground



Oh, that's way too close Mary!



Joe & Nick



Chris & Ben



Stuie

DWBC STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE (Dec 2024)

As we welcome new Directors and farewell those who have served us well, we also enter our final year of our 5-year Strategic Plan.

As your elected Board we are working through the major projects that you identified as priorities, with some key highlights below:

Our Place – “Our facilities, infrastructure and spaces support great experiences for members.”

- Continuing to work with GMW to confirm an ETA to complete concrete of the first bend on the Jerusalem Creek Road, we have been advised that funds have been set aside to complete this, now it's just waiting for it to be done – watch this space!
- Completed with a few modifications a new wash barge, with many thanks to the members who have supported us on this project, it's been great to see it get plenty of use in the last few months.
- Continue to determine the best way forward for a club room option and additional sheds for member boat storage
- Marina upgrade project underway, including building a new maintenance shed to support this long-term project, excavation to commence very soon, great to see this first step underway. Thank you to Stuart Steer for his assistance and tireless efforts to see this project through to fruition.
- Continue to engage with GMW, Murindindi Shire Council, DWELP, LEHIA and local MP's to discuss road sealing and phone access
- Facilities maintained to high standard
- Defibrillators on all 4 Marinas atop improved fire boxes

Our Community – “Our culture supports us to enjoy a sense of connection, belonging and care.”

- The new website launched in May 2024, great to see our beautiful club so well represented and a great tool for our members to use to download forms etc.
- Purchased snake bite kits for every houseboat – please ensure you have yours
- Regular communication to members including welcoming new members
- Sail Past - welcoming a new boating season and saluting our new Chairman, Luke Brinksma
- Member representation on the GWS working parties, thanks to Tony Rodis for his efforts
- Club Sponsorship to several community groups including Alexandra Country Races, Eildon CFA, Eildon Primary School and Eildon Golf club.

Our Base – “Our investments are valued and our club is well run.”

- Board meetings and activities led by Strategic Plan
- Regular communication to members
- Member biennial survey due this year



Family;
we belong



Environment;
we care



Safety;
we act



Community;
we connect

DARLINGFORD HONOUR BOARD

Delia Ward Memorial Shield Recipients

1983	Stuart Steer
1984	Tony Cox
1985	Ross Burton
1986	Colin Blunt
1987	Ian Donaldson
1988	Wes Ford
1989	Lee Vickery
1990	Ethel Ford
1991	Russell Mee
1992	Barry Gurrieri
1993	Olwen & Bill Ferris
1994	Peter Merigan
1995	Jos de Klijn
1996	Corrie De Klijn
1997	Peter Smith
1998	Jeff Holloway
1999	Bob Fisher
2000	Doug La Fontaine
2001	Hugh Harvison
2002	Lyndell Parker
2003	Ethel Ford
2004	Peter Raaymakers
2005	Peter Smith
2006	Gavin Wigginton
2007	Julie Harvison
2008	Ian Hudson
2009	Margie Elliott
2010	Maurie Callinan
2011	Anita Rennie
2012	Brett Lewis
2013	Terry 'Macca' McMillan
2014	Mark Ford
2015	Richard Ivey (posthumously)
2016	Don Atkinson
2017	Gary Crump
2018	Brad Rogers
2019	Kirsty Rogers
2020	Not awarded due to Covid-19 lockdowns
2021/22	Luke Brinksma (awarded for 2 yr period)
2023	Lisa Glassborow
2024	Neisha Roberts

Commodores

1977	LERC	Owen Day
1978	JCBC	Danny Traum
1979	JCBC	Ken Oakes
1980	JCBC	David Pearson
1981	JCBC	Wayne Hawke
1982-84	JCBC	Ross Burton
1985	JCBC	Dennis Walker
1986-88	JCBC	Keith Davis

Darlingford Waters Boat Club

1989-91	Jos de Klijn
1992-93	Lee Watkins
1994-95	Bob Fisher
1996-97	Corrie de Klijn
1998-99	Russell Thompson
2000-01	Hilda van den Dungen
2002-04	Hugh Harvison
2005-06	Karen Brown
2007-09	Stuart Steer
2010-12	Phil Bourke
2013-14	David Brown
2015-16	Robert Storey (<i>Rear CDR</i>)
2017	A.Oakes/J.Gardner (<i>Rear CDR</i>)
2018-19	Gary Crump (<i>A.C. Leader</i>)
2020-24	Kirsty Rogers (<i>A.C. Leader</i>)
2024-	Brod Helmers

Magazine Editors

1984-87	Dean Reynolds
1988-89	Fran Mandergheddes
1990-94	Russell Mee
1995-97	Jeff Holloway
1998-2001	Russell Mee
2001-02	Linda Reiss
2002-03	Russell Mee
2004-07	Julie Harvison
2008-14	Margie Elliott
2015-16	Hiatus
2017-	Margie Elliott

Chairmen

DW Co-Op

1984	Ross Burton
1985-86	Dennis Walker
1987	Keith Davis
1988	John Hardiman
1989	Keith Davis

DWM P/L

1990-2001	Jos de Klijn
2002	Bob Fisher
2003-07	Greg Boland
2008-09	Darryl Floyd
2010-13	Terry McMillan
2014-20	Brett Lewis
2021-23	Brad Rogers
2024-	Luke Brinksma

Life Members

1980s	Owen Day
1992	Len Villiers
17/11/2009	Russell Mee (posthumously)
16/11/2010	Jos De Klijn
14/02/2015	Stuart Steer
24/07/2021	Maurie Callinan
20/11/2021	Ron Mulholland
18/02/2023	Margie Elliott



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SAT: 9am – 1pm

SUN: CLOSED

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 9am – 1pm

CLOSED: XMAS, BOXING & NY DAYS

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- WESTERBEKE
- LOWRANCE
- RAY MARINE
- RUNAWAY BAY
- PONTOON BOATS



MERCURY