



TIN CAN BAY YACHT CLUB



YACHT CLUB CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

On May 12-14, 2006, the Tin Can Bay Yacht Club celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a big week-end of on and off the water activities.

The passing years have seen big changes to the club that was formed on June 28 1981. Clarrie and Doris Noble, Sandy and Louise Bauer, Sam and Nyria Murray, Harold Baggaley, Des and Jeanette Bickle, Norm and Jill Cummins, Des and Daphne White, Martin & Jenny Leschkau, Bill & June Croft, and Wayne Badley attended that first meeting.

After discussions, Clarrie Noble was elected the fledgling club's first Commodore, with Des Bickle Vice Commodore, Doris Noble secretary/Treasurer, and Martin Leschkau and Sam Murray serving on the Executive Committee.

For the first five years, the club's meetings and functions were held on the lawn of Sam and Nyria Murray's home on the Esplanade. Annual General Meetings and Cooloola Cup Presentations were well patronised. The club's income came from post-race barbeques held in members' back yards, with hamburgers and drinks supplied from a trailer. Dances and progressive dinners were also successful. The club catered for Bay to Bay entrants, serving pies, sandwiches and barbeques from the Coast Guard building.

The club was in a healthy financial position. It had a very strong, hard-working Ladies Committee, but its aim was always to acquire its own premises and everything went towards the day the club could achieve this goal.

Much discussion took place on this topic. Frontage along Snapper Creek was desired, but with no suitable land available, a meeting was arranged with the Harbours and Marine Department with a view to obtaining land in this situation. An agreement was drawn up enabling the club to reclaim an area adjacent to the boat trailer park at Norman Point if the club could fill it to the Department's requirements. Club Management realised it would be many years before it could afford the dredging costs, but when construction of the Tin Can Bay Marina complex began, the opportunity to obtain the required fill presented itself.

During the marina's on again/off again construction, Clarrie Noble had written to Harbours and Marine about the state of the project. When H&M threw the marina construction open to offers, Clarrie contacted Pacific Marinas, who said they would build the marina if Clarrie could sell 12 berths off the plan. As part of the deal, the fill would go to the yacht club's site.

A new problem then arose - the fill was being washed away with every tide. Widgee Shire Council built a bund wall for \$12,000, with half paid on completion and the balance over three years. The wall eventually cost over \$20,000 and was unsatisfactory from the start. It quickly disintegrated due to insufficient rock fill and erosion. After four years of acrimonious wrangling with Council, the club paid the account, then rebuilt the wall with rock supplied by the Council.

When pumping was completed, the land area was valued at \$100,000, with a yearly rent of 12% of the valuation - a figure the club had no hope of raising. However, an annual rent of \$500 was established for half the land area, with the club given an option on the remainder. The Tin Can Bay Yacht Club finally had a site that in time would become their home.

After five years, Clarrie and Doris Noble relinquished their executive positions to Jeff and Linda Smith, though Doris remained as Treasurer and Provedore. After six months, however, they took up the reigns again when the Smiths left the district, and held their positions until the 1987 AGM when Neil Martin became Commodore.



*1981 Cooloola Cup Presentation at Murray's house.
L-R: Sam & Nyria Murray, Kate Kelly, Margaret Enguirda,
Doris Noble, Tom Harrison, Councillor Ned Kelly.*



Yacht club site and clubhouse construction:

Top left: Clarrie & Doris Noble at the reclaimed yacht club site at Norman Point.

Top right: Digging the foundations.

Above: Pouring the slab.

Above, left to right: Doris & Clarrie Noble with Sam & Nyria Murray at the opening day of the new clubhouse.

Below: Clubhouse opening day, April 7, 1990.



The next project was the clubhouse. In 1989, Tom Turner was elected Commodore and it was during his reign that plans for the clubhouse came to fruition. The club was fortunate to have the services of Member, Ken Bickerton, who planned and built the club with the aid and donated labour of members.

The building was never intended to be the final clubhouse, just a temporary home until a larger building could be built in the middle of the club's leased area. The initial building would then become a junior clubhouse and boat shed. Plans for this building were drawn up, but were eventually shelved when it was decided to extend the existing clubhouse. Over the years further extensions have been made – the deck over the water, roofing the deck and entrance areas, building the hardstand and later extensions, fencing the paved area, building sheds, etc – to the point where most of the leased area is now in use.

The kitchen was never designed to be the full-scale facility it has become in recent years. Initially, it was used only on race days and special occasions, then extending to Friday nights. Club members all helped in the kitchen and did a great job - Les Reibel's fish and chip nights were very popular! Friday nights were always interesting, depending on who was cooking, as one never knew what was on the menu. soon became obvious the club needed a full-time cook. David and Robin Nelmes took up the position, followed by Maxine and Keith Harrison, then Daphne and Ray Spence until Ray's death in 2006. Several caterers have since provided food services. From December 2010 to February 2013, Kerri Southern's Lazy Bay Café proved popular with members and guests alike. The current caterers are Andrew and Cath Delroy.

In recent years, the clubhouse has been painted and new tables and chairs have been provided.

Affiliations with the Cooloola Dragon Boat Club and Sailability Tin Can Bay have been formed. The dragon boat club now conduct their regattas and training activities from the yacht club and the club provides an appropriate 'home' for both groups.

Over the years many members have donated their time and skills to provide the facilities today's members, guests and visitors enjoy, and their efforts have given present members the foundation upon which they continue to develop the Tin Can Bay Yacht Club.

Right: Tin Can Bay Yacht Club in 2006.

Below: The club in 2012.

