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Wednesday 16th September - Tuesday 29th September 2026

It's all about events.

On Saturday, we have the AFL Preliminary Final between Hawthorn and Brisbane at the MCG. It's sold out already.

Who knows? With the NFL game last week and the upcoming Grand Final, Melbourne could see three successive weeks with crowds of 100,000.

We truly have become an events-driven economy.

In my day, we just used to burn leaves in the gutter and go to auctions for entertainment.

This edition of Tight Lines has something for everyone.

We confirm that, at the Club, we'll be on the Preliminary Final bandwagon this Saturday. The game starts at 5:15 p.m. The previously advertised band, *Groove Avenue*, has had to withdraw due to a family bereavement.

Grand Final Day will be a ripper, with four hours of Happy Hour and more. You may want to book a table now.

We will have a nod to Oktoberfest in October, and, in early November, the two main days of the Spring Carnival which will be ticketed events. The links to grab your seats for those colourful days will be in the next issue.

The AGM is almost upon us. Think about nominating for the Committee. Your nomination form has to be in by the 22nd September, and you'll find the link below.

John Spragg, our master angler, caught the first fish of the season, and the competition is underway. His success means that his membership fees will be paid for the year.

Our President has a great yarn about what happens when your Fishing Safari Plan A becomes Plan B, *or is it Plan C?*

I also have a link to an ABC article that explains the Tasmanian Flathead Ban.

Talking about Tasmania, the big red ship has left Station Pier and gone to dry dock in Sydney. Both ships must undergo major inspections before they start the Bass Strait Run at the end of October—even though they are brand new.

On Monday, Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne announced that Station Pier is now open to the public every day from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. except when the pier is closed for shipping movements.

The Minister said:

"We have increased public access at Station Pier, giving locals, tourists and recreational fishers more time to enjoy what this iconic pier has to offer."

"Now that essential works are completed, we are looking forward to having Victorians visit and enjoy Station Pier seven days a week."

Make time to grab your rod and reel and explore the pier, which first opened this week in 1854 and was rebuilt in 1930. A total of 63 cruise ship visits are scheduled for the upcoming 2026–27 season.

A big thanks to our volunteers on Friday nights, at the front door and selling raffle tickets; they do a marvellous job. If you want to become one and meet lots of new people, read on.

Huge thanks to Annabelle and her staff, and to the volunteers, both upstairs and downstairs, especially Mal Manders, who celebrated his 90th birthday last Saturday.

With Stan Thompson, who we talked about last issue, that's two life members turning 90 within a month.

Not bad for a fishing club on the sand, with its feet in the water, since 1909.

This is edition 130 of Tight Lines.

James Nixon,
Editor.



Saturday, 5th September, 5:31 p.m., just at sunset, we were treated to this spectacular double rainbow.

Parma Wednesdays.

4 - 8 p.m. Wednesdays

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 runs 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.

Club Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month

The next one is the **Annual General Meeting** on the 7th of October; 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 AGM starts at 7:30 p.m.

Partake in the Club-sponsored supper after the meeting.

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.

You have to be there to win!

[Image: Saturday, 5th September, it became apparent that the pot of gold is in Elwood.]



Friday night at the Club.

The Member's Draw prize pool rolls at 7.30 p.m. sharp and is \$900 for Friday, the 18th September. 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, *Lachlan McDonald, Goran Markovski, and Wayne Kibbis* missed out on \$800.

Weekly Raffle

Tickets are sold in the hour before 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 at 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 that 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 that you will be directed to the website and will need to log in to 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)

AFL Preliminary Final

Hawthorn Vs Brisbane.

This Saturday, 19th September.

Game starts at 5:15 p.m.

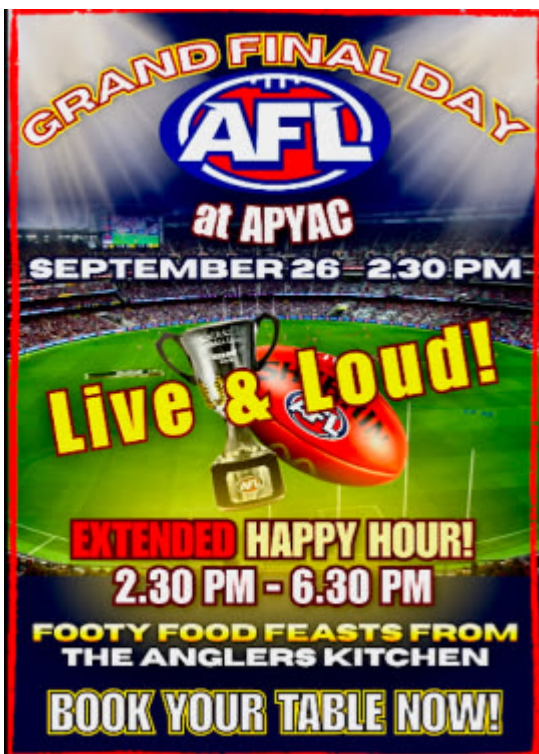
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. HAPPY HOUR**

Selected Wines & Beers at \$4 a glass!

Full Dinner menu available.

Book your table **by clicking here.**

*Previously advertised band **Groove Avenue** has withdrawn due to a family bereavement.*



Grand Final Day

Saturday 26th September.

2.30 p.m.

LIVE & LOUD!

Extended Happy Hour 2.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.

Footy food feasts from the Anglers Kitchen

Grab your table now, first in, best dressed!

Book your table **by clicking here.**

Oktoberfest Prost!

Sunday 11th October.
From midday.

Celebrate at APYAC as it's transformed into a traditional Bavarian beer garden!

Traditional Bavarian fare from midday.

'Bavarian happy hour' from midday till 4 p.m.
Free to come. Free to have fun! Prost!



Spring Carnival.

Melbourne Cup
Tuesday 3rd November.
Oaks Day, Thursday
5th November.

Details and booking links in the next issue of Tight Lines.
10:30 a.m., Wednesday 30th September.
Both days are ticketed events.



Angler's Kitchen Specials.

Chilli Oysters – *Aromatic chilli crisp, vermicelli, garlic, ginger, and spring onion.* \$6.50 ea.

Slow-Braised Lamb Shank —*Garlic & Rosemary Mash, Buttered Seasonal Greens, Sweet Potato Crisps & Rich Red Gravy.* \$41

Chorizo & Chicken Risotto —*Crème Fraîche, Baby Spinach, Parmesan.* \$33

Thai Green Chicken Curry —*Fragrant Jasmine Rice, Thai Eggplant, Fresh Chilli, Thai Basil, Coriander & Lime.* \$29

Garlic Butter Oysters —*Herb & Parmesan Pangrattato, Lemon.* \$6.50 ea

anglers kitchen		
LUNCH & DINNER BISTRO MENU		
GRAZE		
NATURAL OYSTERS		
Half dozen	9	
Full dozen	32	
Full dozen	58	
CHARRED CORN RIBS	16	
Chili, peppers, feta, sea salt, sesame		
VEGETARIAN SPRING ROLLS	17	
Isoburg, chili & lime oil		
PORK DUMPLINGS	23	
Light soy and ginger sauce, seaweed salad		
FRIED BARRAMUNDI WINGS	28	
Trashed chili & sesame seeds, lemon, BEANS		
GRAZING BOARD	32	
Cured meats, Italian cheeses, pickled vegetables, olives, grilled focaccia		
SALADS		
CAESAR	38	
Baby rom, crettons, bacon, egg, parmesan, anchovies, dressing		CAESAR
ROASTED PUMPKIN	25	
Ancient grains, beetroot, dried cranberries, roasted seeds, lemon, yogurt and maple-lemon dressing		CAESAR
SUPERFOOD SALAD	25	
Honey glazed carrots, chickpeas, roasted broccoli, quinoa, kale, seeds, lemon dressing		CAESAR
CRISPY CALAMARI	22	
Rocket, pickled onion, balsamic, lemon mayo, Ndajo croutons		CAESAR
ADD-ONS		
King prawn (real)	6	
Grilled chicken	6	
Crispy calamari	10	

Coconut Crème Brûlée —Vanilla Bean, Caramelised Sugar Crust & Toasted Coconut. \$9

Check out the **new main menu** [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 and thus cannot book for Club functions or Anglers Restaurant Bookings until your membership is approved. Thanks for understanding.



Wine of the Month.

2015 Museum Release d'Arenberg The Footbolt Shiraz

Extended by popular demand.

Aged in a mix of new and used French and American oak for a period of 12-18 months.

On the palate, rich, lush dark plum, liquorice and blackberry fruits are framed by firm muscular tannins. Spicy vanillin cedar, earthy dark chocolate and leather elements extend across the back half. Ampley fleshed and concentrated it has a grippy medium to long finish.

\$42 per bottle

President's message.

90 Years Young –Celebrating Life Member Mal Manders.

Last Saturday was one of those very special days at APYAC —a day that reminded us that our Club is about so much more than boats, fishing and a beautiful place by the water.

Surrounded by family, friends and many of the mates he has made along the way, our much-loved Life Member **Mal Manders** celebrated his 90th birthday at the Club.

And there could hardly have been a more fitting place to celebrate a man who has given so much of himself to APYAC.

Mal has been a cherished member of our Club for more than 27 years, originally joining alongside his great mates and neighbours **Ian Sekac** and **Robert Pope**. Together, the three friends purchased PA28, beginning a chapter that would become an enormous part of their lives - and ultimately an important part of the story of our Boathouse.

Mal began his working life as a motor mechanic before later moving into the television production industry, eventually becoming General Manager of FMTV Australia. But thankfully for APYAC, those early mechanical skills never left him!

During his ownership of PA28, Mal oversaw three engine changes, and over the years his mechanical knowledge became invaluable to our Club.



Alongside another much-loved Life member and Ex-President, who's sadly no longer with us, **Ron Amy**, Mal spent countless volunteer hours rebuilding, repairing and replacing the diesel engines that breathe life into many of our treasured heritage Clinker boats.

It's specialised knowledge. It's increasingly rare knowledge. And, perhaps most importantly, it's knowledge that Mal is determined will not disappear.

That may be one of his greatest gifts to APYAC.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday morning, Mal, Ian and Rob can still be found in the Boathouse, surrounded by an extraordinary group of approximately 42 volunteers of all ages, experiences and backgrounds.

They restore boats. They repair engines. They fix things that most of us wouldn't know where to begin with. They keep the many working parts of our Boathouse operating and, piece by piece, they protect the history and traditions that have been entrusted to us.

But somewhere along the way, something even more special has happened.

Those Tuesday and Wednesday mornings have become about far more than maintaining boats.

With Ian's wife **Cheryl** —affectionately known as '*Mrs Cakes*'— adding her own special touch to proceedings, the working bees have developed into mornings filled with conversation, laughter, cakes, cups of tea, stories, learning and friendship.

They have become mornings of camaraderie, mateship and purpose.

People come because there's work to be done, but I suspect many stay because they feel part of something.

And that is what people like Mal, Ian and Rob have created.

Never have we had such a large and dedicated group regularly volunteering within our Boathouse, and that doesn't happen by accident. It comes from people who generously share what they know, welcome others in, make them feel useful and give them the confidence to have a go.

Our Club was established in 1909, and throughout those generations APYAC has survived because knowledge has been passed from one member to another. Someone took the time to show the next person how something worked, how an engine could be rebuilt, how a clinker should be restored, or simply how to look after the place for whoever came next.

At 90 years young, Mal Manders is still doing exactly that.

Ian and Cheryl organised Saturday's wonderful birthday lunch, bringing together those closest to Mal to celebrate this remarkable milestone. In typical Mal fashion, he was humbled by the occasion and deeply appreciative that everyone had come along.

But Mal, this time the appreciation needs to come back the other way.

From all of us at APYAC — thank you.

Thank you for more than 27 years of membership.

Thank you for the countless volunteer hours.

Thank you for every engine rebuilt, every problem solved, and every bit of knowledge patiently passed on.

Thank you for helping preserve our beautiful Heritage Clinker boats and for making sure the skills required to care for them aren't lost to time.

Most of all, thank you for showing us what being a great Club member really looks like.

It isn't about recognition or titles. It is about turning up. Sharing what you know. Helping the person beside you. Looking after something because you want the next generation to enjoy it too. And finding friendship and purpose along the way.

Mal, Ian and Rob - these are the men that clubs like ours are built upon.

Happy 90th Birthday, Mal.

We hope you know just how loved, respected and appreciated you are.

Here's to many more Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in the Boathouse - surrounded by your mates, a diesel engine or two, plenty of stories and, of course, one of Mrs Cakes' creations.

With love and enormous appreciation from all of us at APYAC.

Lee
Lee Spyrou
President



The afternoon before the NFL game at the MCG we watched, from the deck, the U.S. Marines Ospreys from Darwin in formation with the RAAF Roulettes as they did their practice run.

Annual General Meeting - Notice.

Wednesday 7th October 2026

This Notice specifies that the Wednesday 7th October meeting is our Annual General Meeting, and lists the Agenda. We do not plan any rule changes requiring any Special Resolutions, so this Notice and Agenda, and availability of the Nomination Form [[CLICK HERE](#)] fulfils the items in accordance with the legislation.

Agenda

Welcome
Apologies
Quorum Confirmation & Conflict of Interest Declaration
Confirm Minutes of Previous 2025 AGM
Business Arising from Minutes of 2025 AGM
To receive from the Committee reports on the transactions of the Association during the last 12 months
President's Address
Treasurer's Report
Accountants Report
Auditors Report
Appointment of Club Auditor for 2026-27
Confirmation of 2026-27 Membership Fees including Boathouse Fees
Results of election for New Committee Members
Announcement of Executive Committee positions
Other Business.
Close of Meeting

Nomination to Committee

There are THREE committee places available for nomination under our collegiate system, a nomination form is available from the website: *APYAC / Club Rules / Nominations* [[CLICK HERE](#)]

The Process:

- a. A nomination is to be made in writing, in accordance with the attached form, with a Proposer and Seconder who are full financial members for Financial Year 2026-7 (e.g. have paid their Annual Membership fees in full).
- b. All nominations should be supported by a photo and short biography.
- c. The nomination form is to be emailed to the Secretary at [secretary @ apyac.org.au](mailto:secretary@apyac.org.au), to be received no later than **Tuesday 22nd September 2026 at 5 p.m.**
- d. If there are more than three nominations to fill the vacancies, a vote will be required, and copies of all nominations will be posted on the Club notice board.
- e. Voting can only be done by attending on the night in accordance with the Club Rules. No proxy votes for the AGM.
- f. Voting will open at 6:00 p.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. on **Wednesday 7th of October 2026.**

All full financial members are invited to nominate eligible members for the Committee in accordance with the rules.

Angling.

General.

Spring weather has arrived, but it is also a time of strong winds and mixed weather, though it is warmer at times. The strong winds have meant anglers have been generally off the water. Keep an eye on forecasts; it's better to err on the side of safety than to practise your swimming style. The good news for Port Phillip Bay anglers is the bay water temperatures are on the rise, 13.4 C at the top end of the Bay, 13.3 °C mid-bay. Outside the Heads, in the ocean, it's only slightly warmer than in the bay, 13.9 C. Rug up still if going fishing.

New run of snapper has not yet happened; may need the Bay water temperature to be above 14C., but plenty of pinkies around; whiting, squid and flathead are biting. Wind predominantly still from the north to north-west with strong west to south-westerlies.

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.

The first snapper of the season has been landed: 47 cm, caught in Williamstown on a pilly; congratulations to that angler. [That's YOU, Spraggy! - Ed]

Mick Sass our current open club champion has three Snapper (45,46 & 59cms.) along with a 43cm Flatty. Mark Mercieca is also on the Rolland Nicholls' Board with a 43cm Snapper.

It is starting to happen on the water since last edition; there are fish out there if you try.



Snapper.

There are still resident snapper in the bay, but they are hard to find. Early morning and sundown fishing seem to be most productive, although the fish do not always follow rules. Pinkies up to 50 cm (most 20 to 35 cms) are being caught in the Williamstown / Altona area around piers and jetties, Kirks Point and Long Reef. Actually, pinkies can be found on most reef areas and around piers in Williamstown, St Kilda and Port Melbourne and reef areas around Ricketts Point and Black Rock. Docklands and under the West Gate Bridge and around the Warmies (if steam is coming out of the chimney) have been productive for land-based anglers. When the new run of snapper arrives, they generally head to shallower water.

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 coota. 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.

It is Flathead time (although they bite all year); the next couple of months are exceptional. Try for them in 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 hook. 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.**

Good reports of sharks in the bay, school sharks, seven-gill sharks and gummies, but the water will need to clear after the rain. There are good-sized gummy sharks in 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. There have been reports of very many 7-gill sharks in the bay up to 3 metres. Use very large chunks of bait, 10-12 size hooks and wire trace to stop them biting you off. The best baits seem to be silver whiting, Australian salmon fillets, pilchards, garfish and squid.

Whiting.

Whiting fishing has hit prime time, but the weather is generally not good; the Club marks are not delivering. The water is clearing 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, Wedge Spit, Portarlington, Mornington to Portsea 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. Now is the time large squid enter the bay to breed and are hungry. Weather has not been helpful, but the squid are there if you go out. Try Werribee, Point Cook, Campbell's Cove, Point Lonsdale, Sorrento and Blairgowrie. The red stick directly out from Altona Yacht Club and boat ramp has had anglers bagging out on squid. Look for clear water and grassy patches. Large squid are being caught; a favourite spot of mine is Blairgowrie Marina Pier on an incoming tide. The water will need to clear after the heavy rain we have had. Phillip Island has also been fishing well for large Squid.

Australian Salmon.

Salmon are in huge numbers but have been hit and miss the last few weeks. Keep an eye out for birds working, as there are schools of Australian Salmon up the Club end of the bay. Many good salmon have been 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 to near the Clocktower. Salmon up to 65cm are being caught. If you catch a salmon on bait, it is worth trying a lure for a dozen or so casts or a quick troll, as they are a schooling fish.

There have been big schools near the club and in close, so ideal for kayak anglers.

Point Lonsdale Pier has been productive for land-based anglers willing to travel.

Any smallish silvery 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, cleaned immediately and cooked that day, provide reasonable eating.

Garfish.

Garfish are still very 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, or even bread dough works! They are being caught off most piers right around the Bay by land-based anglers. An area a few hundred mts from the main beach at Williamstown, opposite the rotunda, for boaters has been productive.

Mulloway.

It is a prime time to fish for Mulloway; the best times are as evening approaches, till well into the night. Live bait yakkas or mullet is best; large strips of fresh squid also work. They are being caught from the warmies right up the river to Burnley.

Check weather forecasts, keep an eye on the actual weather, do not take risks, give it a go, take care, and make sure you keep warm.

Fly anglers are born honest —but they get over it. (Ed Zern)

John Spragg

Images: Tony Panayotou and Alex Spyrou in kayak heaven.

OPEN	FISH	POINTS	IN-HOUSE	FISH	POINTS
MICK SASS	3	14.0			
JOHN SPRAGG	1	4.7			
MARK MERCIECA	1	4.3			

Boathouse.

John Spragg caught the first Snapper of the season and will have his subs paid next season. It was great to see such a huge turnout to our open season BBQ, including both our well-seasoned and fresh-budding anglers.

The Seahawk is back on the water after winter maintenance. Contact Captain @ apyac. org. au to be added to the list of members wanting inductions.

The *Seahawk Skippers WhatsApp* group has been set up for skipper requests. Check out all our Club [WhatsApp groups here](#).

The cost is \$240 per trip for up to 4 anglers, including fuel and a Volunteer skipper if your group hasn't arranged one.

We are planning a **Boat House and Boat Hire Induction** for this Saturday the 19th of September at 8.30 a.m. Contact myself or Ian Sekac if you would like to join in.

Chantal Jacq
Boathouse Captain.

LONGEST FISH			LENGTH
SNAPPER	IN		
	OPEN		
FLATHEAD	IN		
	OPEN	MICK SASS	43
SHARK	IN		
	OPEN		
1ST SNAPPER	IN		
	OPEN	JOHN SPRAGG	47
LAST SNAPPER	IN		
	OPEN		
WHITING	IN		
	OPEN		
WHITING BAG	IN		
	OPEN		
PIKE	IN		
	OPEN		
	IN		
	OPEN		
SALMON	IN		
	OPEN		
FLATHEAD	JUNIOR	MATTHEW GOWANS	40



Boathouse volunteers.

We welcome two new boat owners into the Boathouse: **Peter Holdsworth** who has bought the fibreglass Savage Fisherman, and **Lyndon Webster**, who brought a two-person Kayak into the Club.

The fibreglass Savage Fisherman has been sold and is waiting on Committee approval for the sale to proceed.

In moving a boat around, it became obvious that the lifting gear was well below what we expect. The components were corroded, and what was there was not load-rated. The volunteers will assist the owner to rectify the situation.

Two Hire Boat Refresher Inductions were conducted for members, in time for the angling season to begin.

We celebrated the birthday of one of our Club's volunteer stalwarts and Life Member, **Mal Manders**, who turned 90 years young on Saturday the 12th of September.

Mal's knowledge of clinker boats and engines is legendary, and he is a most valuable member of our volunteer team.

Tuesday's Smoko was a celebration of one of our youngest volunteers, **Robert Pope**, for his birthday.

Clinker Boat Restoration Projects.

EA385 will need to have a fuel pump issue sorted, and it will need to be attended to by the engine agent's contractor. Many thanks to the Port Melbourne Men's Shed for the use of their specialised equipment. A new propeller was able to be fitted to the boat's shaft after the propeller had been machined to size.

PA35. We had remarkable news: we found the missing drain plug! So, after some minor wiring is completed, the boat will be ready for a sea trial.

PA031 will be the next boat to be turned over for sealing.

PA18. Work started replacing the old flooring with 12mm Marine ply. When the new flooring is cut to size, it will be carpeted. When we have some clearance on the work aisle, the boat will have the inside of the hull restored and then put on the frames to assess the condition of the hull exterior.

The volunteers were provided with new gear, which included load-rated shackles and load-rated slings.

Rations.

We were promised some culinary delights for our Smokos on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and we haven't been disappointed.

Delicacies arrived from **Duncan Durie** and **Stu Cousins**. We also indulged in sausages. Two packets of leftovers to go. Don't worry, they will be eaten.

The Cousins, Stu and **Donna**, excited us with a lemon polenta on a Tuesday and filled salmon sausage rolls the next day! I can't give away too much on the sausage rolls as the recipe is a secret, but I can tell you there was rice, leeks, Dijon mustard and secret herbs and spices.

Ian Sekac

[With a five-week month, I —and ChatGPT— have combined three volunteer reports into one - Ed]

APYAC Calendar 2026.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 19th September – **Preliminary Final** 5.15 p.m.

Saturday 26th September – **Grand Final Day**.

OCTOBER

Saturday 3rd October – **Closed from 4 p.m.** (Private Function).

Wednesday 7th October – **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** (regular dining closed) 7:30 p.m.

Sunday 11th October – **Oktoberfest Prost!** - Sunday Lunch

Oktoberfest style, from 12 Noon.

Saturday 17th October – **Closed from 4 p.m.** (Private Function).

Saturday 24th October – **Johnny Fab** 8 p.m. – Free Entry.

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 3rd November – **Melbourne Cup Luncheon** – *booking link coming soon.*

Wednesday 4th November – **General Meeting** (regular dining closed) 7 p.m.

Thursday 5th November – **Oaks Day Luncheon** – *booking link coming soon.*



Saturday 14th November – **Regular Boys** 8 p.m.– Free Entry.

Saturday 21st November – **Closed from 4 p.m.** (Private Function).

DECEMBER

Wednesday 2nd December - **General Meeting** (*regular dining closed*) 7 p.m.

Saturday 12th December – **Kids Christmas Party** – *booking link coming soon.*

Thursday 31st December – **APYAC New Years Eve Event** – *booking link coming soon.*

More events coming soon!

Note: Saturday Bands usually play from 7-9 p.m. or later during summer time.

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**

Fishing & Boating Season Calendar 2026-7.

SEPTEMBER

Calamari Weekend Competition - 4.00 p.m. Friday 18th September
– 2.00 p.m. Sunday 20th September.

Sunday Sausage Sizzle - 2.00 p.m. Sunday 20th September.

OCTOBER

Lures & Plastics Mixed Bag Competition (In-House / Open / Kayaks) - 4.00 p.m. Friday 2nd October – 2.00 p.m. Sunday 4th October.

Sunday Sausage Sizzle - 2.00 p.m. Sunday 4th October.

NOVEMBER

Max Coningsby Long Weekend Competition - 12.01 a.m. Saturday 31st October – 4.00 p.m. Tuesday 3rd November (prizes awarded at monthly meeting).

Sunday Sausage Sizzle - 2.00pm Sunday 22nd November.

DECEMBER

Pot Of Gold Competition - 4.00 p.m. Friday 4th December – 2.00 p.m. Sunday 6th December.

Sunday Sausage Sizzle - 2.00pm Sunday 6th December.

(11th–13th December / Back up POG Weekend dates)

JANUARY – NO COMPETITIONS

Clinker Boat Races - Australia Day Tuesday 26th January.

FEBRUARY

Tiger Lyons Whiting Competition. - 4.00 p.m. Friday 5th February – 2.00 p.m. Sunday 7th February.

Sunday Sausage Sizzle - 2.00 p.m. Sunday 7th February.

MARCH

Purrumbete Long Weekend - Friday 5th March – Monday 8th March.

Sunday Sausage Sizzle - 2.00 p.m. Sunday 14th March.

Herring Island BBQ - Sunday 28th March, time TBC.*

APRIL

Flathead Frenzy Weekend - 4.00 p.m. Friday 2nd April – 2.00 p.m. Sunday 4th April.

Sunday Sausage Sizzle - 2.00 p.m. Sunday 4th April.



MAY

End of Season – Sunday Sausage Sizzle - 2.00 p.m. Sunday 30th May.

JUNE

Presentation Night - Saturday 19th June.

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

** Actual start time to be confirmed.*

Junior Anglers

Calling All APYAC Juniors – The Aussie Junior Fishing Classic is Here!

School holidays are almost here - which means it's time to grab your rod, get out on the water and show Australia what our APYAC juniors can do!

The Aussie Junior Fishing Classic is Australia's fast-growing kids-only fishing competition, giving young anglers the chance to fish, have fun and compete against juniors from around the country.

And the best part? You can fish from your own local waters!

Aussie Junior Fishing Classic

19 September – 10 October 2026

Entry: \$30

Over \$6,000 in prizes!

The competition runs throughout the school holidays, so there's plenty of time to get out with Mum, Dad, grandparents or your fishing mates and have a crack.

Entering is easy. Simply download the app, create your account, find the Aussie Junior Fishing Classic – Sep/Oct 2026 event and enter through the app. Parents can create their own account and link their junior anglers to it.



We Want TEAM APYAC!

If you're an APYAC junior entering the competition, please let us know!

We'd love to follow your journey throughout the school holidays — send us your fishing photos, tell us where you've been fishing and let us know about your catches.

Big fish, little fish, first fish, PBs and the one that got away - we want to hear about all of it!

With APYAC juniors already learning from some of the most experienced anglers around our Club, this is a fantastic opportunity to put those skills into action and have some fun along the way.

Who knows? We might even have one of Australia's winning junior

anglers right here at APYAC!

The Aussie Junior Fishing Classic is part of the 2 Bent Rods fishing program, which has been introducing kids and families to fishing since 2004. It's all about getting young people outdoors, building their fishing skills and creating the next generation of passionate anglers.

So come on juniors - let's get APYAC on the national scoreboard!

- Download the 2 Bent Rods App - by clicking [here](#).
- Fish from 19 September to 10 October
- Entry is just \$30
- Over \$6,000 in prizes

Tell APYAC you're competing so we can follow and celebrate your journey!

From local waters to national glory - let's go Team APYAC!

For entry details and information, visit the site by clicking [here](#).

Good luck to all our junior fishos - and Tight Lines!

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.

Mallacoota fishing safari.

When Plan A goes out the window.

Well, our Mallacoota fishing safari certainly hasn't gone according to plan ... and that's probably been the best part!

Alex and I left Melbourne intending to tow the boat. Engine trouble quickly put an end to that brilliant idea, so Plan B was activated – load up the kayaks and have a crack anyway!

Tony Panayotou and his mate **Scott** sensibly stuck to Plan A, towing their boat and hiring a berth directly in front of our campsite at the beautiful Mallacoota Foreshore Holiday Park.

What could possibly go wrong?

Apparently quite a lot.

We arrived Sunday to howling winds, making erecting our new inflatable tent and kitchen canopy something resembling an Olympic event. Then Tony and Scott arrived the following day.

More wind. More rain. Lots more rain.

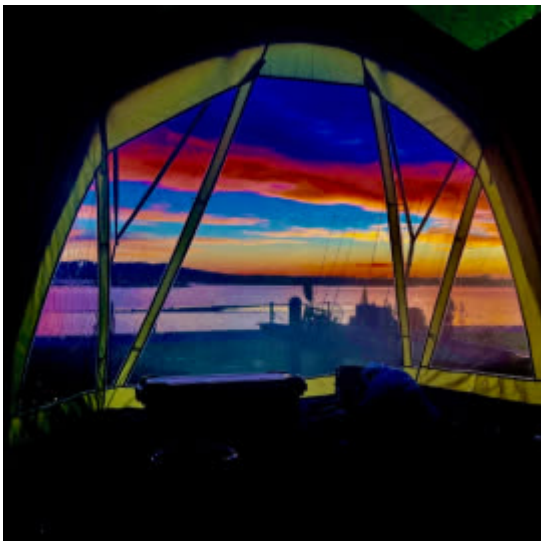
Welcome to Mallacoota, boys!

Gipsy Point – JACKPOT!

Our first adventure took us to Gipsy Point, where the Tailor were smashing our offerings from the pier and putting on fantastic fights.

That evening, we went octopus hunting. Apparently, Scott is some sort of octopus whisperer. Two beauties later and we were dining like kings – freshly caught, cooked at camp and shared with mates.

Then Alex reminded us what Mallacoota is famous for, landing a legendary 64cm Dusky Flathead. With the maximum legal size being 55cm, she was admired and safely returned to the water to grow, breed and hopefully terrorise another APYAC member sometime in the future.



Then Tony's Boat Joined the Rebellion.

Remember Tony's sensible decision to bring the boat?
Yep. His engine failed too.

So much for Plan A!

Fortunately, kayaks don't have engines. Tony and I have been tag-teaming in mine, and the Australian Salmon have been INSANE. Huge fish, huge schools and huge fights.

Fighting a big salmon from a kayak is something else entirely. You're sitting centimetres above the water, rod loaded up, fish screaming off and occasionally wondering exactly who is taking whom for a ride!

Tony described it as some of the best fishing he has ever experienced – and coming from Tony, that's saying something.

But Here's the Real Catch.

Trips like this remind you that fishing isn't really just about fish.

You wake up to the water, make a coffee outside, watch the weather and paddle somewhere simply because it looks interesting. You laugh with your mates when everything goes wrong – and celebrate together when something goes right.

The phone gets forgotten. The mind gets quieter.

So perhaps that's my Mallacoota message to our APYAC members:

Think outside the square. Get outside your comfort zone and have a crack.

You don't need the biggest boat or fanciest equipment. Go camping. Grab a kayak. Fish from a pier. Take a mate. Try somewhere you've never been before.

And when Plan A falls apart?

There's always Plan B.

Sometimes Plan B turns out to be the adventure you'll remember forever.

Tight Lines from Mallacoota!

Lee, Alex, Tony & Scott



Melbourne Boat Show

15th-18th October.

The *Boating Industry Association of Victoria's* Melbourne Boat Show is back at Docklands.

Victoria's premier boating event is on this October on the waterfront at Docklands.

Explore the world of boats, boating and the boating lifestyle!

Fishing, cruising, ski, wake, jetskis, pontoon, sailing boats and more.

There's something for everyone with sensational boat displays along Docklands waterfront and across five marinas. Great Stage

Presentations, a Fun Kids' Zone, Fishing Simulator, Super Tank, Tall Ships, Wooden Boats, and Rig Rundown.

100+ exhibitors, hundreds of boats, new releases and loads of boating fun.

See you at the Melbourne Boat Show, Docklands, October 15-18th.

Melbourne Boat Show: free registration; just click this link.

ABC article examines Tasmanian flathead ban.

An inquiry into Tasmania's controversial ban on fishing sand flathead in the state's south-east has criticised the government's long-term management of the popular recreational fishery.

The ban, introduced in March between Whale Head and Cape Pillar, followed a severe decline in sand flathead stocks. The parliamentary committee found the fishery was under pressure and that closing it was consistent with the

precautionary principle. However, it also found the government had failed to act promptly on scientific warnings dating back more than a decade.

The Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies told the inquiry that fishing mortality had exceeded sustainable levels since at least 2014–15. The government's own evidence showed that only around one per cent of fish were above the legal size limit, with breeding potential significantly reduced.

The inquiry also criticised the consultation process, describing community involvement as inadequate, and found that the economic impact of the closure had not been modelled.

Twenty recommendations were handed down, including the need for clearer management and recovery plans. The committee found no publicly available criteria for reopening the fishery, although the government says a stock rebuilding plan will set conditions for a future reopening.



Read the full story by **Monty Jacka**, from *ABC News Hobart*, by clicking [here](#).

[ChatGPT was used to summarise the article.]



Trout fishing bonanza.

Melbourne anglers are in for an exciting spring, with 1,000 trophy-sized rainbow trout stocked into 17 metropolitan lakes across the city.

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) CEO **Travis Dowling** said the metro 'stonker' stockings have proved immensely popular with anglers since they began in 2021.

"From Albert Park Lake and Karkarook Lake to Lilydale Lake and Yarrambat Lake, the stockings provide excellent fishing opportunities close to home," Mr Dowling said.

"Many of the lakes offer easy shore-based access, walking tracks, playgrounds and picnic facilities, making them ideal destinations for families looking to enjoy the outdoors."

The initiative forms part of Victoria's nation-leading fish stocking program, funded by recreational fishing licence fees and the Victorian Government's \$96 million package to improve fishing, boating, piers and aquaculture. Victoria stocks more fish than all other states and territories combined, supporting local communities, regional economies and outdoor recreation.

These ex-broodstock rainbows – weighing up to 4 kilograms each – take a variety of baits and have been released into Family Fishing Lakes close to Melbourne, offering a great day out for families and fishers alike.

"The stocking gives metro fishers the chance to target the same ex-broodstock 'stonker' trout that are released into iconic trout fisheries such as the Eildon Pondage and Goulburn River for the opening of the trout season each year," Mr Dowling said.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority have stocked a total of **1,000 rainbow trout** across 17 waterways.

Albert Park Lake received 120 trout, while Casey Fields Lake received 40, Caulfield Racecourse Lake 50, Don Lake (Healesville) 30, Emerald Lake 30, Garfield Lake 10, Guru Nanak Lake (Berwick Springs Estate Lake) 40, Karkarook Lake

(Moorabbin) 150, Lilliput Lane Reserve (Pakenham) 10, Lilydale Lake 130, Navan Park Lake (Melton) 30, Pakenham Lake 80, Rowville Lakes (Sutton and Hill Lakes) 40, Roxburgh Park Lakes 30, Spavin Drive Lake (Sunbury) 30, Quarry Lake (Ferntree Gully) 60 and Yarrambat Lake 120.

For regional Victorians who love their trout fishing in rivers, the season re-opened on the 5th September. Large trout were stocked around Eildon as part of the free Goulburn Fishing Festival, and at Lake Wendouree for the Ballarat Fishing Festival to celebrate the opening.

Murray Codference

Freshwater anglers from across Victoria are gearing up for the 9th annual Murray Codference at Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre on Saturday 3 October 2026.

Presented by the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA), this free event runs from 8.55 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., with lunch provided. It promises a day of expert insights, fishing stories and native fish conservation.

Keynote speaker **Al McGlashan** will present *Murray Cod – Story of an Aussie Icon*. The internationally renowned fishing photojournalist, author and television presenter has enjoyed a career spanning more than 30 years, including *Fish Forever*, *Big Fish Small Boats* and *Fishn' with Mates*.

Other speakers include **Robbie Alexander** on bait fishing for natives, **Brooke Davis** on exploring new waterways, **Lubin Pfeiffer** on the habits of successful cod fishers, and **Shea Bloom** on fishing the clear, fast-flowing Upper Murray.

FishingMad's **Alan Bonnici** will discuss catching cod in suburban Melbourne.

VFA experts will cover fisheries management, fish production, Ovens River recovery and Victoria's native fish resurgence.

Tickets are free, and lunch is provided.

Register and find out more by clicking this link.

[ChatGPT was used to shorten two Government press releases.]

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.

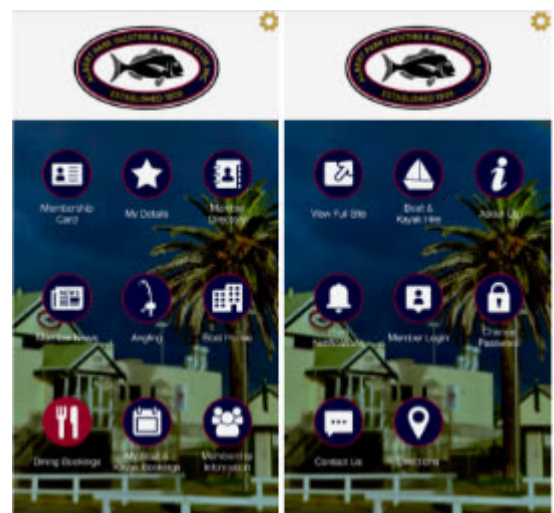
Check out the APYAC APP on both app stores, here are the links:

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

History.

If you have any old club pictures or documents, we'd love to get copies. Contact: **apyac.volunteers@gmail.com**

Bill Ryan.

[Image: Thanks to the State Library of Victoria]



Boat Hire Coordination.

The Club has three boats and three kayaks for hire. See the website **by clicking here** for hiring 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 only with the booking process.

[Image: The faster you help fill the bucket, the faster we get to have a competition!]



Merchandise.

Get yours now. Use your house levy:

Jackets \$85

Vests \$75

Hoodies \$65

Golf Umbrella \$60.

Fishing Tops \$50

Polo Shirts \$50

Scarf \$20 *(You really only need one.)*

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 favourite Uncle!)

Stubby Holder \$10.

APYAC Podcasts.

The latest addition to the podcast library is a speech given by the Secretary at 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 the I.T. 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**

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 at 10:30 a.m. so you can plan your weekend during your lunch break.

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 most email addresses, not because we don't want to hear from you, but because 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**

Any ideas? **[Just click this link here](#)** and put TIGHT LINES IDEAS in the subject line.

The Tight Lines Editor is **James Nixon**.

Club Opening Hours.

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

Wednesday.

Open at 4 p.m.

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

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

Normal menu, specials: Parma Night!

Book tables to help prove demand.

Club 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 Hour 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 until 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 16th September - Tuesday 29th September 2026

CONTACT US



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