

The Sound of Music - Queenscliff Lighthouse Theatre Company



Queenscliff Harbour has sponsored the Queenscliff Lighthouse Theatre Company's latest production "The Sound of Music" which opened to rave reviews at the Town Hall on March 27. A great cast of local amateur actors, local schoolchildren and many others in cameo roles back by an orchestra shone in this much loved musical. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Harbour arrangements during the Easter Break

With the exception of Good Friday, it will be business as usual during this year's Easter break. Although the office will be open throughout the whole period, our Drystack facility will be closed on Good Friday. For further information please contact the Harbour Office on (03) 5258 5459.

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April 2009

Introducing the new Queenscliff Harbour

HARBOURSIDE



A sight to behold – the 2009 Queenscliff Couta boat Regatta



A weather forecast of cooler than average temperatures and gusting winds created an air of anticipation ahead of Queenscliff's annual Couta Boat Regatta held on Saturday February 21. The Regatta is the feature event in the Maritime Weekend Calendar and, for the first time, competitors were able to raft up in the newly completed central basin at Queenscliff Harbour.

Representatives from QHPL, a major sponsor of the Maritime Weekend, joined Regatta participants at the Maritime Museum for a special lunch of freshly caught grilled fish, salad and other local produce. The race briefing was held immediately after lunch and participants and spectators alike were then 'piped down' to the harbour for the annual Blessing of the Fleet, again delivered by local identity, barefoot fisherman Lewis Ferrier. There were spectators galore, enthusiastic competitors, flags and banners, and many beautifully turned out Couta boats and Classic boats all ready to do their best.

Darren Cheeseman, MP, the Federal Member for Geelong, officially launched the Regatta from Lewis Ferrier's boat, "Rosebud". He was joined by Queenscliff Councillor, Helene Butler, QHPL Project Director, Tim Price, Elaine Carbines, Manager Strategic Relations, Parks Victoria and Master of Ceremonies, Dr Richard Bell.

Although a number of boats decided not to compete because of the strong south easterly winds, conditions settled a little during the course of the race, which turned out to be an exciting and action packed day of sailing for the 25 competing boats.

Handicap winners in Division 1 were Lola C43 skippered by Ray Bateman in first place, followed by Zephyr C2006, skippered by Peter Sullivan in second place and Pearl C12 crossing the line in third place under the steady hand of skipper, James Mighell. Line honours went to Romy C2003 and its skipper, Nigel Abbott, who also took home the coveted "First Boat Home" white jumper.

Handicap winners in Division 2 (small boats) were Claire C154, skippered by Mark Bergi in first place, Rosie C114 skippered by Scott Crisp in second place and skipper, Russell Watson's Nellie C148 in third place. Line honours went to Jeanette Ellis, skipper of Regina C34, who also won the "First Boat Home" white jumper". Jeanette was also awarded the Fisherman's Trophy for the first old couta boat over line. Regina C34 was built in 1934.

The first classic yacht over the line was Mercedes III, R450 skippered by Peter Bow.

Following the Regatta, participants returned to the Maritime Museum where winners were presented with their trophies and everyone discussed the highlights of the day over a few drinks and nibbles. All in all, another great day of sailing in a wonderful Maritime weekend of activity, which was a credit to the organisers.

Queenscliff Harbour Stage 3 construction works are now well underway and visitors and harbour users alike will notice big changes on their next visit.

The iconic Tower that will integrate the Port of Melbourne Navigational Aid, which abuts the waterfront restaurant, is nearing completion with the external stairs now in place. The Observation Deck floor was installed last week and the shroud, or top of the tower will be fitted towards the end of April. Handover to the Port of Melbourne to commence their light installation is scheduled for the end of March after which time the light will be installed and the Navigation function will be in action helping to improve safe access through the rip. Public access to the tower will not be available until the building is handed over by the Contractor later this year.

The Waterfront Restaurant with its graceful sweeping façade is also taking shape with all the structural steelwork now completed. The first floor concrete was poured in early March and carpenters will start on site at the end of March. Windows will be installed in early April and the whole building will be at lockup stage by May.

The Retail buildings that make up Stage 3 are also progressing with the remainder of the structural steelwork expected to be completed by the end of March. The first floor concrete slab is now in place and we expect the roof to be fitted at the beginning of April.

The Workshop buildings that border the boatyard have now been completed as have all the works associated with the Drystack storage annex. The fuel system has also been commissioned and is fully operational. We are now on the countdown to a completion date for later this year, and a huge opening for the 2009 spring which is exciting news for everyone.



Construction update



Focus on Queenscliff

Boating Victoria, a specialist division of Yachting Victoria has a special three-day Easter Cruise weekend planned, with more than 30 boats from Boating Victoria member clubs around the bay including Williamstown, Sandringham, Patterson River, Hidden Harbour and Geelong joining in.

“It’s going to be a memorable and fun-filled weekend in a beautiful location at the entrance to Port Phillip Bay. We’ve booked a carriage on the Blues Train for Saturday night and everyone is looking forward to the Seafood Feast on Good Friday. It’s going to be a great Easter,” he said.

Program Organiser, Kevin Ezard said that around 70 people will be on board the boats to participate in the Easter Cruise weekend, which will take in Queenscliff Seafood Festival, the legendary Blues Train and a host of other local activities and attractions.

All of the visitor berths at Queenscliff Harbour are booked for the entire Easter period and there is a significant waiting list for any last minute cancellations.



MIA MIA

The beautiful 25 metre ketch, Mia Mia will be berthed at Queenscliff Harbour for the next 12 months where she will undergo a full internal and external refit. All work is being carried out by local craftsmen and will showcase the range of high quality boatbuilding and maintenance skills available at the Harbour.

The Mia Mia was designed in Sandringham, built in Footscray, Victoria and launched in December 1965. The name, Mia Mia is Aboriginal for home or resting place and she was most likely Australia’s first private pleasure cruiser.

For many years Mia Mia’s original owner and crew sailed her to many countries throughout the world and she bears the distinction of being the Radio Relay vessel on seven

Sydney to Hobart races between 1965 and 1991. She was saved from the scrap yard in late 1998 and a multi-million dollar refit and refurbishment programme restored her to her rightful place as one of Australia’s most beautiful cruising yachts.

Those on-board the Mia Mia during this year’s Cousta Boat Regatta, had a terrific observation point from which to watch the race.

Skipper Neil followed the race closely, which allowed would be photographers on board to take some excellent action shots of the boats under full sail.

When you’re next at the Harbour don’t forget to take the opportunity to see Mia Mia she’s well worth the look.

