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Wednesday 13th May - Tuesday 26th May 2026

Rubber band man.

Tiffanee Cook, a power-packed boxing podcaster, came to speak to the *Melbourne Network Group* lunch, starting with:

"Oh look, the beautiful beach ... the best two things I like are walking on the beach ... and punching people in the face!"

Always good to start a speech with a joke, but the problem was I then started on this loop in my head thinking about the people I mentally wanted to punch in the face, instead of listening to her talk.

Ever since I stopped looking at planes in the sky, and began staring at the footpath searching for little plastic soy fish to put in our bucket at the front door, I've been finding rubber bands.

I've been imagining the damage a single rubber band can do when picked-up by a bird, or washed into the gutter, down the storm water system, to arrive in the bay next to our pier.

Interestingly-coloured, they probably catch the light and look like food if you're a fish, a stingray, or a little cormorant. Maybe even a dolphin.

I've noticed that the big rubber bands look fresh, and intact, and I wondered where I've seen them before.

Then it came to me. They are used by the post office to keep together bundles of letters for the postman. Sure enough, on my walk, I discovered four of them on the ground near the green postie-bin at Barrett Street, where the postman picks-up parts of his delivery load.

So the culprit could be the postman.

For weeks I've been planning how to publicise this --in the newspapers, to the CEO of Australia Post-- but really I just wanted to punch somebody!

I started stretching the rubber bands over the door of the postie bin to get attention.



Then, last Thursday, while walking to the Club for lunch, there was the Postman just closing the bin after filling the bag on his bike with more mail!

Moral dilemma: could I enlist Tiffanee Cook to punch him in the face, or could I do it myself? Frankly, I was thinking of crossing the road to avoid confrontation. But now I was too close.

I had just picked up one of the big rubber bands.

He prepared to go on his way, and I walked-up said "G'day!" and stretched the rubber band across the door, and said "About these rubber bands ..."

He said: "You're the man who puts the rubber bands on the door?!"

I couldn't lie.

"That's me," I said, "I have to. I have to pick them up and stop them from going down the drain into the storm water because it goes down the pipe into the sea, and gets eaten by the fish ... so I have to pick them up. It would be very helpful if you could make sure that none ever go on the ground again."

He said "No problem!" And we both went on our way.

Sometimes people don't need a punch in the face. They just have to be made aware of a problem and be given the opportunity to show how great they are at fixing things.

These cold foggy mornings are followed by the best sunny days. From now on I am looking-up.

This is edition 122, of Tight Lines.

James Nixon,
Editor.

[**Tiffanee Cook's** 'Roll With The Punches Podcast' —over 1000 episodes— can be found by [clicking here.](#)]



©Yossi Merimi brilliantly captured the fog yesterday morning.

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 6th May, see below.

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!

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 \$2,000 for Friday the 15th May. 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 week *Michael Muir*, *Christine Brownbill*, and *Maree Moscato* missed out on \$1,900.

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.

[Image: ©Yossi Merimi Chantal-power gives way to sail ...]



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 will return on the 30th May.)

Biggest Morning Tea.

Thursday 21st May

10.30 a.m. - midday

Let's get together at APYAC and enjoy a tea, coffee and some delicious cakes & gourmet pastries to support those impacted by cancer.

Entry fee of only \$15 covers morning tea, so get your donations ready as our goal target this year is \$3,000!

Every dollar raised helps support those impacted by cancer.

Book now by clicking here.



The Regular Boys.

Saturday 30th May

7.30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.

Playing your favourite hits from the 70's, 80's & 90's!
Free entry -- Book now.

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.**



June General Meeting.

Wednesday 3rd June

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. Guest Speaker – **Chris Padovani** (VFA)

We're incredibly privileged to welcome Chris Padovani as our June Guest Speaker - this is one not to miss.



Chris is Senior Manager of Boating at the *Victorian Fisheries Authority*, leading *Better Boating Victoria*, the team responsible for reinvesting boating licence and registration fees back into infrastructure and services across the state. A familiar face at APYAC, Chris has previously presented on reef projects and VFA initiatives. He knows our Club and delivers practical, insightful updates.

On the night, Chris will cover where boating revenue goes, investment into marine safety and compliance, current and future boat ramp upgrades, and what's ahead for boating in Victoria.

This is a great opportunity to hear directly from a key decision-maker and ask the questions that matter.

Lock it in - Wednesday 3rd June. Bring a mate and join the conversation.

All Club members welcome.

[Image: May's Club-sponsored supper was Indian food!]

Angler's Kitchen Specials.

Entrée / Small Plates

House – Made Dips *Smoked eggplant, beetroot hummus, grilled flatbread, marinated olives, dukkah* \$16

Crispy whitebait *Chilli & lime seasoning, sea salt* \$18

Mains

Braised beef cheek Pappardelle *Slow braised beef cheek ragu, pappardelle, parmesan, herbs* \$28

Chicken & Mushroom pie *Creamy mash potato, smashed peas, rich gravy* \$34

Crispy Skin Snapper *Thai-style coconut curry, jasmine rice, pickled cucumber, coriander* \$38

Dessert

Dark Chocolate Delice *Sweet myrtle cream, honeycomb crunch* \$15

anglers kitchen		
LUNCH & DINNER BISTRO MENU		
Light bites	Salads	Sides
Olives (V, VS, GF, DF) 8 Marinated mixed olives	Classic Caesar 21 Baby oak lettuce, garlic croutons, house-baked egg, parmesan, white anchovies, caesar dressing	Crispy Chips (V, VS, GF, DF) 16 Tartar sauce
Roasted Oysters (GF, DF) 8 Individual Full dozen 30	Summer Rice Bowl (V, VS, GF, DF) 23 White rice, charred corn, green, avocado, edamame, pickled cucumber & lemon tahini	Garlic Bread (V, VS, GF, DF) 8 Tomato, cucumber, onion, carrot, house dressing
Vegetarian Spring Rolls (V, VS, GF) 17 Crispy & fresh dipping sauce	Roasted Pumpkin (V) 26 Charred pumpkin, sweet grain salad, parmesan seeds, brown butter & balsamic	Onion (V, GF) 10 Cabbage, creamy apple dressing
Pan-fried & Masala Anjalad (V) 18 Aussie, extra extra spicy	Crispy Calamari (GF) 27 Toasted, pickled onion, balsamic, citrus mayo, house sauce	Char-Grilled Zucchini (V, GF) 16 Ezo-dip, house butter & toasted breadcrumb
Tonno Bruschetta (V) 20 Fresh tomatoes on toast with whipped stracciatella cheese, sea salt and basil oil	Paris & Olive Dumplings 25 Light & airy dumplings with ginger sauce served with soybean salad	Kids eats 10-15 Lampasa Napoli (V) Parmesan cheese Gluten free panini extra \$2
Carrot Kingfish Ceviche (GF, DF) 20 Cucumber, chili, dill, red onion, lime	SALAD EXTRAS King prawn \$4.50 Grilled chicken \$5 Crisp & crunchy \$10 Grilled fish \$12	Chicken Tenders (GF) 18 Chips and salad
Classic	Signature	Sweets
Double Cheeseburger 26 Mozzarella, cheddar, pickled onion, burger sauce, chips	Potato Soufflé (V) 30 Soft-baked rolled potato soufflé, topped with char-grilled parmesan, cheddar, onion, extra virgin olive oil and garnished with truffle salt	Assorted Caramel (V) 15 Creamy sweetener-filled caramel with parmesan and chocolate, chocolate and icing sugar
Chicken Skewers 30 Cilantro, grilled lemons, romesco sauce, grilled zucchini salsa		Black Forest Gelato (V) 15 Cherry compote and dark chocolate shavings

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.



Wine of the Month.

Marnong Estate Chardonnay Sunbury

"The nose is bright citrus, lime pith and lemon curd. Classic cool climate chardonnay notes.

Palate of fresh cut apple, pear and pineapple fruit with a toasty and smoky finish."

\$45 per bottle.



President's Report.

Proud Moments, Big Conversations & Club Spirit

What a fortnight it's been, and one that's left me feeling incredibly proud, humbled, and genuinely privileged to represent our amazing Club.

Over the past two weeks, I had the honour of being invited to two significant fisheries events in Nagambie, with APYAC once again the only angling club represented amongst a room full of key decision-makers shaping the future of recreational fishing in Victoria and beyond. That alone says so much about the respect and influence our Club continues to build.

The first was the **Victorian Recreational Leaders Forum**, bringing together major stakeholders across government, peak bodies and fisheries management. The breadth of discussion was impressive —from fish stocking programs and the continued development of Snobs Creek and Arcadia hatcheries, to boating access, government changes, Kingfish management, shellfish reef restoration, Mulloway fisheries and even the future supply of bait (including yabbies into tackle stores).

I was incredibly proud to present on APYAC's conservation journey; sharing both what we've achieved and where we're heading. To have our work recognised at that level reinforces that what we are doing at APYAC truly matters.

The forum also included a memorable evening along the Ovens River, where we heard from **Brian Cook** on rabbit biocontrol; a fascinating and surprisingly relevant look at how the accidental 1995 release of calicivirus spread via blowflies and ultimately reduced rabbit populations dramatically. A powerful reminder of how science, ecosystems and unintended consequences can shape environmental outcomes.

This set the tone perfectly for the second event —the **National Murray-Darling Carp Action Summit**. This was a highly targeted gathering of leading scientists, policy makers and industry experts, all focused on one of the biggest environmental challenges facing our waterways.

The collaboration in the room was exceptional, with discussions spanning biological controls, system-wide impacts and the future rollout of carp management strategies. Particularly impactful were presentations linking carp to broader environmental and emerging health concerns, including Motor Neurone Disease, reinforcing just how important it is to get this right.

Have a read of my report [by clicking this link](#).

Backing up these big-picture conversations, we returned to what we do best at APYAC: community and connection.

Our recent General Meeting was an absolute standout, with **Stephen Clements** delivering an outstanding presentation on Mulloway. The room was completely captivated by his knowledge, passion and storytelling.

If you haven't been to one of our meetings lately - lock in the first Wednesday of the month. Between the speakers and the incredible food from *Ascot Catering*, it's an experience not to be missed, (and yes... don't eat beforehand!).

And of course, it wouldn't be APYAC without finishing the fortnight in style.

Our Mother's Day celebration was nothing short of exceptional. Our Mums and Grandmothers were treated exactly as they deserve, with elegance, warmth and a whole lot of love. From a glass of Mumm on arrival to the outstanding menu featuring crispy skin snapper and slow-cooked wagyu beef, the day was flawless. **Annabelle** and the team absolutely outdid themselves once again —the styling, service and atmosphere were simply next level.

To Annabelle, our staff and Ascot Catering - thank you. The pace we operate at as a Club is extraordinary, and you continue to deliver, time and time again.

As I reflect on the past fortnight, I'm reminded just how special APYAC is. We're not only a strong, vibrant community club, we're a voice at the table, influencing conversations at the highest level across Victoria and Australia.

That's something every single one of you should be proud of.

Tight lines, and see you at the Club,



Lee
Lee Spyrou

Code of Conduct.

The Committee has recently adopted an updated **Code of Conduct** for our Club. This provides clear, simple guidance to help maintain the friendly, respectful and safe environment we all value.

It aligns with our existing Rules and reflects how we expect members and guests to behave both at the Club and when representing it. The Code is not about changing our culture, but supporting it and providing clarity for everyone.

Members are encouraged to take a few minutes to read it via the link below. As well as on our website, a copy is also displayed on the Club Notice Board.

Barry Hayes,
Vice President.

[Click here for the APYAC Code of Conduct](#)

[Image: Cameron Mcpherson ©Yossi Merimi]



Murray Cod.

Australia's Inland Icon Making an Incredible Comeback

One of Australia's most iconic freshwater fish is making a remarkable return, and it's a story every recreational angler should feel proud of.

A recent ABC feature highlighted the incredible resurgence of Murray Cod populations across many Victorian and NSW waterways, with scientists, fisheries managers and anglers all reporting the same exciting trend - cod are back, and in many areas, thriving.

Once considered to be in serious decline due to overfishing, river regulation, habitat destruction, and poor water quality; Murray Cod numbers collapsed across much of the Murray–Darling Basin during the 1970s through to the 1990s. Today however, thanks to a combination of stocking programs, habitat restoration, improved river management, and a huge cultural shift towards catch-and-release fishing, the species is showing extraordinary signs of recovery.

The ABC report showcased some incredible statistics:

- The Ovens River recorded more than 110 Murray Cod per kilometre during electrofishing surveys.
- Lake Eildon has seen an 81% increase in cod numbers over just five years.
- Rivers including the Goulburn, Campaspe, Loddon and Broken systems are all reporting major improvements in fish numbers and breeding success.



Importantly, this recovery hasn't happened by accident.

Victoria's stocking efforts through hatcheries such as Snobs Creek, combined with Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) funding, habitat restoration and better fishing practices, are all playing a critical role.

The ABC also highlighted how recreational anglers themselves have become key conservation partners, with over 90% of surveyed fishers supporting conservation measures including careful fish handling and catch-and-release.

One of the most fascinating takeaways was the importance of Murray Cod as the apex predator of the Murray–Darling Basin. Researchers explained that when cod populations decline, invasive carp populations often explode, impacting the entire river ecosystem, including water quality and native vegetation. In many ways, healthy cod populations are a sign of healthier rivers overall.

A recent feature in *The Guardian Australia* also highlighted how modern science is helping us better understand these magnificent fish. Tracking studies have shown Murray Cod traveling hundreds of kilometres through river systems when waterways are connected and healthy - another reminder of just how important habitat connectivity and river management are for the future of native fish.

For all of us at APYAC, this story is another powerful reminder of what can be achieved when science, government agencies, recreational anglers and community groups work together with a shared vision.

It is also proof that recreational fishers are not the problem - we are increasingly becoming part of the solution.

Check out the **ABC** feature story [by clicking here](#) and **The Guardian** story [by clicking here](#).

Lee Spyrou

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.



Greek Easter Sunday lunch was a great success, as was the sellout Johnny Fab Yacht Rock night.

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](#).



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](mailto: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:

	OPEN	IN-HOUSE	TOTAL
SEPTEMBER	6	1	7
OCTOBER	6	12	18
NOVEMBER	26	12	38
DECEMBER	22	1	23
JANUARY	N/A	N/A	N/A
FEBRUARY	3	0	3
MARCH	1	6	7
APRIL	4	1	5
MAY	12	3	15
TOTAL	80	36	116

- 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](mailto:captain@apyac.org.au). Admin is assisting with the booking process only.

The Roland Nicholls Scoreboard.

OPEN	FISH	POINTS	IN-HOUSE	FISH	POINTS
MICK SASS	28	174.1	ROB RAFFA	9	49.4
MARK MERCECA	19	122.3	EDDIE BERNOBICH	2	13.0
RICHARD MUSCAT	8	51.4			
OLGA HARRADINE	5	34.3			
ALEX SPYROU	4	23.8			
ANTHONY HANSON	3	20.2			
DANIEL KARIS	2	12.9			
LEE SPYROU	2	9.0			
ANDY MCSHANAG	1	6.4			
LACHLAN MCGREGOR	1	6.4			
BARRY HAYES	1	6.1			
JOE CARBONE	1	5.6			
JOHN SPRAGG	1	4.9			
JUNIORS					
ANDRE CARTEL	6	19.8	DANNY VITKIN	3	11.3
ORLANDO LUMICISI	3	12.6	WILL OSBORNE	3	10.7
			HENRY RUDD	1	3.1
	85			18	

Angling.

Thanks President Lee for nailing a great presenter last general meeting, **Stephen Clements** (pictured below), who gave us all great tips on how to catch Mulloway in the Yarra. It seems they are far more prevalent than most of us think and Mulloway over one metre long can be caught off the banks of the Yarra in many places, especially under structures like bridges.

Also Princes Pier holds a number of Jewfish and Mulloway. All anglers or those with an interest in fishing should make sure they make it to our general meetings as Lee has some interesting presenters lined-up.

Autumn the weather has been good and terrible for boaters and anglers, wind has been less than it has been and temperatures up, then gale warnings. So far generally, the past couple weeks have been ideal for angling that is apart from the end of last week.

This week looks great, cold still mornings, sunny afternoons. Keep an eye of forecasts, it's better to err on safety than practising your swimming style.

The Bay water temperatures are still dropping, 15.6 C top end of the bay, 15.7 C Mid Bay, 16.4 C in the Ocean. Outside the heads warmer than the Bay.

LONGEST FISH			LENGTH
SNAPPER	IN	R.RAFFA	79
	OPEN	M. SASS / P.HUTCHINSON	84
FLATHEAD	IN	R. RAFFA	51
	OPEN	M. MERCIECA	49
SHARK	IN	S. COUSINS	88
	OPEN	J. MERCIECA	120
1ST SNAPPER	IN	ROB RAFFA	43
	OPEN	MICK SASS	64
LAST SNAPPER	IN	ROB RAFFA	79
	OPEN	MARK MERCIECA	46
WHITING	IN	ROBERT RAFFA	38
	OPEN	MICHAEL BRIFFA	45
WHITING BAG	IN		
	OPEN	R. MUSCAT / S.BARWOOD	9.69
PIKE	IN	DAVE VITKIN	75
	OPEN	CHRIS DERRICK	55
	IN		
	OPEN		
SALMON	IN	ROB RAFFA	55
	OPEN	MARK MERCIECA	50
PIKE	JUNIOR	WILL OSBORNE	46



The big change since last report, late run snapper are around, whiting and flathead biting, predominant wind direction has changed and water clearer the southern end of the bay. Sharks are around and Kingfish at the head, large schools of salmon and large squid in the Bay.

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. Anyone who took bait and when there were no docket please call the office to get it booked to your fob.

Snapper

There seems to finally be a late run of snapper in the Bay. Early morning and sundown fishing seems to be most productive. Pinkies up to 47 cm (most 20 to 35 cms) in almost plague proportions are being caught in the Williamstown / Altona, Kirks Point and Long Reef. Actually, pinkies and snapper are in good numbers on most reef areas and around piers in Williamstown, St Kilda and Port Melbourne and reef areas around Ricketts Point and Black Rock.

Remember to fish outside shipping channel exclusion zones or it becomes very expensive fishing. The water temperatures are about right for the late run snapper. So worth a try.

Best baits everywhere are silver whiting, pilchards, squid, garfish, Australian salmon filets 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 still large numbers of sharks in the Bay, school sharks, 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 where the water has been mostly clear, 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, Pipis, mussels and squid strips. **Squid**

Whiting areas are also squid areas, and they are lately plentiful and very large, 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. Very large squid being caught, a favourite spot of mine is Blairgowrie Marina Pier on an in-coming tide.

Australian Salmon

Salmon are back in huge 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 and near the Williamstown Cardinal Marker.

Salmon up to 65cm are being caught. 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. There have been reports of Kingfish mixed in with the large Salmon schools.

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, and if bled and cleaned immediately, and cooked that day make reasonable eating.



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.

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

Flathead Frenzy will be run this weekend, 16th of May starting at 12.01 a.m. and close off at 2.00 p.m. on Sunday 17th of May.

Sausage Sizzle at the Club Sunday at 2.00 p.m. after the competition close. Extra points for Flathead swabbed with the kits available around the club.

Presentation Night is 20th of June.

Someone moving in on your fishing mark is as bad as someone looking over your shoulder while you write a letter to your girlfriend ... Ernest Hemmingway

John Spragg

[Images: Yossi & Cam Mcpherson; Rob Raffa & Bruce Bourne ©Yossi Merimi]

The App's back!

I'm pleased to report that the APYAC App has been restored.

Two pages of your Club info in the palm of your hand.

- Read TIGHT LINES in Member News,
- Book a table in a flash in Dining Bookings,
- Hire a boat or kayak, and much more.

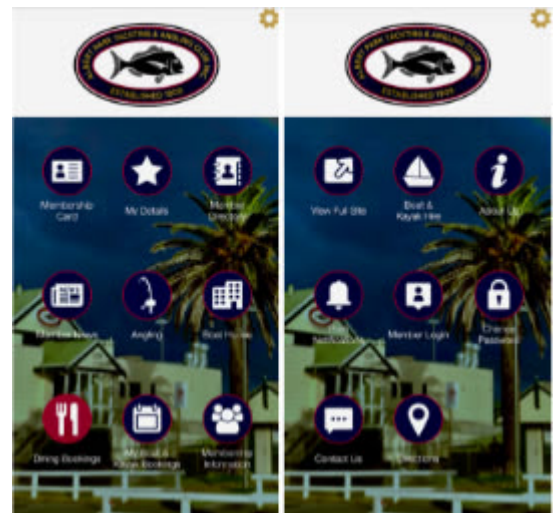
Check out the APYAC APP on both app stores, here's the links:

For iPhones -- **Apple App Store:**

<https://tinyurl.com/APYAC-app-Apple>

For Android phones --**Google Play Store:**

<https://tinyurl.com/APYAC-App-GooglePlay>



Chantal Jacq

APYAC Boathouse Captain & Social Media Manager

APYAC Calendar 2026.

Thursday 21st May – **APYAC Biggest Morning Tea.**

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** or **apyac.volunteers @ gmail.com**

[Image: Chantal and Carla.]



Fishing & Boating Season Calendar 2026.

MAY

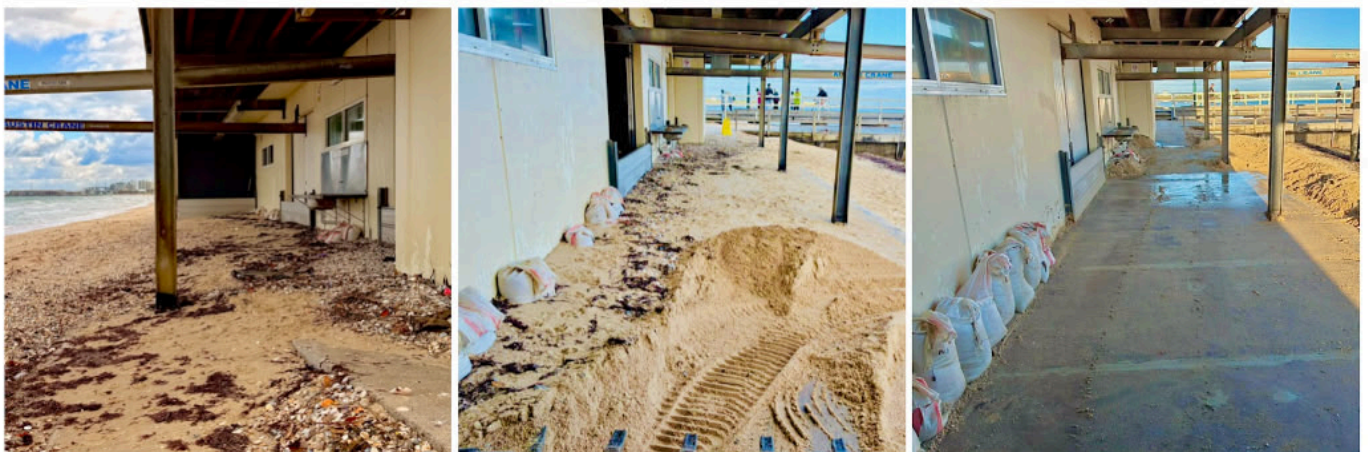
12.01 a.m. Sat 16th May – 2 p.m. Sun 17th May - **Flathead Frenzy.**
 2 p.m. Sun 17th May - **Presentation BBQ.**

JUNE

Wednesday 3rd June – **General Meeting 7 p.m.**
 Saturday 20th June – **Presentation night.**

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

[Image: ©Yossi Merimi - foghorns were sounding around the bay.]



Chris Herbert and the team of volunteers fight a never-ending battle with the elements, as the sand comes and goes.

Boathouse Volunteers.

It was with pleasure to welcome **Dan Crawley** and **Stephen Fitzgerald** to the volunteers. Stephen (Steve or Fitzzy) came down to the Boat House on Tuesday and has volunteered to take on a role of looking after the hire boats and refuelling when required at weekends or when the Tuesday or Wednesday volunteers are not available.

A Boat House and Hire Boat Induction was carried out in perfect sea conditions on Wednesday with two of our members, **Trevor Townsend** and **Richard Celm** completing the induction.

As we are approaching winter, inductions will cease and resume at the end of August and before the Angling season commences in September, unless by special arrangement with one of our Volunteer instructors.

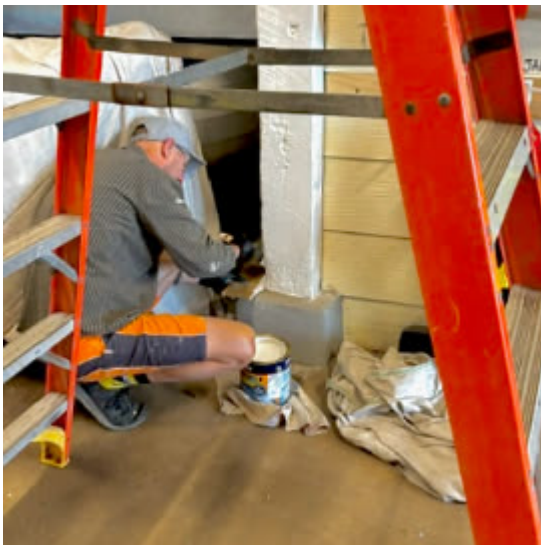


East Aisle Crane works.

RedfernFlinn will be commencing the removal of the existing crane steel structure on Tuesday the 19th of May. The removal and installation of the crane steel work will be over 3-4 days.

During this time no boat movements are allowed, and pedestrian traffic in this aisle is not permitted due to WorkSafe safety requirements.

To give the aisle a fresh look, the volunteers removed the bits and pieces of carpet / rubber and nails, prepared the timber for painting, and finished the first coat of paint. 'Station Pier Off White' was first thought too vivid, but the general opinion is that it does give the aisle a great lift. Wonderful work by volunteers **Mike Kotsanis**, **Tony Panayotou** and others to take on this task. Thank you to **Cam McPherson** for the assistance with the purchase of the paint.



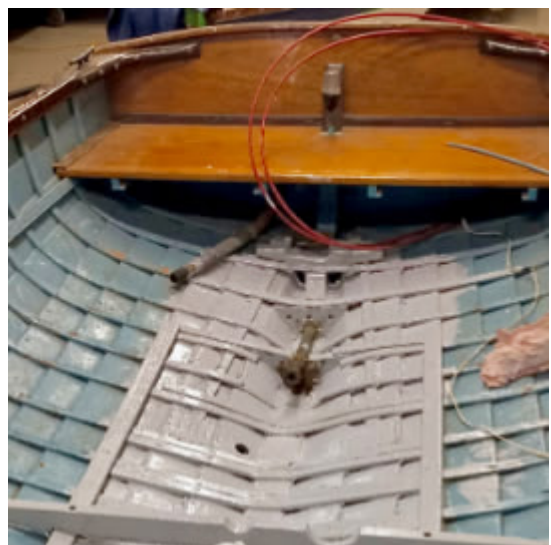
Work continued on the Clinker boat restorations and the routine tasks.

PA35 has had the lower part of the inside hull sealed and coated with a two pack epoxy undercoat. The next stage will be to turn the hull over and repair and seal the exterior of the hull and keel.

Clinker boat EA385 has had the new NANNI diesel engine installed. It will need controls and electricals and an engine box to be completed. The top side will need some minor work before re-varnishing.

Clinker boat PA005 has had the final engine test and is ready for a sea trial.

PA43 has been supported on the frames and work was performed to seal some areas where leaking was discovered. The hull also received a fresh coat of paint.



The volunteers were faced with an unexpected clean up job in the centre aisle recently after a boat owner had run an engine in the aisle leaving a trail of exhaust carbon. Boats should be only run on the outside apron.

An Inventory of all our valuable tools will be conducted over the next few weeks.

Members celebrated the end of season Angling Club Presentation BBQ last Sunday. Sausages and drinks were enjoyed by all.

Rations.

Cakes were supplied for both Tuesday and Wednesday smokos courtesy of the Club, with a home-cooked Carrot cake from Mrs Cakes on Wednesday.

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.

Well what a week of football!

Tip-Stars of the week

Our tip-stars of the week are the 14 people who picked the perfect round. It doesn't happen often and you get a bonus point for doing so. Great tipping.

Jokers were played this week by **Dan Karis** who moves to 15th and Club Nicko FC (**Nick Mitchell**) who moves to 38th spot on the Leaderboard. They scored well and doubled their score. In hindsight more should have played a Joker this week.

The Leaderboard has changed with Rooboy1824 (**Trevor Cornish**) jumping from fourth to first whilst SWM01 (**Scott Meyers**) and AMAC700 (**Andy McShanag**) drop to second and third respectively.

Memorable Moments

- Carlton won the second half comfortably
- GWS pre game banner. Disrespectful or funny? You be the judge.
- Port Adelaide know how to have a close match. 4 losses for a combined loss of under 10 points this season.

- Collingwood have their biggest MCG loss outside of a loss to the Hawks since McRae was appointed.

Trivia answers

- Harley Reid is great to watch. He kicks goals bursting out of the centre, runs like the wind, plays on the edge and can turn a match was the his talent. He also gives away a lot of 50 meter penalties, with 5 so far in 2026. He also averages 2.7 free kicks against, per match, over his career. How many current AFL players give away more free kicks than Reid on average over their career games? (a) 3 (b) 2 (c) 1 (d) none. **ANSWER: (d) None.**
- Collingwood are missing a gun forward and would love to have Travis Cloke in his prime on the ground. Unfortunately he retired in 2017. However, he is still playing and so far this year he has kicked 24 goals in his 3 matches for Yarra Glen. How many goals did he kick last weekend? (a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 18 **ANSWER: (d) 18**
- Who is the best ruck in the competition? Maxy or Grundy or Jackson or Xerri? One key stat to help you decide - which one had had the highest number of contested possessions ever for a ruckman in a match last week? (a) Gawn (b) Grundy (c) Jackson (d) Xerri **ANSWER: (d) Xerri**
- This week all Melbourne based teams play non Melbourne based teams. (Geelong is not part of Melbourne when I last checked). How many times has that ever happened before in the 18 team era? (a) never (b) once (c) twice **ANSWER: (b) once**
- For those who have done their 'research'. Was the strength listed for Jaxon Prior on the Brisbane whiteboard true or false? **ANSWER: do your research**
- Which team has the highest rate per 100 shots at hitting the post in the last 5 years? (a) Bulldogs (b) St Kilda (c) Collingwood **ANSWER: (a) Bulldogs**

Smokie tipping performance

I thought North would have been a good chance against the Swans. For 3 quarters that was spot on. My smokie tipping results are now 3 from 10.

Good Tipping!

Mike

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*



Carp summit commits to form an action alliance.



12th May 2026.

It was standing room only at Nagambie last week as 80 community leaders from across Australia's fishing, conservation, farming and scientific sectors travelled far and wide to attend a **Murray Darling Carp Action Summit**.

The summit, which included delegates from 41 community, research and natural resource organisations, heard a chorus of concern about the devastating impacts of carp on waterways, water quality and threatened native fish.

Researchers confirmed that after nearly 20 years of research, the carp herpes virus has the potential to reduce carp populations by 40 to 60 per cent, if, and when, the Federal government approves its

use.

Victorian Fisheries Authority CEO **Travis Dowling** said the carp virus (if released) would be a game changer as it's the only catchment-scale solution to our wicked carp problem.

Charles Sturt University's **Associate Professor Ivor Stuart** said science shows that once carp biomass is reduced below critical density thresholds, river and wetland systems can shift from chronic degradation toward recovery, including improvements in water quality, aquatic vegetation, native fish populations and broader biodiversity.

Summit facilitator and CEO of the *Australian River Restoration Centre*, **Dr Siwan Lovett**, said there was a strong view at the summit that the Federal Government should deal with carp under the EPBC Act through the development of a *National Threat Abatement Plan* and to support integrated control plans where carp control is most needed.

Dr Lovett said the formation of the **Carp Action Alliance** is a wonderful opportunity to bring together communities across diverse sectors to work with federal, state and local governments to restore river health by dealing with carp.

"Progress to formalise the Carp Action Alliance is underway, starting with a draft statement of intent, finalising membership and developing an action plan," she said.

A communique from the Murray Darling Carp Action Summit advocates for more action and resources to deal with carp including being part of the control program design and delivery.

Read the communique by [clicking here](#).

[VFA press release]

Recreational Fishing Management Update.

Victoria.

The latest March 2026 issue provides an overview and progress report on some of the key projects and initiatives for Victorian recreational fishers over the past three months.

The twenty page PDF covers 15 subjects including our Kayakers Reef and is well worth a read.

Download this, and previous updates, **by clicking this link**.



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.

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**

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

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 13th May - Tuesday 26th May 2026

CONTACT US



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