

## ' BOATING SAFETY '

### It takes a tinnie tragedy to learn a lifejacket lesson.

Tinnies have the highest fatality rate, with most accidents occurring on waters you would hardly rate as hostile. It sometimes takes a shocking death to highlight the importance of lifejackets. Boat owners and buyers must take note before the boating authorities are forced to crack down further.

It was with gut-wrenching dismay that I read news reports this week about the body of a teenage girl being found after a tinnie tragedy on Lake Macquarie, near Newcastle NSW. As someone employed in the business of pleasure, and the father of similar-aged children, it struck doubly hard. How the girl's family and friends must be feeling is unfathomable. With hindsight it's easy to see how the incident could've been avoided. The winds were strong, the chop big, the occupants inexperienced. None of the three teens on board was wearing a PDF, though there were some in the boat.

NSW Maritime responded with a media release again warning of the importance of lifejackets. The authority has already cracked down hard in recent times. Lifejackets are compulsory for children under 12, anyone boating alone, or at night when in a boat less than 4.8 metres, and for everyone on board a boat less than 4.8 metres when on alpine waters or offshore. It is the skipper's responsibility to ensure passengers are wearing a lifejacket at times of heightened risk. Statistics show that tinnies have the highest associated fatality rate. Admittedly they're the most popular type of boat in Australia and New Zealand but most accidents occur on waters that you would hardly rate as hostile.

In the past I've tested small forward-steer runabouts that were almost impossible to drive one-up because of the alarming heel. One shipped water over the aft quarter as I went into a routine turn. And there are basic, two-thwart tinnies in the system that will sink in the event of a swamping or capsize. Three foam-filled seats should provide sufficient buoyancy but many buyers favour the open floor of a two-seater. The case rekindled a childhood memory of a similar trip we made on Port Stephens on the NSW coast. As the wind built to over 30 knots we headed for the nearest shore. Dad prudently decided to hire a taxi for the drive back to home, where we picked up our car and trailer and returned. It added three hours to the day and the taxi fare exceeded \$100 but, some 35 years later, I am here to write about it.

Mark Rothfield

*This extract is taken from the POWERBOAT-WORLD.COM 25/06/11 newsletter , also see [www.powerboat-world.com](http://www.powerboat-world.com)*

**Children aged under 12 must now wear a lifejacket at all times on boats less than 4.8 metres.**  
- Maritimes NSW Maritime ©



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# CLUB NEWS

## ROPES

### MEMBERS ARE REMINDED



**'NOT TO SHORT TIE' their boats \***



\* **except with stretch materials that will not strain our bollards and wharf structure.**

## SIGNING IN OF GUESTS

All members are reminded that they are to sign in all guests if entering the club house or BBQ area.

**This includes members' partners and any other person over the age of 18.**

All clubs are responsible to Liquor Licensing Victoria, which is conducting frequent spot checks to ensure this legal requirement is being adhered to.

## WEBSITE - PROGRESS REPORT

Works on our new website are approaching the end, we are currently waiting on some club pictures, reports and club dates to finalise the main content. We hope to go 'live' soon and we look forward to your feedback.

**In the meantime, check the weekly emails and SMS from the club for social and boating events.**

## WORKING BEE SATURDAY 13/08

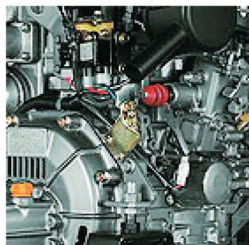
VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR OUR WORKING BEE  
In the BBQ AREA

**SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**

Please contact Andrew Broadway on 9421 0991 or 0428 21 0991

## ACCESS TO RVMYC KITCHEN & BAR

Members are reminded that they are not permitted in the kitchen and bar areas. These areas are the responsibility of the caterers and their staff. **No access is available to members** unless in an emergency or by invitation.



# We have moved

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12/2 Burleigh Street  
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# SOCIAL CALENDAR

THE RVMYC MARINERS  
PRESENT

## TRIVIA NIGHT

August 20<sup>th</sup>



7.00pm

For 7.30pm start

**MORE INFORMATION TO COME.  
BOOK THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY  
NOW!**

RVMYC  
INVITES MEMBERS TO THE

## MARIBYRNONG RIVER & ANGLERS TAVERN LUNCH CRUISE

SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

LYNCH'S BRIDGE IS THE LOWEST  
BRIDGE  
ENROUTE, WITH A MAXIMUM CLEARANCE  
HEIGHT OF 3.15M AT HIGH TIDE.

LUNCH AT ANGLERS TAVERN.

**ASSEMBLE AT CLUB 10.15AM  
FOR 10.30AM DEPARTURE**

**ALL WELCOME**

EMAIL [RVMYC@OPTUSNET.COM.AU](mailto:RVMYC@OPTUSNET.COM.AU)  
OR CALL 9397 5036

# August 2011

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3 MEMBERS DRAW 7.30pm	4	5  'FNM' RAFFLE & MUSIC	6	7 RIVER CRUISE & PUB LUNCH
8	9	10 MEMBERS DRAW 7.30pm	11	12  'FNM' RAFFLE & MUSIC	13  WORKING BEE	14
15	16	17 MEMBERS DRAW 7.30pm	18	19  'FNM' RAFFLE & MUSIC	20  TRIVIA NIGHT 7PM	21  QUIZ RALLY
22	23	24 MEMBERS DRAW 7.30pm	25	26  'FNM' RAFFLE & MUSIC	27	28
29	30	31 MEMBERS DRAW 7.30pm				