



Happy and Safe Boating!

MLAC Bulletin

"Respect the Past – Create the Future"

NEXT OUTING

27-28 July
Engels
Captain's Cook

May – 2024 – Tea Gardens Tapas

4 May 2024

Our tapas evening began as we met on the grassy area at the Coupland Street end of Marine Drive. Despite days of wet weather, the rain was holding off for us. The grass area was large enough to fit our circle of chairs and some serving tables - ready for the tapas delights that would appear at the conclusion of our club Huddle.

Right on time, Commodore Rod commenced the Huddle at 4.00pm. He reminded us that the Sail-past for the Bridge's 50th anniversary was well-attended. Shorty won the trophy for best-decorated boat on the day.

Commodore Rod then told us that, whilst Joe Marco had done very well after his first stroke, he had unfortunately suffered a second stroke and faces a much more difficult recovery. He is heading for rehab at Kurri Kurri hospital. We all send our very best wishes to Joe and Chris for Joe's recovery.

After receipt of a \$310,000 grant, MidCoast Council's remedial work on the boat-ramp between the bridge and Mumm's Restaurant is underway.

The river is silting up quite badly. This is a concern for everyone and we therefore need to choose our tides carefully to make the trip up river safely.

UPCOMING EVENTS

21-22 Sept
River Mouth

5-7 October
Myall Lakes



John and Robbie were asked to stand up so that they could be formally thanked and praised for the massive amount of hard work they had both done in the recent refurbishment of the Prawn. As modest as ever, John insisted that many people had participated, however, there was no denying the hours and hours of hard

work they had both put in while the Prawn spent months under repair at John's 'boatyard'! To thank them for their efforts 'above and beyond', Commodore Rob presented them with a voucher for two nights birthing at D'Albora Marina, something that both John and Robbie were quite thrilled to receive.

The last item from Commodore Rod related to Engels, where a few small jobs need doing that will require some helping hands.

Paul then gave a brief Treasurer's Report, telling us that the club has \$52,000 in funds, down about \$8,000 from last year. However, this is an excellent financial position given that the club has funded two major projects, both of which have been very worthwhile. Considering the expenses of these projects, the club is doing really well.



Myall Lakes Aquatic Club
ABN: 88 396 838 568

WEBSITE:
www.mlac.org.au

COMMODORE:
Rod Blanch
commodore@mlac.org.au

SECRETARY:
Linda McIntosh
secretary@mlac.org.au



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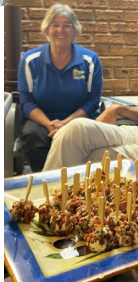
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The Huddle closed at 4.15pm and the tapas evening began with Bloody Mary shots and fresh Myall River prawns. The first stage of the evening Tapas were provided by Mac and Linda, Tracy and Craig, Krystal and Lindsay, and Christine and Tony. After the Bloody Mary shots, we were regaled with baked oyster fritters, bruschetta, mini 'pizza' pastries and lamb and salad mini wraps.



From the entrees station, we walked along the riverfront to Toy Ship and arrived just as the rain began to sprinkle down. Here Rod, Paul and Wendy, and Gary and Wendy presented us with delicious offerings of chicken wingettes, pork belly skewers and beetroot tarts (the editor's personal favourite!)

At this point, the weather was proving difficult, so Plan B came into operation and members headed over to Mal and Bec's home, where their large outside area provided cover from the weather and plenty of room for everyone (and their chairs) to form a convivial circle as the next array of tapas offerings were brought forth. Bec and Mal, Narelle and Shorty and Simone and Steve supplied us with a selection of cheese balls, taquitos, pork and noodle balls and mini quiches, which left only a little room for desserts from Karen and Bernard and Bruce and Donna and Krystal for a second treat. But then, who could resist rum balls (minus the rum) or homemade trifle served in individual cups or fruit kebabs dipped in chocolate!





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As the on-again-off-again showers fell outside, only warmth, conversation and conviviality were happening in Bec and Mal's covered outside area. It was particularly enjoyable because we were all able to sit and talk together, rather than experience the separation that inevitably occurs when members are seated across several boats.



The riverside venue was perfect for the Huddle and for the first serving of tapas offerings, given that the weather was being kind to us. We were lucky with Toy Ship and its pontoon area for stage 2, as there was only a sprinkle of

rain at that point in the evening. To finish in an undercover area large enough to house all thirty of us in comfort was excellent. Our sincere thanks to Bec and Mal for offering us their home as the fallback venue for rain. The feeling and feedback from the participants in our inaugural tapas outing, allowing as it did for those members without boats to join in the fun, was that the whole evening was a great success. The workload was spread across many members and all members were able to eat, drink and be merry. Needless to say, everyone was very full of good food by the end of the evening.



Our thanks and congratulations must go to the chief organiser, Tracy and to all those who provided so many delicious tapas offerings on the night. Our thanks again to Bec and Mal for giving us such a wonderful space to see out the night in comfort. My apologies if poor

memory (I blame age and stage!) has caused me to forget a particular individual offering. Trust me when I tell you that every tapas serving was delicious and I sincerely hope that we do something similar in the not-too-distant future.

Life Membership Update

The MLAC Committee have been working to create guidelines for the nomination and awarding of life membership of MLAC. The guidelines assist the committee to award life membership to deserving candidates in a consistent and transparent manner. Any member can nominate any other financial MLAC member for life membership, by approaching the MLAC committee. The committee will then follow the process of assessing the worthiness of the nomination against the guidelines and decide if life membership is awarded. Any members receiving life membership will be announced at the AGM each year.

