



# Lake Wellington Yacht Club Strategic Plan

## 2019-2023

### Introduction

Lake Wellington Yacht Club (LWYC) was established at Marlay Point in 1960 to:

*promote and encourage participation in the sport of sailing and to provide facilities for sailing events and its associated activities.*

Lake Wellington Yacht Club Constitution 2015, page 3

### Marlay Point

‘Lake Wellington Yacht Club (LWYC) is located on the western edge of Lake Wellington between Marlay Point and the mouth of the Avon River which is one of the seven landscape priority areas (LPA) of the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority - the Gippsland Lakes and Hinterland. This area extends from Cowwarr Weir in the west, around the Macalister Irrigation District boundary to Lake Wellington and Loch Sport in the south. It includes the Red Gum Plains, part of the Gippsland Lakes, and the lower reaches of the Thomson, Latrobe, Avon and Perry rivers.’

*LPAs have high environmental values and are at most immediate risk, they require our attention during the life of the WG Regional Catchment Strategy.*

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority website, 4 February 2018

### Objectives

The Objectives of LWYC are to:

1. Providing a racing and safety program on Lake Wellington
2. Sailing for all
3. Engaging with and supporting other Gippsland clubs
4. Improving members skills, knowledge and experience
5. Meeting legal, financial and good practice, including partnering.



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## How Lake Wellington Yacht Club will achieve the objectives

### 1. Providing a racing and safety program on Lake Wellington

1.1 Every year after review of the previous year's program, the Lake Wellington Yacht Club Committee finalises a multi-fleet sailing program from October to the following May. It includes opportunities for re-sails and two scheduled Safety trainings for land and on the rescue boat. The program is uploaded to the Club's website by September.

1.2 To ensure the highest standard of safety for a club its size, every year the Club reviews its risk, safety and incident policies and protocols with formal committee adoption.

1.2 Following the closure of Hazelwood Pondage in 2018 where Latrobe Valley Yacht Club (LVYC) sailed, they have participated with Lake Wellington Yacht Club in their program and added a number of events of their own. LWYC and LVYC are progressing an MOU to further integrate their program, membership and funds

**Relevant Primary Documents: Safety Manual, Safety Manual Appendix, Risk Management document, Incident Response document**

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### 2. Sailing for all

2.1. Social Sailing is included in the program esp. over long weekends and can occur any-time between members and other interested people

2.2 Through the *Discover Sailing* program aimed at people interested in or re-connecting in sailing and held approximately monthly over the season. New people go out and sail with another person on their trailable yacht. This will continue.

2.3 Since 2000 Lake Wellington Yacht Club has conducted a *Sailability* program on Lake Guthridge in Sale, even graduating a national racing champion, Mark Thorpe who went on to become Wellington Shire's Citizen of the Year in 2017. The six boats are *Access Dinghies*. They are stored on a purpose- built trailer which is housed for free by a local philanthropist. The volunteer run program has run in Terms 1 and 4 with Sale Specialist School, George Grey Centre and other groups such as Scouts.

<b>Action:</b> Actively seeking other groups to try sailing through Sailability.
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2.4. LWYC continues to struggle to maintain membership especially a younger group to participate due to its geographical isolation from town, lack of whole-of-family activity and the challenge of Lake Wellington itself. Attempts have been made to have displays in Sale with little result, and since 2018-2019 the Club has committed to having regular *Discover Sailing* mornings during the season.



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2.5 The Club attempts to engage with broader exposure activities such as This Girl Can and through the annual Marlay Point Family Fair, a pre-cursor to the start of the Marlay Point Overnight Race.

**Action:** Continue to provide opportunities to expose people to sailing and sailing events

2.6. The Club has had plans to make its Clubhouse more accessible since developing the Club's Inclusion Plan 2017. As a necessity for sailing clubs, Lake Wellington Yacht Club has showering and toilet facilities on the ground floor and office, kitchen and meeting room on the first floor. There are two lots of 17 steps up to the Clubhouse and the Club has sought to build a ramp and a unisex accessible toilet.

**Action:** In December 2018 the Club submitted an application to the Latrobe Valley Authority called Accessibility for All. The two major aims: first to improve accessibility through building an accessible urinal, accessible unisex toilet and a ramp to the first floor of the Clubhouse and second to improve sustainability through erecting solar panels and increasing water storage.

**Relevant Primary Documents:** *Code of Conduct for the Safety of Children; Commitment to Child Safety; Smoking Policy, Inclusive Club Standards*

### 3. Maintenance and Improvement Program for the Club and its facilities

3.1 The Lake Wellington Yacht Club has an ongoing maintenance and works program at the club. In 2020 as part of its plan to ensure financial security, the Club obtained the Marlay Point mowing contract with the Wellington Shire which will be an ongoing commitment and income for years to come.

3.2 In the 1970s the club purchased ten acres of land behind the club and had an extensive works program to erect the boundary fences and a large tree planting program on the newly acquired property undertaken by the yacht club members. Around this time LWYC made a substantial financial contribution to have electricity connected to the area.

3.3 Around the mid- 1980s the Club built a new toilet block consisting of 13 toilets and one urinal with six hand basins to cater for the increase in entries and competitors entering in the Marlay Point Over Night Race (MPONR). All this work was paid for by the Club and the work was performed by yacht club members.

3.4 In the late 1980s the club acquired five RAAF base portable buildings which were transported to Marlay Point and installed on LWYC land. They were joined together to form one building, which were then divided into a two- bay rescue boat storage shed, a dinghy storage shed and a bunkhouse consisting of two bedrooms with eight beds in each one, a kitchen and family room. This bunkhouse is called Suite 209 and is used to support the MPONR as the site where participants sign into the race.



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3.5 With this facility and the clubhouse LWYC has supplied shelter, a meeting area, toilet and accommodation for the police and emergency services for rescues on Lake Wellington.

3.6 The Marlay Point area and Lake Wellington Yacht Club is a vital and essential part for any rescue or emergency on the western area of the Gippsland Lakes system region.

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#### 4. Engagement with and support for other Gippsland Clubs

4.1 Lake Wellington Yacht Club continues to be a participant and at times led the re-invigoration of the **Eastern Region Regatta**, which is held at one of the Gippsland clubs on a rotational basis in the first or second weekend in February. See <https://sites.google.com/site/easternregioninterclub/>

4.2 Individual members are members of other clubs, and others occasionally participate in their social or invitational events.

4.3. The Lake Wellington Yacht Club has run the Marlay Point Over Night Race for fifty years which is the largest and only overnight race for trailable yachts in the southern hemisphere. Since 2018, Lake Wellington and Gippsland Lakes Yacht Clubs have partnered to operate the *Marlay Point Overnight Race (MPONR)*. Although there has always been a partnership approach between LWYC, LVYC and GLYC, this more formal undertaking between GLYC and LWYC sought to address the decreased people power and race operation skills at LWYC and ensure the longevity of this iconic race. It is proving a very successful partnership.

4.4. Latrobe Valley Yacht's Club sailing water, Hazelwood Pondage was closed to all activity suddenly in May 2018. LVYC has been seeking a relocation solution since that time with limited offerings. LWYC immediately offered LVYC members use of LWYC facilities and inclusion in their program over 2018-2019 which some members took up. With the support of Gippsport, LVYC conducted a strategic plan which was delivered in January 2020 with the best option to join with Lake Wellington Yacht Club.

<p><b>Action:</b> During early 2020 LVYC and LWYC are developing and progressing a MOU regarding future sailing together, asset relocation and financial management. This will progress into the 2020-2021 FY season with finalisation occurring early in the 2020-2021 season.</p>
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**Relevant Primary Documents:** *Eastern Region Regatta*

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### 5. Improving members skills, knowledge and experience

5.1 Since 2014, the Club has actively sought to financially support Club members undertaking qualifications which are relevant to the Club's operation. This has included but is not limited to:

First Aid Training; Race Officer Training; Working with Children Checks; Responsible Serving of Alcohol; Boat Operator's Licence; Food Safety Compliance;

By Club members renewing updating their registration and the automatic updating of Sailing qualifications on the Australia Sailing site, the Club has a record of all members training, qualifications and expiry dates.

5.2. At the beginning of each season and mid-way through, the Club has operated a Safety and Rescue boat Orientation session.

5.3 Through regular racing the Club has produced, over the years, several National and State Champions.

5.4 Through the Marlay Point Family Fair on the long weekend in March, the Club welcomes and actively provides opportunities for members for contribute to the Club with information preparation, traffic and boat ramp management, grant application and acquittals, promotion and sales

***Relevant Primary Documents: Training Checklist, Members Code of Conduct, Safety Manual, Safety Manual Appendix, Risk Management Document, Incident Response document, Sailing Instructions***

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### 6. Meeting legal, financial and good practice

6.1 The sheds and Suite 209 are built on Club land however the Clubhouse was built with permission from the then Avon Shire on crown land. The Crown has not sought for the Club to relocate nor has it responded positively to the request for a re-drawing of boundaries and exchange of land. Thus the status quo will be maintained and for all legal requirements, the Club is on club land.

6.2 The Club has its constitution, policies and guidelines ready to hand at all committee meetings and abides by them. It also has required information on display e.g. RSA certificates, Commitment to Children, Goodsports Certification

6.2 The Club has a minimum of eight committee meetings per annum and an annual general meeting. Financial and other appropriate reports are presented at each meeting.

6.3. The Club is a Level 2 Accredited Goodsports organisation.



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6.4. The Club accesses grant opportunities to support its volunteers and to maximise the use of its financial and labour contributions to club maintenance, accessibility and improvements.

6.5. The Club actively partners with relevant organisations including Clydebank Landcare with significant planting success on the Club's private land and with the Marlay Point Public Purposes Reserve Committee on improvements and tree planting.

6.6 The Club acknowledges the traditional owners of the land and waters on which the Club participates, the Gunai/Kurnai people.

**Action:** Through our partnering with other agencies to improve Marlay Point, we will work for better engagement with Ramahyck and District Aboriginal Corporation (RDAC) and Gippsland Lakes and Water Aboriginal Co-operative (GLaWAC) and aim for plaque/equivalent acknowledgement at Marlay Point.

**Relevant Primary Documents:** *Lake Wellington Yacht Club Constitution and Model of Rules; Inclusive Club Standards*

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### 7.0. Marlay Point and Club Relationships

7.1 The Club is located on land which adjoins Crown land and facilities operated by;

i. Department Environment, Water, Land and Planning and whose Committee of Management (Marlay Point Public Purposes Reserve Committee - MPPPRC) is appointed by the Minister every three years with the next nominations due in December 2020. The MPPPRC has built the shelter shed and the two picnic tables. In 2005 they obtained the funds and built the concrete retaining wall on the southern end of the foreshore.

ii. Wellington Shire Council owns and maintains the hillside toilets, the two boat ramps, the carpark and have responsibility for the maintenance of the foreshore grass and whipper-snipping which they subcontracted to the Lake Wellington Yacht Club in mid- 2020.

iii. Gipps Ports maintain the floating jetty and the emergency light.

7.2. Over 60 years, the Club has seen significant erosion of Lake Wellington's western bank from various flood activities especially in 1991 This has also led to silting up of the western banks especially around the jetty and ramps.

The breakwater was constructed during the 1980s

As the only formal club located at Marlay Point, the Club has become the de facto advocate for maintenance and improvements at the Point. This is most obvious around the repeated silting up of the ramps with the most recent relocation of silt occurring in 2019 at a cost of \$60,000 borne by WSC and Gippsland Ports and moved to near the front of the breakwater.



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7.3 In recent years Club members sought improved engagement with the Marlay Point Public Purposes Reserve Committee resulting in nomination and Ministerial appointment of some LWYC members to the committee in July 2018 and notified around December 2018.

**Action:** Positive work over 2019-20 with the Marlay Point Public Purposes Reserve Committee and Wellington Shire Council has led to reducing tree branch fall risk, improving day stay access to the foreshore by the insertion of bollards paid for by the MPPRC and Council which has also reduced foreshore compaction and improved the amenity.

Break-ins to the Club have reduced since the free campers have come to Marlay Point.

The Club supported Landcare in a successful grant for Marlay Point improvements and may help with clearing and planting.

**Action:** Better designated areas for camping are being identified in conjunction with MPRCC.

Development of a vegetation plan and proposed planting for Autumn 2020 - delayed by Covid-19

More appropriate seating for Marlay Point visitors is being identified with MPRCC which is important when Club members are rigging and moving boats.

Better engagement/information with community users about ramp silting responsibilities.

Work towards regular plans with the appropriate authorities to maintain good water access, a secure breakwater and the prevention of further erosion.

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# **Lake Wellington Yacht Club Strategic Plan 2019-2023**

Prepared by Jenny O'Neill Consulting

This Plan will be reviewed in June 2022