



## **MEMBERS HANDBOOK – A HANDY GUIDE TO MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR CLUB**

### **WELCOME**

South Gippsland Yacht Club (SGYC) extends a warm welcome to our Club. This short handbook notes how we operate and sets out various guidelines for members to ensure we all enjoy our time sailing, kayaking, socializing and generally being part of the SGYC family.

Here at SGYC, we promote ourselves as a friendly club and along with Australian Sailing we enforce strict member conduct standards designed to ensure a safe, fair and inclusive environment for everyone. We encourage an inclusive, family orientated environment, with particular focus on water-based participation and social activities. Our sailing members age between 8 and 80+ and covers a wide range of abilities from beginners to state champions. Total current membership is approximately 150, with between 6 and 25 boats sailing on Sundays. Sailing is serious but enjoyable, protests are rare and friendships remain after the race. There is emphasis on participation and fun for all sailors and family members regardless of skill level or class of boat sailed.

Our season typically runs from end-October to early May, although sailing around the year is a possibility subject to weather conditions. Note that outside the season, the club is typically not manned, nor does the rescue boat operate.

We welcome new sailing members to utilize the various club boats, available free of charge on a first in, best dressed basis. Just ask a committee member!

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Like many sporting clubs, SGYC relies on volunteers to operate. Please don't be shy about getting involved!

At the start and finish of each season, we organize working bees to prepare the club facilities and compound for the months ahead. Jobs such as cleaning, boat maintenance, gardening and preparation of the clubrooms and changing facilities are tackled over 2 or 3 Sundays and as the saying goes, "many hands make light work!"

We run a roster system to support official sailing days and races and all adult sailing members are expected to take a turn as the PRO and/or other duties as required. New and inexperienced members will always be assisted by an experienced member. The duty roster is posted on the notice board in the clubrooms and on our website at the start of each season.



Our kitchen also requires volunteers and is always on the lookout for helpers for a couple of hours – see Kitchen below.

The club also runs various special events, including the annual Inverloch Classic Wooden Dinghy Regatta, BBQ evenings, social events, training and ad hoc activities. These will be advertised through the club newsletter from time to time and members are encouraged to participate.

## **FEES**

Fees are payable at the start of each season or on joining, whichever sooner. A reminder will be emailed by the Membership Secretary. Please note all member fees must be current to use any club facilities, storage, or to sail with the club.

## **SAILING & RACING**

Sailing in the Inlet is enjoyable yet at times challenging. Combinations of tide and wind can sometimes provide conditions which test sailing skills to the full. In particular, light winds and an opposing tide can make buoy rounding very tricky and even seasoned regulars can get caught out! Tidal currents can be strong and sailors should exercise extra caution if caught in a rip. Head for shore if unsure!

We emphasize racing to build sailing skills, however it's never about 'sheep stations' and we include youth races in our Sailing Program whenever possible. Races are held most Sundays at 11.00 am and 1.30 pm from November to April with additional races over public holidays. Sometimes there are warm up races during October after working bees preceding the opening day purely dependant on the weather as is all sailing. The racing schedule is published at the start of each season on the Calendar of Events available in the club rooms and on the website, [sgycinverloch.com.au](http://sgycinverloch.com.au). Races are conducted and controlled by a Principal Race Officer (PRO), supported by tower and rescue boat volunteers. All levels of sailor are encouraged to join in and experienced members are always happy to provide additional guidance.

The series of races held over the holiday periods, Christmas, Australia Day, Labour Day and Easter are popular with members who live in Melbourne as a complete series of races can be sailed in one visit.

Club boats are available to members and currently include 2x Pacers, 2x Fevas, 1x Laser, 1x Corsair, and 1x Sabre. Boats are booked on a reservation basis and members will have demonstrated to a club officer an ability to rig the boat, sail from and safely return to the beach. Participants of SGYC sailing lessons will be able to demonstrate this. Club boats may be used for social sailing or racing with the fleet.



Club boats may be reserved on a form displayed in the clubrooms. Members are responsible for correctly rigging the boat and, after sailing, for cleaning and putting boat and sails away. Boats do occasionally break. When using a club boat, you are responsible for breakages other than wear and tear (as if it was your own boat). Always advise a committee member if a breakage occurs so we can schedule maintenance. Please leave each boat in a condition you would wish to find it.

After sailing, there are 3 hoses in the compound for washing your boat. Please ensure these are turned off after use and coiled up to preserve. Please tidy around your boat and return to its allocated storage place in the compound. Sails may be kept in the boat shed.

## **INSURANCE**

Club members receive an Australian Sailing number on joining. Members of a previous sailing club may already have a number, which will be transferred if known. The club pays an annual fee to Australian Sailing and as a member, individuals receive basic personal injury insurance cover whilst on club property or using facilities.

However, members are not covered for personal property or public liability. In the event your boat is damaged, or you (or your boat) cause injury to others or damage third party property, it becomes your sole responsibility. All sailing members are therefore strongly encouraged to arrange cover for their boat/kayak and public liability insurance to a minimum of \$5M (\$10M recommended). By signing on for racing, a member is deemed to have suitable property and 3PL insurance.

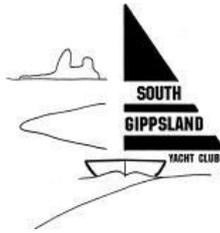
**Note that club boats are covered What about cover whilst sailing a Club boat??**

## **WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK**

All Members over 18 must now have a current Working with Children check (WWCC). If you do not have one already, information on applying for one can be found at [www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au). Please keep Lyn Leppin (Membership) informed on your application, WWCC number and/or any updates.

## **SAFETY & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Members are responsible for their own safety when sailing, using club facilities and on club property. Remember, sailing is a potentially dangerous sport and members should always consider their health and ability to sail given the prevailing conditions. Do not sail whilst under the influence of alcohol or adversely affected by medication. Members should stay hydrated, especially on hot days, and appropriately self-manage the impact of heat.



Please ensure that in any adverse weather conditions you heed the advice of the Safety Officer and/or other experienced sailors as to whether you should sail.

An approved buoyancy aid must be worn at all times when on the water. This applies to all sailing boats, club boats and kayaks. If in doubt what type is required, please ask an experienced member. It is strongly advised to wear a buoyancy aid when using all other watercraft.

The quad bike must only be driven by holders of a full Australian driving licence (for insurance purposes). Anyone new to the quad bike first must first have an introductory lesson from an experienced member. Passengers must not be carried on the quad bike at any time.

Dogs are not allowed in the compound at any time (for hygiene and safety).

The tower is used for the timing of races and recording results. It is not a spectator viewing platform. No person, adult or child, should go up the tower unless invited by the Timers.

When rigging boats in the compound, main sails should not be attached to the end of the boom until on the beach to avoid accidents.

### **CATERING/KITCHEN**

Light lunches are available to purchase on most race days. Please order and pay for them before the start of the morning race. If no lunch is available, this will generally be communicated on the schedule or nearer the day so you can make alternate BYO arrangements. The Club kitchen is generally not for individual use and must be kept tidy at all times.

An EPTFOS machine is available or use cash for payments. Members can pay a lump sum in advance and use the credit book to record purchases.

Tea and coffee are provided by the club at no charge and drinks are available for purchase from the fridge. Please return all cups and plates to the kitchen for washing, or if unattended, please wash and put away any cups.

The BBQ in the boat shed is available for personal use, however please ensure it is thoroughly cleaned and gas turn off when finished.

Members may store food and drink in the main white refrigerator for day use. No personal food is to be left overnight.



Chairs taken outside from clubrooms are to be returned before leaving. The deck and outside tables are to be left tidy after each sailing day.

### **TOILETS & SHOWERS**

The club has male & female changing facilities located at the rear of the compound. They are cleaned by volunteer members, so please ensure they are kept tidy at all times. A personal clothing and gear must be removed at the end of the season.

Any clothing or sailing gear left on club premises is the responsibility of the member. Items left lying around may be moved to Lost Property.

### **COMPOUND KEY**

If you want to access the compound, change rooms or Boat Shed outside of sailing days, a key can be obtained for a fee. Please contact John Fowler on 0412 741212 for further details. The fee is refunded when the key is no longer required and returned to John.

### **SECURITY**

On non-sailing days, when you go out on the water, sailing or kayaking, you must ensure that all gates are locked, the boat shed is closed and the compound is left secure.

On sailing days, it is recommended that the Boat Shed and carpark gate are closed if the compound is unattended to discourage unauthorized access.

Members are reminded that the Club is not responsible for personal possessions.

### **BOAT/KAYAK STORAGE**

Members may request annual boat/kayak storage at a fee, generally paid at the start of the season with membership fees. Storage is subject to availability – please contact the Compound Manager.

Boats are limited to a maximum length of 5M (16').

Please remember that membership fees must be current to retain storage. Where a member has not paid fees, a reminder email and will be sent, then a follow up if required. If not resolved, the boat/kayak will be moved to a top rack and 'quarantined'. If fees are not paid for 2 consecutive seasons, the club reserves the right to sell or dispose of the boat to cover outstanding fees.



In circumstances where a sailing member will be knowingly absent for a whole season (eg because of work, personal situation, etc), he/she may apply to the committee to place sailing membership on hold and instead pay an annual social fee plus storage as relevant, e.g. \$150/year for 1 boat in 2025. This arrangement is finite and at the discretion of the committee.

The club recommends personal insurance of your own boat/kayak to cover loss or damage.

### **ANY QUESTIONS?**

If you have any questions about the club and its operation, talk to any of the Committee Members. Refer to the back of the Sailing Program for contact details. For the sailing schedule, roster and general information, please visit:  
<https://sgycinverloch.com.au/>

#### Key Committee Members 2025/26 season are:

- Lyn Leppin, Membership. Email: [leppintl@bigpond.com](mailto:leppintl@bigpond.com). Tel: 0400 195430
- Matt Kiely, Commodore. Tel: 0403 435270
- Terry Kirby, Vice Commodore. Tel: 0420 460209

Once again, welcome to the SGYC. Come join in the fun and enjoy your sailing, kayaking and socializing with us!