

St Kilda Marina Club

"Reflections"

E-mag and update from St Kilda Marina Club

Spring Edition - November 2007

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Welcome to Reflections!

Welcome to Reflections - your E-mag and update from St Kilda Marina Club.

As the warmer weather approaches, and boaties begin to emerge from their winter hibernation, SKMC is getting ready for a great summer, and we're very excited at what the future holds for boaties across the bay.

Over the last few months, there have been some changes for the better at St Kilda Marina, but also some continued 'foot dragging' that sadly members have come to expect from Marina Management.

The fact is that boat owners at St Kilda Marina are here because we love the place. There's never been more choice when it comes to locations to keep our boats - and for various reasons, many residents have moved to other marinas - but for most of us, we simply wouldn't want to keep our boats anywhere else.

St Kilda Marina Club's mission is to provide a network for boat owners to share information and communicate with each other - and to help make St Kilda Marina the best marina in Melbourne - in every way.



If you don't know where you want to go you'll never get there! We know where we want to go. We want to go boating!

Entrance Depth Dredging - The Saga Continues

By far the issue of most concern to members at St Kilda Marina is the ongoing entrance depth maintenance (or lack thereof) issue.

Well over a dozen members this year have come to grief as they attempted to exit or enter the marina. Damage incurred includes bent props and legs, and also bent shafts, costing \$1,000s to repair. Groundings are occurring daily.

As most members know, management displayed a sign warning of the shallow depth and advising of "dredging commencing soon" for over five months before they actually did anything about it. Their chosen dredge, "The Lewinski" has now been at the marina for over two

months, dredging when 'weather permits' but as of last Sunday, depth at low tide was still hovering around the one metre level. It's scandalous.

Some members are now discussing a fee embargo until this issue is properly resolved once and for all by marina management. Consider this: If you were unable to safely enter or exit your rented premises because the driveway was unsafe, and despite the promises of the landlord, this continued for over ten months - at some stage you would consider taking action to get what (in good faith) you have already paid for and have a right to expect. Some members are now also calling for some form of refund or fee reduction to residents as



Another boat needing a tow off by the Coast Guard after becoming stuck fast at the entrance.

compensation for all the problems and damage caused to residents' boats over the last 10 months due to inadequate depth maintenance.

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- Sponsors Special Offers
- ...and a whole lot more!

The Changing of the Guards

CityWatch Security has replaced the incompetent mob that previously patrolled the marina. In the short time since CWS took over they have already been instrumental in the apprehension of a teenage thug who gained entrance to J-Row and broke into at least four boats. Charges are pending.

Members may also have noticed that FINALLY, after seven months of "trials"

Marina Management has installed automatic gate closers onto all of the row gates.

Considering that break-ins are a weekly occurrence, members are supporting the installation of CCTV cameras that would allow members to view their boats in real time via the web. SKMC is ready, willing and able to provide the online setup if Management will install the cameras.

Dock Lines - What's happening at St Kilda Marina

Plans are apparently underway by Marina Management for a major redevelopment of the marina - ocean side. Long term plans include the doubling of the marina's capacity by creating another berthing complex on the other side of the breakwater.

Hopefully, these plans if approved will also resolve the nonexistence of any private members lounge and facilities.

As far as we can ascertain, St Kilda Marina is the only marina in Australia where private members facilities are not provided by Management.

Note: Around ten years ago, what is now The Great Provider was in fact members storage, washroom and locker facilities. These facilities were lost when Management decided to convert the members facilities into a

private restaurant without creating any replacement facilities for members.

Members will be pleased to learn that as part of the upcoming renovations at The Great Provider, new private washroom facilities for members are included in their plans, removing the need for members to tiptoe past the urinals on their way to the showers.

Educating smokers that butts are litter, and promoting the use of personal ashtrays can eliminate cigarette butt litter.



If you allow smoking on your boat, pick up some free personal ashtrays from the Marina Office and help protect our bay from toxic cigarette butt litter! Proudly sponsored by No ButTs. www.nobutts.com.au

Members Bash confirmed for early November!

SKMC's next Members Bash will take place on Friday, 9th November at the Gazebo at The Great Provider. Following on from the success of our inaugural Members Bash in May, we're very excited about the next one.

There'll be giveaways, some very cool prizes to be won courtesy of some of

SKMC's sponsors, and if the last bash was anything to go by, it's going to be another hell-of-a-night!

The Member's Bash is free to all members! Friends and guests are also welcome with an entry fee of \$25 per head. We hope you'll come and support our club. To help manage this

event, an RSVP is essential.

There will be plenty of food and drink and it's going to be a really great opportunity to meet other members at St Kilda Marina and hang out for a few fun hours with other boaties. Contact Belinda at SKMC (see p.3) to confirm your attendance. See you there!

To Splash or Rally - That is the question...

Two great events have been announced for Feb-March 2008 - **The Variety Splash** 3 day regatta around the bay, and **The Bass Strait Rally** - an 11 day off-shore challenge for power boats sailing from Hobart up the East Coast of Tassie, and across Bass Strait (yep!) to Melbourne, via Wilsons Prom and Westernport Bay.

Unfortunately, these two exciting events clash and interested members will have to choose between the two.

Details on both events are available via stkildamarinaclub.com or visit: www.varietysplash.org.au www.offshorechallenge.com.au



Off-shore Challenge 2007 participants crossing Bass Strait in March.

New Products

Let's face it, you can never have too many fenders to protect your boat - but they do take up a lot of room.

One of the smartest new products we've seen for a long time is **Marine Solutions'** new Boat Bunkers - Fenders that inflate in seconds when needed and deflate in seconds to save precious stowage space.

Marine Solution can also assist you with complete mooring ropes, fender and



Boat Bunkers can be inflated and deflated in seconds for easy storage.

jetty wheel packages to ensure that your boat can be parked safely, and moored safely anywhere, with a minimum of fuss each time you berth.

Marine Solutions will be giving away two Boat Bunkers and 2 sets of Rope Covers at our next Members Bash, so be there for your chance to win a set of these brilliant new fenders. www.marinesolutionsaustralia.com.au

Myths & Facts

Myth: "I've been told that as a resident of St Kilda Marina I am expected to have my boat serviced here - Is that right?"

Fact: As far as we know this is still a free country. You have the right to have your boat's requirements attended to by whom ever is going to give you the

best service - and the best deal. SKMC's mission is to provide choices to our members and all boaties - to assist them to get the best for their boats.

Boat washing with current water restrictions

With Stage 3A water restrictions currently in place it's become a lot harder to keep our boats clean and rinsed of salt, fish blood, bird poop, etc.

Many progressive marinas have taken steps to ensure their members can still maintain their boats while these restrictions are in place.

Marina YE & others have installed desalinators - converting salt water into fresh water for boat cleaning.

Savages Wharf's forward thinking solution prior to the current water crisis was to install underground rainwater collecting tanks which store a combined sixteen tons of water, available to their members for boat cleaning via their tap system.

Currently, the only option boat owners at St Kilda Marina have is to have their boats cleaned by professional boat detailers, or use a bucket and sponge, or a hose connected to a high pressure water unit, however, all these require the use of fresh water - which for obvious reasons in these times of water restrictions, is something responsible boat owners would rather avoid.



water restrictions are in place.

Consider this: For less than \$15,000 (ie 1-2 x annual berthing fees) desalinators are available that can produce a whopping 3,500 litres of fresh water a day - more than enough to service the requirements of boat owners & businesses at St Kilda Marina.

Space could easily be provided near the fuel bowzers, or an empty berth. As there is no management operated marina website in existence, residents could book their preferred times on stkildamarinaclub.com

Once again, SKMC is ready, willing and able to provide the online setup if Management will install a desalinator to assist all of its residents.

Members on our Bulletin Board have been discussing why Marina Management is yet to offer any assistance to its residents so that they can maintain their boats while current

Late News: SKMC has received written clarification from South East Water on boat owners Re: keeping their boats free of hazardous or corrosive substances. For more info go to stkildamarinaclub.com Members can download a copy of this letter or pick one up at our Members Bash.

EnviroNews

September: Free Personal Ashtrays

St Kilda Marina Club, in conjunction with No BuTTs is sponsoring the free giveaway of personal ashtrays from the marina office. Everyone is invited to drop by the office and grab a few so that cigarette butt litter can be reduced and hopefully one day eliminated, especially on the Bay.



Don't be a Tossler. Get free personal ashtrays from the marina office.

October: Diesel slick hits Marina

A nasty diesel slick fouled the water at the marina for a few days late last month. Boats were coated with diesel slime and the fumes from the slick were very strong. Thankfully, a few days of rain, and a friendly tide flushed most of it out of the marina, though boats did need a waterline scrubbing.



That's not clouds in the reflection... It's diesel.

November: Dolphins & Whales return

Dolphin and whale sightings are on the rise in Port Phillip Bay indicating that generally, the bay is in very good health. These beauties were spotted off Beaumaris Bay. Plastic bags kill dolphins and seals, so whenever possible, if you see them in the water, pull them out. (The bags, not the seals!)



Dolphins off Beaumaris Bay.

Something Fishy...

SF #1: The truth about fishing lures:

Fishing lures always fall into one of two categories:

1. The lures that a fisherman swears he swears by and that he will generously share with you.
2. The ones that he hides because they really work.



Contact Details:

(61-3) 9416-4666

(61-3) 9416-4655

info@stkildamarinaclub.com

www.stkildamarinaclub.com

SF #2: I don't believe it!

A man was trapped on a deserted island that was sinking into the sea. As the water lapped around his feet, a motor boat suddenly approached the island. "Come on, man, get in!" said the boatman. "No," said the man on the island, "I have faith in Jesus. He will save me!"

The boat went off and the water continued to rise. When it was up to the man's chest, a sailboat appeared. "Get in the boat, or you're going to drown!" said the sailor. Again, the man said, "No, I have faith in Jesus. He will save me!"

The boat went off and the water continued to rise. When it was up to the man's chin, a fishing boat appeared. "Get in, this is your last chance", shouted the fisherman "No", the man said again, "Jesus will save me!"

So the boat went off, the water continued to rise and the man drowned. He went up to heaven and was greeted by Jesus.

"Hey, Jesus," he said, "I trusted in you all my life and you let me drown! I don't believe it!"

"YOU don't believe it?" Jesus said, "I sent three boats to save you!"

SKMC welcomes new members:

Ralph B. & Family
32 Caribbean - G Row

Darryl N.
Seeker 585 - Trailer

Greg M.
Haines 5.8 - Trailer

Stuart gentlemen.
Riviera - Jacksons Marine

Darren O.
Sea Ray 26 - F Row

John S.
32 Mustang - Geelong

Andrew S. & Family
Sea Ray 27 - Patt. Lakes

Marcus D. & Family
Four Winns 245 - F Row

Richard B.
Maxum 30 - Sandy YC

SKMC adopts a dolphin!

Members will be pleased to know that in order to support the sensational work of the Dolphin Research Institute, SKMC has adopted a dolphin.

"Delvene" our five year old female, is happily swimming around the bay with the other members of her pod, and can often be seen loitering a few kilometers off Beaumaris Bay.

www.dolphinresearch.org.au

**DOLPHIN
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE**

Pic of the month:



Ooops - Recent mishap in Dubai.

And now, a word from our Sponsors:



Marine Solutions: Save over \$150 on a complete berth fit-out, including 6 x Rope Covers, 3 x D-Fender padded berth cushions, and 2 x fender covers for only \$532! SKMC members only! Bonus bottle of Quicksilver cleaner!



Aqualuma: A \$100 discount off 6-series lights and a \$50 discount off 3-series lights. If you've seen these amazing underwater lights and liked the idea of having them on your boat, now's the time! For more info call 9416-4666.



Renix: A Family pizza and a bottle of red or white vino delivered right to your boat for only \$30.00!! (St Kilda Marina only) Bonus: Free Garlic pizza!

Renix - Great food and booze delivered right to your boat!



No Butts: If you love the bay don't litter your cigarette butts. Butts are toxic and take up to 15 years to break down. Order 5 personal ashtrays for only \$10, and we'll throw in an extra 3 for free!



Nautilus Marine: Save 10% off your boat's insurance. SKMC members only. Call us today for a quote. We will not be beaten on price!

The REAL alternative to boat insurance.



Pier Marine: A pre-summer boat inspection including slippage for only \$100 from the best in the business! Appointments essential so call today!



Wettowels: The mother of all refresher towelettes! Perfect for boats! Order a 50-pack for only \$24.95 and receive another 20% extra Wettowels for FREE!

Wettowels is proud to sponsor SKMC.



Shipmate Directory: The new 2008 edition of Shipmate is out now! Your one-stop directory for products and services for boaties on Port Phillip Bay or Westernport Bay. Proudly supporting St Kilda Marina Club.



Eaze Internet Services: A free consultation for all your internet requirements. If you're not on the web, you're losing business to those who are! We built SKMC's site, and we can help your business too! **It's time to get online!**

We hope you enjoy reading "Reflections". Many thanks to all our members, sponsors, friends and supporters whose interest, passion and assistance has made St Kilda Marina Club a reality.