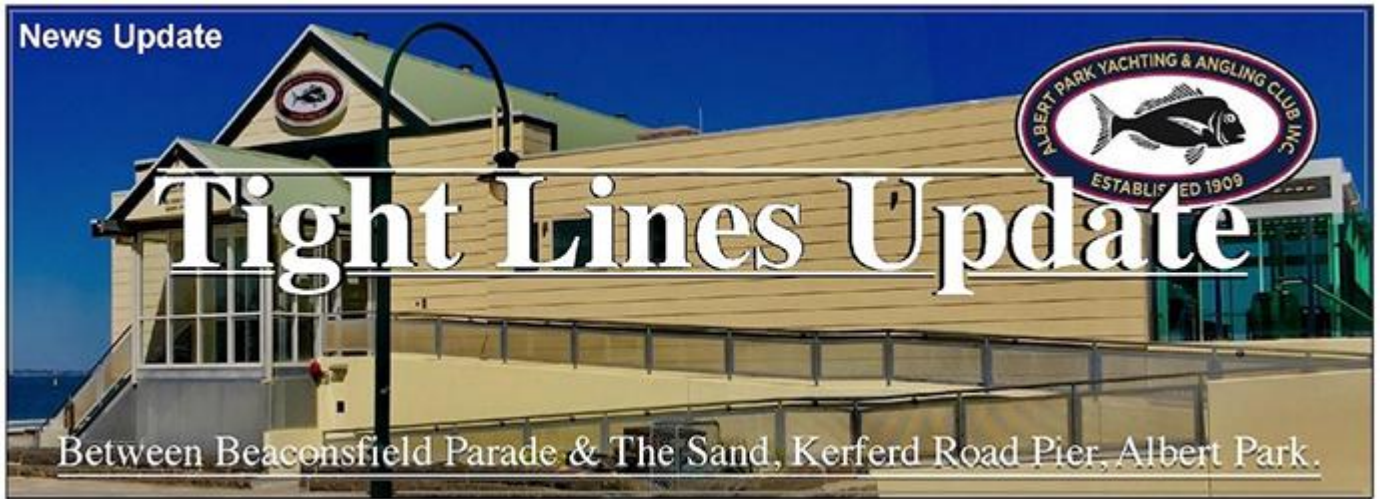


Having trouble viewing the email and images? View the email online.



Wednesday 11th March - Tuesday 24th March 2026

Unhooked!

A few weeks ago, we saw a picture of the Cormorant on Lagoon Pier with the fish hook in its neck. Since then I have been working with *Melbourne Zoo's Aquatic Rescue Team* to monitor the bird to see if it would be necessary to capture the bird in order to save it --knowing that the cure may be worse than the cause.

For the first two weeks, if it was quiet on the pier, it just sat on top of the pier's railing or, if busy, up on the light pole, comfortably squeezed-in on top of the solar panel between the expensive—but useless—anti-bird spikes!

It appeared it was not feeding. After about two weeks, it became very skinny, and we discussed the pros and cons of capturing it.



Within the next fortnight, it learnt to swim with the hook in place, and began fishing every morning. And stopped looking scrawny.

Last Saturday, for the first time in the years I have known it, it swooped down on me, flying from one light pole to another. On closer inspection, it appears that the hook is no longer in his neck! Since then, it's been very gregarious and fishing regularly, happily motoring-up to the fishermen on the pier in between their fishing lines. I don't think it's going to learn! The Zoo people said that they thought the hook was only shallow, so expected it to come out.

In this issue, I want to mention **Footy Tipping**. We already have 91 people signed-up. This will be the last weekend to get yourself in the competition without losing too many points.

We have a **Boat License Course** coming up, as well as **Boathouse Induction Course**, so that you can operate downstairs in the boathouse and also take out the rental boats and kayaks. Get yourself down there. It's a whole new world!

A world you'll discover this Saturday night at the **Boathouse Bubbles & Oysters** event. Grab yourself a ticket. The following Saturday we're bringing Mexico to you, with **La Fiesta!**

A special thank you to Annabelle, and her crew; and to Chris and his team in the kitchen. They continue to amaze us with their commitment to making the Club the haven it's become.

Reading our President's whirlwind exploits is breathtaking. While she was running-around, I enjoyed a glass of *Elderton Chardonnay* after last week's raffle, and grabbed a pic of the sun going down.

Hope you like it.

This is edition 118, of Tight Lines.

James Nixon,
Editor.



'Just finished another spin around my favourite star!' - Friday 27th February 2026.

What about Wednesdays?

4 - 8 p.m. Wednesdays

We are running a special Wednesday business trial. Would you like us to be open? What about it?

Vote with your feet.

4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Happy Hours, selected Wines & Beers at \$4 a glass!

The full dinner menu will be available, but without the Specials.

Wednesday Parma Night.

Chef Chris has kindly agreed to run four Parma options, each served with chips and salad, all for just \$24.

With every Parma sold, we're also offering:

- A pot of lager or draught includes great northern for just \$2.50, or
- A glass of Hill Chardonnay or Shiraz at the same price.

General Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month

The next one is on the 1st April.

4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Happy Hours, selected Wines & Beers at \$4 a glass!

Starters and light meals until 6:30 p.m. - No Parmas that Wednesday night.

The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

Partake in the Club-sponsored supper after the meeting, before the speaker.

All welcome!

[Image: Ten mins after sunset - Friday 27th February 2026]



Happy hour Thursdays.

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Selected Wines & Beers at \$4 a glass!

7 p.m. \$1,000 Member's Draw! It only spins once on Thursdays. To win, you must be present, and financial. When your name comes up, you must claim the prize within one minute.

Friday night at the Club.

The Member's Draw prize pool rolls at 7.30 p.m. sharp, and is \$1,100 for Friday the 13th. To win, the member must be present, and financial. When their name comes up, they must claim the prize within one minute. If not claimed, the jackpot increases by \$100 each week until won. Last Friday night *Andrea Cardwell, Mark Murnane, and Evelyn Blenkiron* missed-out on \$1,000.

Weekly Raffle

Tickets are sold in the hour prior to the Member's Draw and the raffle is drawn soon after.

Four Prizes up for grabs:

- The Meats Tray, from *Kirkpatrick's Meats*.
- Mumm Champagne.
- A \$70 bar voucher.
- A substantial 'secret' prize; check it out on the prize table.

Tickets: one for \$5, or six for \$20 (EFT only).

Be nice to our Volunteers on the door and selling raffle tickets.

If you wish to stay for a meal, please make sure you book a table by **clicking the link here**.

Reminder: When making a reservation for dining it is expected you order within 30 mins of your booking time and all meals must be ordered before 8:30 p.m. Thank you.



Saturday night dining every week.*

On normal Saturdays:

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. HAPPY HOUR**

Selected Wines & Beers at \$4 a glass!

Full Dinner menu available.

Book your table **by clicking here**.

Please note you will be directed to the website, and need to log into your portal, or use the App.

If there are no bookings or demand, the venue may close early.

* Unless a function is being held.

** Happy Hour 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. EVERY Saturday (except when closed early for functions)

(Image: The Regular Boys' next visit will be on the 30th May.)

Boathouse Bubbles & Oysters

Saturday 14th March

From 6 p.m.

Join us for an elegant stand-up cocktail evening in the Boathouse, featuring fresh oysters, flowing bubbles, and good company as the sun sets over the Bay.

\$110 per person

Strictly limited to 50 guests

Dress to impress — but with a gentle warning: the Boathouse is a working space, so we recommend leaving the Jimmy Choo's at home.

An intimate night of sparkle, salt air, and APYAC charm awaits!

Freshly Shucked Oysters (8 per guest)

Served ice-cold with bright lemon wedges and a classic Champagne mignonette

Oysters Kilpatrick (2 per guest)

Warm oysters crowned with crisp bacon and rich, smokey glaze

Oyster Shot (2 per guest)

Fresh oyster meat, served simple briny, clean and unapologetically indulgent

Australian King Prawns (3-4 per guest)

Cooked prawns, sweet and succulent served chilled and paired with silky Mary Rose sauce

New Zealand King Salmon Tartare Cornets (2 per guest)

Delicate salmon tartare nestled in crisp cornets with onion jam, whipped cream cheese, and toasted sesame seeds

Brioche Prawn Roll (2 per guest)

Butter-soft brioche with a creamy prawn and herb filling, gem lettuce, and pickles onions

Grab your spot [by clicking here now!](#)



La Fiesta!

An exciting Mexican themed night.

Saturday 21st March

7p.m.

\$65 per person

An exciting Mexican themed night. A feast for your eyes with the rich colours Mexico is known for --as well as for your stomach-- with the utterly delicious food!

Exciting traditional Mexican entertainment & live music

- **Complimentary Arrival Beverage**
- **The Lone Mariachi Man**, Melbourne's most authentic Mexican mariachi performer.
- **Traditional Mexican Canapés** All your favourites, roaming continuously throughout the night.
- **Romper La Piñata!** Break the Piñata and reveal multiple prizes to win!



- **Calavera Face Painting** Traditional Mexican style face painting, go big or go small --the professional face painter can do it all!

Grab your tickets now by clicking here now.

April General Meeting

Next Wednesday 1st April 2026 - 7 p.m.

4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Happy Hours, selected Wines & Beers at \$4 a glass!

Starters and light meals until 6:30 p.m.

7 p.m. General Meeting

- Minutes of previous General Meeting.

- Updates and reports: President, Treasurer, Membership, Boathouse, & Sub-Committees.

- Members Q&A to the Club Committee.

7:45 p.m. Club-sponsored supper.

8:15 p.m. Special Guest.

All Club members welcome!



Good Friday Appeal

The Club, through **Roland Nicholls**, has a tradition of collecting money for the *Royal Children's Hospital*. With his passing, we are keeping the spirit alive.

Last year we raised \$6,676. This year ... well, it's up to you.

Please click on the [link here](#), and donate as much as you can.

Easter Trading

For the first time we will be trading through Easter after requests from members. Please support the Club by making an effort to make it work.

Thursday April 2nd - Normal trading

Good Friday April 3rd - Open from 12 noon

12 noon - Lunch

5.30 p.m. - Dinner

Easter Saturday April 4th - Open from 12 noon

12 noon - Lunch

5.30 p.m. - Dinner



Easter Sunday April 5th - 12 noon until 5 p.m.

No breakfast

12 p.m. - Lunch

On Easter Saturday, we will draw the winner of the Easter Egg Guessing Game!

(Easter Egg Guessing Game will start on Friday March 20th)

Angler's Kitchen Specials

Kilpatrick Oysters —*Freshly shucked oysters with smoked bacon, Worcestershire, chives \$5.50 each*

Baked Meredith Goat's Cheese —*Wood-baked Meredith chèvre, roasted garlic, thyme, honey, grilled sourdough \$16*

Pulled Beef Taco —*Slow braised beef, Oaxaca cheese, salsa Verde, mango salsa \$11ea*

Prawn Ravioli —*House made ravioli, sea bream, braised silver beet, saffron cream \$38*

Braised Beef Rib —*Slow cooked beef ribs, waffle chips, kimchi slaw \$42*

Baileys Crème Brûlée —*Classic vanilla brûlée, oat crumble and Baileys diplomat cream \$15*

Check out the **new main and Sunday breakfast menus** [HERE](#).

BOOKINGS: 9690 5530 or [Click HERE](#) to make a booking.

Although *Tight Lines* is circulated to all, please understand that if you are still on the waitlist you are not officially a member, thus cannot book for Club functions or Anglers Restaurant Bookings until your membership is approved. Thanks for your understanding.

Sunday Breakfast closing soon.

Sunday Breakfast (9 a.m. till 11 a.m.) **finishes on Sunday 29th March.**

Check out the menu **by clicking here.**

Always a good idea to book a table, **just click here** and choose the date.



March WINE OF THE MONTH

PORT PHILLIP ESTATE

Chardonnay Red Hill

Now this one is special!
 Vibrant citrus aromas of lemon and lime are complemented by hints of grapefruit blossom, white peach, grilled nuts, and subtle flint. Nuances of oak spice and gentle toast sit quietly in the background, adding depth.

The palate reveals flavours of charred citrus and white stone fruit, supported by a creamy mid-palate. A fine thread of phenolics brings texture and complexity, while a delicately woven acid line lifts the fruit, delivering brightness and a long, elegant finish. Ideal for those who appreciate the purity and elegance of Chardonnay.

\$55
per bottle

10% Sunday 10% Public Holiday Savings Applies.

March Wine of the Month.

Port Phillip Estate Chardonnay

Red Hill

Now this one is special!

Vibrant citrus aromas of lemon and lime are complemented by hints of grapefruit blossom, white peach, grilled nuts, and subtle flint. Nuances of oak spice and gentle toast sit quietly in the background, adding depth.

The palate reveals flavours of charred citrus and white stone fruit, supported by a creamy mid-palate. A fine thread of phenolics brings texture and complexity, while a delicately woven acid line lifts the fruit, delivering brightness and a long, elegant finish.

Ideal for those who appreciate the purity and elegance of Chardonnay.

\$55 per bottle.



World Recreational Fishing Conference (WRFC) MPEKWENI BEACH RESORT, EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA 22nd – 26th FEB 2026

President's Report.

Sometimes you look back at a couple of weeks and wonder how on earth it all fits in. The past fourteen days have been exactly that —a whirlwind of fishing, friendships, conservation, and opportunities that have reminded me just how special our APYAC community really is.

It began in South Africa at the *World Recreational Fishing Conference*, where I was incredibly proud to represent not only Victoria and Australia, but also our Club. APYAC’s work in conservation, community engagement, and recreational fishing

is genuinely being noticed on the world stage. Listening to global leaders in fisheries science, habitat restoration, and community engagement only reinforced something I already knew —our little Club on Kerferd Road Pier is punching well above its weight.

Of course, the trip began with a small challenge —my luggage decided to take its own world tour, and didn't arrive for the first part of the conference! What could have been a disaster turned into one of the most powerful reminders of the incredible sisterhood within our fishing community. The women in our Australian delegation, along with the wonderful staff at the resort, rallied around me with kindness, clothes, hairbrushes and plenty of laughs. By the time my suitcase finally appeared, I'd already been completely looked-after. It was a beautiful example of the generosity and spirit that makes this global fishing community so special.

Rather than fill pages here with the conference highlights, I'll include a link to the report I prepared for the organisers summarising the key presentations, and the ideas I'm bringing home —ideas that I believe will help strengthen APYAC, support habitat restoration, and continue growing recreational fishing in Victoria.

[Follow the link on our website by clicking here, you can either read it online, or download the 31 page pdf.]

No sooner had the plane wheels touched down in Melbourne than it was straight back into the water, literally.

I spent a fantastic day out on Kayakers Reef with our great mate **Ben Cleveland** and our own **Bob Pearce** (Bob unfortunately had to pull out on the morning), who continue to lead the charge on one of the most exciting habitat restoration projects in Port Phillip.

Seeing the reef modules going-in and the project expanding is something our whole Club should be incredibly proud-of. Through partnerships with the *Victorian Fisheries Authority*, *VRFish*, *OzFish*, our APYAC conservation efforts, and the support of passionate scientists and volunteers, we're actively rebuilding habitat that was lost decades ago. This is the kind of work that will benefit anglers, fish stocks, and the Bay for generations.

Then, just when I thought the fortnight couldn't get any more unusual, I was invited as a guest of **Minister Steve Dimopoulos** to attend the *Melbourne Formula 1 Grand Prix*.



I had the privilege of representing recreational angling as the only angling representative in the Victoria Suite in the Podium Lounge, perched directly above pit lane and beside the winner's podium. It was a remarkable opportunity to speak about the importance of recreational fishing to Victoria's culture, economy and environment.

My sincere thanks to the Minister and his team — particularly **Rumaan**, his Advisor— for their ongoing support of our sector.

And the adventure didn't stop there.

From the roar of Formula 1 engines, it was straight into the car and off to Lakes Entrance for the fantastic '*Hooked on Lakes festival*', where I joined our own **John Spragg** representing *VRFish*. What a brilliant event —perfect weather, huge crowds, great entertainment

and a wonderful celebration of recreational fishing.

John and I spent the day chatting with anglers, families and curious newcomers, helping them learn more about *VRFish* and encouraging them to sign up and support the organisation, that works so hard to represent recreational fishers across

the state. John, as always, was an absolute gun —we made a great team working the crowd and sharing the passion.



One of the real highlights was the visual fishing simulator, which had people absolutely hooked (pun intended). After a few enthusiastic tries ourselves, John and I both agreed it would be an incredible addition for the Club —something fun, educational and engaging for members and visitors alike. We'll be looking at putting this idea forward at the next committee meeting.

So when I sit back and think about the last fourteen days —from a global fishing conference in South Africa, to reef restoration in Port Phillip Bay, to representing Anglers at the Melbourne Grand Prix, and finishing with a fishing festival in Lakes Entrance - it all comes back to one thing: APYAC!

Our Club continues to be recognised not only across Victoria, but increasingly across Australia and now internationally for the work we're doing in recreational fishing, conservation, community and heritage. That recognition belongs to all of you: our volunteers, anglers, boat owners, committee members, staff, and supporters who make this Club such a remarkable place.

We may be an historic Club founded in 1909, but we are also looking firmly toward the future.

So thank you to everyone who makes APYAC what it is.

GO APYAC!

Lee Spyrou,
President.

Volunteers needed.

Friday Night Helpers Needed!

We are still seeking friendly and enthusiastic volunteers to assist on Friday nights.

We need help with:

- **Raffle Ticket Selling:** 6 - 7:30 p.m.
- **Door Wardens** 5:30 - 7:45 p.m.

This is a fantastic opportunity to meet and connect with fellow members, contribute to the club's vibrant Friday night atmosphere, and enjoy being part of our welcoming community.

Gain a deeper sense of belonging and support the club you love!

No experience is necessary --just bring your smile and willingness to help.

The **Friday Night Raffle & Door Volunteer Roster** has been updated and is ready for vacant positions to be filled.

Add your name to the Volunteer Roster by **Clicking this link**.

If you're interested or have any questions, please reach out by email to **apyac.volunteers @ gmail.com** with your preferred task, or drop into the office at the Club. Your support makes all the difference.

Barry Hayes,
Vice President.

APYAC Podcasts.

The latest addition to the podcast library is a speech given by the Secretary to a business lunch about APYAC and our *Shellfish Reef Restoration Project*. Check it out **by clicking here**.

Other podcasts interview guests:

Remy Van De Wiel, 'Plastics in the bays.'

Travis Dowling CEO of the Victorian Fishing Authority (VFA).

Brian Wright speaking about his friend, Warren Davey.

Bob Pearce, speaking about his life and times.

Mick Sass, speaking about his life and times.

Chris Lockhart, introducing our new Caterer.

Phil Langdon, speaking about his life and times.

New Committee members, **Stuart Cousins**, **Barry**

Hayes and **Chris Herbert**.

Plus

Bev Pinder & **Lee Spyrou** (88.3 FM).

Gavin McGrath & **Lee Spyrou** (ABC Radio).

Check out APYAC's [podcast page by clicking here](#).



Email spam.

To reduce the amount of spam emails information technology experts recommend that we don't put linked email addresses in Tight Lines, so we write the email address, but leave gaps between the words.

It is up to you to put them together. For example: **members @ apyac.org.au**

Boat Hire Coordination

The Club has three boats and three kayaks for hire. See the website **by clicking here** for hire details.

For an Induction course, please reach out to **Chantal Jacq**, our Boathouse Captain, email: **captain @ apyac.org.au**.

Admin has now taken on the task of coordinating boat hires. Please check our website for full instructions (Angling / Boat & Kayak Hire) or **by clicking here**.

To hire a boat, you must:

- Complete a boathouse, boat, or kayak induction.
- Hold a marine licence (for boat hire).
- Register as a hirer, and complete a risk waiver.
- Be 18 years or older.

Payments for boat hire can be made:

- At the bar during Club hours.
- Online with a credit card through our payment gateway.
- Using fob credit (ensure you have sufficient funds loaded).

For further information, please reach out to **Chantal Jacq**, our Boathouse Captain, at **captain @ apyac.org.au**. Admin is assisting with the booking process only.

[Image: Shadow has returned after being absent for eleven months ... missing the tip of his tail.]



As mentioned, the weather has been mixed for boaters and anglers, wind has been less than it has been and temperatures up and down, but many mornings and evenings have been ok, More good days than bad. Keep an eye of forecasts, it's better to err on safety than practising your swimming style. The Bay water temperatures are only just dropping slightly, 20.6 C top end of the bay, 20.7 C Mid Bay, 18.9 C in the Ocean.

Really nothing has changed much since last report, snapper off the bite, whiting and flathead biting, predominant wind direction has changed and water clearing so squid on the chew. Sharks are around, and Kingfish at the heads. Schools of Salmon all over.

When you get bait from the Club can you please stop writing in hieroglyphics as my ancient Egyptian is not good when reconciling docket; and be sure you have enough credit on your fob when taking bait or you will get a call from the office.



Snapper.

Snapper have gone extremely quiet; it has been a hit and miss season so far. Some days bag outs, next day not a bait taken. Evening fishing seems to be most productive. Some Pinkies to 40 cm are being caught in the Williamstown / Altona area. Actually pinkies are in large numbers on most reef areas. Remember to fish outside shipping channel exclusion zones or it becomes very expensive fishing.

Best baits everywhere are silver whiting, pilchards, squid, garfish, Australian salmon fillets and couta. When you catch fish please think about returning the ones you and your family do not need for food. Catch, take a pic, and then return them a.s.a.p. in good condition.

Flatties.

The record is not stuck, this is a very useful study and worth the effort even if you have to read this every Tight Lines issue.

We are still proceeding with helping Latrobe University with their Flathead study. Grab your kits in the Langdon Room, and downstairs near the sign-out book. Swabs are to be returned to the Esky in the boat house near the sign-out desk. Again: swab as many flathead as you can, size not important, make sure you return all undersize fish to the Bay.

It is Flathead time, (although they bite all year) next couple of months are exceptional. Try for them on 2-8 metres of water. We believe a paternoster rig, sinker at the end of your line with one or two droppers above the sinker, is best. Start with a 4/0 or 5/0 hooks. Cut pilchards, squid or fillets of any fish are great bait, they will also take soft plastic lures. Drift over sandy areas from Black Rock to Port Melbourne. Once you catch a few go back over the area as Flathead do tend to school-up in waves on the bottom. Out the back of the club, 100 metres out further from the pier end can be productive.

Gummies and other Sharks.

There are large numbers of sharks in the Bay school sharks (well done Yossi) Bronze Whalers, 7 Gill Sharks and the odd Mako but they are more prevalent outside the heads. There are good size Gummy Sharks at many of the deep (12-20 metres) channels near the heads, and deeper areas up our end, try P2. You may even hook a shark in the shallows. Best baits seem to be Silver Whiting, Australian Salmon Fillets, Pilchards, Garfish and Squid.

Whiting.

Whiting fishing has hit prime time, the Club marks are delivering fish. For some reason the water has not been clear in areas where whiting normally hang out. There are good reports from the very Southern end of the Bay, Kirks Point and St Leonards areas are producing some nice whiting. Fish grassy areas 2-5 metres deep, and keep moving if you are not catching them. Best baits, Pipsis, mussels and squid strips.

Squid.

Whiting areas are also squid areas, and they are generally plentiful, so if chasing Whiting keep a few squid jigs ready —it may be well worth trying for them. Try Werribee, Point Cook and Campbell's Cove, Point Lonsdale, Sorrento and Blairgowrie. Look for clear water. Southern end of the Bay most productive.

Australian Salmon.

Salmon are back in large numbers. Keep an eye out for birds working as there are schools of Australian Salmon up the Club end of the bay. Many good salmon caught around the red stick near Altona, schools have been reported out from Williamstown footy ground, and near Kerferd Road Pier. If you catch a salmon on a bait it is worth trying a lure for a dozen or so casts or a quick troll as they are a school fish.

Any smallish slivery or pilchard-looking lure dragged-through, or cast into, the area the birds are diving-in should produce fish. Salmon make great bait for snapper. There also have been schools of Taylor up our end of the Bay caught by the same method as Australian Salmon.

Kingfish.

Kingfish have been going well around the heads if you are willing to venture that far. It really is Kingfish time now due to water temperatures. Best baits are whole squid, live yakkas or slimy mackerel.

Garfish.

Garfish are plentiful in the Bay so if you see them, a light rod with a quill, or similar float, and a small hook with Silverfish (very small almost clear fish about 1-2 cm long), Prawn slivers, even bread dough works! They are being caught off most piers as well.

Make sure you wear a large hat take plenty of sun screen protection, it is Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek, Slide season right up until 21st March. Slip on a shirt, Slop on sunscreen, Slap on a hat, Seek shade, and Slide on your sunnies. Carry, and Sip, plenty of water.

Check weather forecasts, keep an eye on the actual weather, do not take risks, give it a go, and take care!

Next official Comp is a **Snapper Competition** starting just after midnight ,12.01 a.m. on Saturday 21st March ending 2 p.m. Sunday 22nd March with a sausage sizzle.

Olga Harradine is running another charter on the 18th April, look out for details.

It is impossible to grow weary of a sport that is never the same on any two days of the year ... (Theodore Gordon)

| LONGEST FISH | | | LENGTH |
|--------------|--------|------------------------|--------|
| SNAPPER | IN | R. RAFFA / R. POPE | 77 |
| | OPEN | M. SASS / P.HUTCHINSON | 84 |
| FLATHEAD | IN | R. RAFFA | 46 |
| | OPEN | A. CARTEL | 48 |
| SHARK | IN | S. COUSINS | 88 |
| | OPEN | J. MERCIECA | 120 |
| 1ST SNAPPER | IN | ROB RAFFA | 43 |
| | OPEN | MICK SASS | 64 |
| LAST SNAPPER | IN | | |
| | OPEN | | |
| WHITING | IN | ROBERT RAFFA | 38 |
| | OPEN | SHANE BARWOOD | 43 |
| WHITING BAG | IN | | |
| | OPEN | R. MUSCAT / S.BARWOOD | 9.69 |
| PIKE | IN | DAVE VITKIN | 75 |
| | OPEN | CHRIS DERRICK | 55 |
| KINGFISH | IN | | |
| | OPEN | | |
| SALMON | IN | ROB RAFFA | 55 |
| | OPEN | MARK MERCIECA | 50 |
| | | | |
| PIKE | JUNIOR | WILL OSBORNE | 46 |

John Spragg

[Images: **Cameron McPherson** writes: "Ice fishing is pretty cool, had a go a couple of years ago at Lake Winnipeg in Canada. Ride a toboggan out on the lake, drill four holes through 4' thick ice, and put up a tent over the top of them, turn on a heater, open the esky and fish with the smallest rods in the world to catch Walleye (Canadian native fish, nice eating)."]



Boathouse

A **Boat Licence Course** will be held on **Tuesday the 17th March**, registrations from 5.15pm at the club. \$145 cash and ID required on the night. To book, contact the Boat House Captain, captain @ apyac.org.au

A **Boat House and Boat Hire Induction** is planned for **Saturday the 28th of March** at 8.30am. Contact the Boat House Captain, captain @ apyac.org.au

Reminder

Club Regulations state that a minimum of FIVE (5) trips must be conducted annually, or a boat storage fee of \$1,000 will apply. Further years of non-use may result in your boat being removed

from the Boathouse. Please be sure to keep up to date with your gantry and crane inductions.

Seahawk

The Seahawk is available (with a registered skipper) for use by Club members. \$60 / person or \$240 per trip. Organise your friends for a fishing trip now - email **seahawk @ apyac.org.au** . Let us know too if you'd like to be a registered skipper and we can organise an induction for you. Questions to the Boathouse Captain, captain @ apyac.org.au

Join Us!

Oyster and Bubbles night on Saturday - we have a few spots left so please get in now if you'd like to join our first cocktail party of the year in the boathouse!

Chantal Jacq,
Boathouse Captain.

APYAC Calendar 2026.

Thursday 5th March – **Footy Tipping.**
 Saturday 14th March – **Boathouse Bubbles & Oysters.**
 Saturday 21st March – **La Fiesta!**
 Wednesday 1st April – **General Meeting.**
 Good Friday 3rd April – **Easter Trading.**
 Easter Saturday 4th April – **Easter Trading.**
 Easter Sunday 5th April – **Easter Trading.**
 Sunday 12th – **Greek Easter Luncheon.**
 Saturday 18th April – **Mixed Fishing Charter with Olga.**
 Saturday 18th April – **Band: Johnny Fab Trio.**
 Sunday 10th May – **Mother's Day Luncheon.**

Saturday 30th May – **Band: Regular Boys.**
More events coming soon!

Note: Saturday Bands usually play from 7-9 p.m. Check the detailed listing as the event draws near.

All events and bookings will be advertised in Tight Lines as they become available.

We are always seeking great people to help with these Volunteer run events, email Lee Spyrou, President. [president @ apyac.org.au](mailto:president@apyac.org.au) or [apyacvolunteers @ gmail.com](mailto:apyacvolunteers@gmail.com)

[Image: When the tide goes out ... it goes out!]



Fishing & Boating Season Calendar 2026

MARCH

12.01 a.m. Sat 21st March – 2 p.m. Sun 22nd March - **Snapper Weekend Competition.**

APRIL

Wednesday 1st April – **General Meeting 7 p.m.**

12.01 a.m. Sat 11th – 2 p.m. Sun 12th April - **Flathead Frenzy Weekend.**

12.01 a.m. Sat 18th April – 2 p.m. Sun 19th April - **Snapper Weekend Competition.**

Saturday 18th April – **Mixed Fishing Charter with Olga.**

MAY

12.01 a.m. Sat 2nd May – 2 p.m. Sun 3rd May - **Snapper Weekend Competition.**

Wednesday 6th May – **General Meeting 7 p.m.**

JUNE

Wednesday 3rd June – **General Meeting 7 p.m.**

Saturday 20th June – **Presentation night.**

Note: Beaconsfield / Beach Road Closures may impact some events.

[Image: When the sand goes, she goes.]



Boathouse Volunteers.

Thank you to the Volunteers who attended last Tuesday and Wednesday and to **Bruce** and **Phil** who made a special trip on the Monday to prepare and coat EA385 with the first coat of undercoat.

They also attached the first of the brass rub strips to PA25.

A special thank you to boat owner **Rod Walsh** for again providing a metal fabrication from his Warragul Sheet Metal Fabrications Factory. This time a laser cut 8mm thick aluminium to form an anchor winch reinforcement plate to go on the Seahawk, ARVOR 20. (See photo below.)



The East aisle crane project is now at the stage where the steel work to support the load-bearing beams is happening, and it may take up to five days to complete. When the support structure works are approved by the crane contractor, work will begin with the installation of the new design crane.

Owners of boats and kayaks in the East aisle are reminded that to launch from the East aisle approval from any contractors on site must be obtained to ensure no safety issues are contravened.

The Clinker boat restorations are progressing-well with the dedicated effort of several volunteers. The Pompei boat, PA005, had the final electricals completed for the engine, instruments and navigation lights. This boat is nearly ready for sea trials. Check out the original *Pompei Manufacturers Plate*.

PA25: The wiring of the engine and components has commenced. The engine box and inside seating have been varnished ready for final assembly.

EA385 has had the exterior of the hull fully sealed, undercoated, and the lifting eyebolts examined and secured with additional load bearing plates. The Stainless Steel keel strap is to be added next week.

Rations.

The Volunteers were treated to a beautiful home made Blackberry cake from **Amy** for Tuesday's smoko.

At Tuesday's smoko the topic came up that the provision of cakes should not be left to a small number of donors / volunteers, but some system should be in place to have a cake or some other treat available for Tuesday and Wednesday smokos. The topic arose because it looks as though one person is on call all the time and there should be a system to spread the load.

Mrs Cakes was not part of the discussion, and is willing to continue to provide on a Wednesday.



We know the Volunteers would be absolutely devastated if there wasn't a cake, biscuit or sausage available to enjoy with a cuppa at smoko but what system would work? Roster? Volunteer offering? Club provide? No doubt the topic will continue to be open and debated.

Mrs. Cakes had a day off on the Wednesday providing leftover Orange and Poppy cake supplemented with venetian biscuits. Proof again that the Volunteers eat anything.

Ian Sekac

Fill the barrel.

Fish-shaped soy sauce bottles.

The fish-shaped soy containers handed-out with takeaway food have been around since 1954 (when they were developed in Japan). They cause all sorts of dramas for fish. They find their way into our streets' gutters, down stormwater drains into the sea where they are attractive to fish, who eat them. This results in the fish sensing a full tummy and not foraging for food resulting, eventually, in starvation. For most bony fish it also affects their swim bladders as the air inside the containers prevents them from swimming deep. Not to mention the dramas with micro plastics as the little plastic containers decay.

Successful challenge.

We challenged members to pick up any little plastic fish they found, to prevent them entering our waterways, then bring them to the Club, and stuff them into our bucket. It seems to be working! One of our members, **Campbell Sinclair**, has become a soy sauce bottle-finding monster! Thank you on behalf of the fish.

In future, when it's near full we'll have a guessing competition.

Meanwhile, in a world first, the South Australian Government has banned them, with NSW promising to do it in half a decade. Who knows? Maybe Victoria could be convinced to join the party.

Our local State Government Member, **Nina Taylor MP**, is enthusiastic about our Club and receives Tight Lines. We'll let you know if we hear anything.



Footy Tipping

Already started, get on board!

The Members' AFL footy tipping competition has already started with **91** already on board.

Your turn next ...

If you think you know your Aussie Rules footy, or just enjoy the camaraderie that comes with the competition, then join up. Even if you think you aren't knowledgeable enough to win, remember that a Carlton supporter won in two of the prior three years!

To participate:

- Pay \$30 to join at the bar,
- Record your name, email address and phone number on the receipt, then



- Give it back to the bar staff.
- Open the footy tipping app and start tipping.

For those that did not participate in 2025, download the ESPN footy tips app, or use the website www.footytips.com.au and register (name, email address, personal password).

Once registered, search for the **APYAC competition** and join using the password on the flyers at the club.

All money collected is paid out to the top three place getters at the end of the home and away season:

- First receiving 50% of the pool,
- Second receives 30%, and
- Third receives 20%.

Mike Kotsanis reviews Round Zero:

Well what a week of football!

Tip-stars of the week

There were 13 tip-stars that tipped 4 correctly for the week. Well done. Across all 832,000 tippers using the ESPN footy tipping app, the average score was 2.5 - so you are all well above average - but I suspect you already knew that.

Everyone is famous for 15 minutes, so the saying goes. Robbie (**Robyn Martin**) played her Joker and deservedly is top of the tip-star ladder, for now.

The Leaderboard is all jammed up after the Opening Round with Robyn being chased by Hynes and Seek (**Ben Loble**) and Rooboy1824 (**Trevor Cornish**) in second and third spot respectively.

Memorable Moments

The flick of the switch up at the SCG was remarkable. No doubt the third quarter score from the Swans against Carlton will be subject of a trivia question with this week's tipping reminder on Thursday.

Gold Coast and Petracca demolish Geelong in a show of strength that reinforces my view that they will be pace setters this season.

St Kilda v Collingwood. Age shall not weary them.

Check out Bailey Williams' goal to the Forest Gump soundtrack. Surely goal of the year, [click here to have a look](#) (turn-up the sound).

Trivia questions and **Smokie Tips** will be re-appearing next edition.

Good Tipping!

Mike
Yellow (not Gold) and Black

(Image: Stolen from an AFL post. ©DarrianTraynor)

Child supervision & safety.

We love seeing families at the Club, but we kindly remind all parents and guardians that children must always be supervised. On Friday and Saturday nights, we've noticed an increasing issue with unsupervised children, especially around doorways.

To ensure everyone's safety, please:

- ✔ Assist YOUR children at the doors to prevent accidents.
- ✔ Ensure they are always wearing shoes.
- ✔ Remind them to follow Club rules.

Children are the Member's responsibility, not APYAC's.

[Image: Shrine to the Sea project.]



History.

If you have any old club pictures or documents we'd love to get a copy of them. Contact: apyac.volunteers@gmail.com

Bill Ryan.

Image: Thanks to the *State Library of Victoria*



Arcadia Native Fish Hatchery.

Open Day – 21 March

Anglers and families, don't miss the Arcadia Native Fish Hatchery Open Day!

Explore behind the scenes and see how millions of Murray cod and golden perch are grown each year, with a major expansion soon tripling production to six million fish annually.

Bring your rods to try your luck in the Visitor Centre fish-out pond, or let the kids enjoy free fishing clinics, arts and crafts, outdoor games, and an adventure playground. Hatchery tours, filleting demos, local fishing tips from Robbie Alexander, live music, food trucks, and coffee complete a fun day by the Goulburn River, 20 minutes south of Shepparton. **For further information click here.**

Angler support confirms Kingfish bag limit change.

Yellowtail kingfish are one of Victoria's most prized recreational species, usually 5–10 kg each. After years of feedback from anglers that the 5-fish per person bag limit was too high, the VFA reviewed the rules, consulted recreational fishers, and examined science and offshore management.

| State | Minimum size limit | Regulations |
|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| Victoria (current) | 60 cm | Bag limit: 2 |
| New South Wales | 65 cm | Bag limit: 5 |
| South Australia | 60 cm | Bag limit: 1 Daily boat limit when 3 or more people are fishing on board: 3 |
| Tasmania | 45 cm | Bag limit: 5 Possession limit: 10 |
| Queensland | 60 cm | Possession limit: 2 |

A proposal to reduce the bag limit to 2 fish per person drew strong support: 79% of 193 public submissions and 72% of a VRFish survey of 1,023 respondents backed the change. The consultation reached over 262,000 people via social media, news, podcasts, and public forums.

In Victoria, the minimum size is now 60 cms, bag limit: 2.

Reducing the bag limit is designed to:

- Share catches more fairly among anglers
- Reduce local depletion during peak fishing periods
- Encourage better-sized fish and improved fishery quality
- Align kingfish limits with other offshore species

Further consultation and coordination with NSW and South Australia will continue through 2026.

For further information click here. If you have questions feel free to contact **Taylor Hunt**, Manager of Recreational Fisheries, on **taylor.hunt @ vfa.vic.gov.au**

[VFA press releases sub-edited by ChatGPT]

Tight Lines - Why so often?

The larger edition of Tight Lines appears at the end of the month to advise you of the next Club Meeting, and always on a Wednesday so you can plan your weekend.

The smaller edition, (which we call *Slack Lines* behind the scenes), usually appears in the second week of the month to advise changes, events, band Sundays, and the latest Menu Specials. The clue is in the dateline at the top and bottom. During months with five Wednesdays we get a week off.

We have removed all email addresses, not because we don't want to hear from you, but it stops the bots that roam the internet from finding them to send spam email. Just click the contact links instead or go to the website: **apyac.org.au**

Merchandise.

Get yours now. Use your house levy:

Jackets \$85

Vests \$75

Hoodies \$65

Golf Umbrella \$50.

Fishing Tops \$50

Polo Shirts \$50

Scarf \$20

Wine Glasses (pair) \$20

Neck warmer \$15

Cap \$30

Hats \$25

Pom Pom Beanie \$25

Postcards \$10 Eight cards and one stamp! (Send one to your Grandma!)

Stubby Holder \$10.



Club Opening Hours.

TUE - FRI (OFFICE): 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday Trial.

Open 4 p.m.

Happy Hours 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Normal menu, specials: Parma Night!

Book tables to help prove demand.

General Meeting Wednesdays are different.

Thursdays, Fridays.

Lunch 12 noon - 2:30 p.m.

Bar Snacks 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Thursday Happy Hours 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Bar Snacks 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Saturdays

Lunch 12 noon - 3:30 p.m.

Bar snacks to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday Happy Hour 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. (except when closed early for functions).

Dinner 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

If there are no bookings or demand, the venue will close at 7 p.m.

NOTE: If there is a function, we close at 3:30 p.m. sharp.

Sundays

Breakfast 9 - 11 a.m.

Lunch 12 noon - 3:30 p.m.

Bar Snacks 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

We remain open later on Band Sundays, details during booking.



Wednesday 11th March - Tuesday 24th March 2026

CONTACT US



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