

## Region V's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year Dinner

Region V held their 30 Year Anniversary Dinner on the 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2008. This event was very well attended with many members from years ago catching up and having a laugh about the racing in years gone by.

Our MC for the evening was Ray Martin who interviewed a few of the longtime Region V goers, with many others providing profiles to confirm some history of this great sport of Water Ski Racing:-

*Let's take a trip down memory lane.*

### **Mary McMillan**

Mary has raced in every round of Region V with the exception of one round, which she missed because she was sick with the flu and our last round for this current season due to a shoulder injury. Not a bad effort! Mary even skied one round with a broken leg... Mary would have to be without a doubt one of Region V's most passionate members.

### **Norm Griffin**

Norm has been a remarkable member of Region V from 1978 and is still a current Committee Member. Most famous for his amazing boat "Louise J", Norm also skied as a Novice in 1978 and most recently four years ago, in the "Old Farts Race" behind Gary Hamilton's "Crazy Horse" at the age of 75 years. Norm has won "High Point Boat & Skier" many a time. When asked about his memories he said "where do I start, maybe I should mention my arguments with Errol in the boat???".

### **Tania Teelow (nee Williams)**

Tania first started at Region V in 1978 and spoke about all the fun times had as kids. Tania skied behind her Dad's boat "In-Fusion", Frank Ward's "Status and Greg Campbell's "My 3 Sons". Tania's memory of Region V was probably summed up by saying "we got up to a heap of harmless miss demeanors, which provided us with life skills, never to be forgotten! And a couple of World Titles along the way..."

### **Ken Hoy**

Ken first raced at Region V in 1980 and predominately skied behind Graham Webb's "Rock Solid", where he won several Open Men's Titles. Ken has many great memories of the racing and also the parties at the Webb's House. One of his racing memories was leading Mike Avila in the first race of the Nationals in 1987, where his driver nearly rolled the boat and fell out (or jumped) because he'd never driven that quick before. The race was stopped, Ken then had to get another boat, with about ten drivers offering him a ride, desperate to see Avila beaten. Did he win? Yes, but was disqualified from the first race so he didn't win overall.

### **Doug Pointon**

Doug is another 1978 starter who skied behind "Louise J" and "Fantasy" coming through the junior ranks at Region V. Doug retired in 1986 after a spill at the Lion Island Classic race.

### **Peter Frazier (Fraz)**

Pete raced at Region V from 1982 to 1994 as a Driver of many boats with his latest being "Wild Turkey". Peter said he has plenty of memories of Region V but in this day and age of political correctness, it could incriminate him?

### ***Bob Williams***

Bob was also an early 1978 starter with his boat "In-Fusion". He never really won high point boat always playing second fiddle to "Louise J" and "Status". He did strap on a ski at one particular race after being conned (in favour of Boat Points). Chisel (his observer) agreed to drive Bob's boat with the utmost of care, whilst his son Mark observed. They promised to take the best of care... Well what a set up, all he could see was a Super 8 Movie Camera filming his legs most of the way. The crew thought it was the joke of the century!!! Bob recalls the only promise they fulfilled was a cigarette ready at the finish line. However Bob feels his real job was supporter and "cash cow" for his daughter Tania, enjoying lots of fun times along the way.

### ***Pat Cole***

Pat is a Region V legend, former Vice President, Driver and skier competing from 1978 to 2000. Pat skied in age groups ranging from 25 Mens through to his riper years of 36-40 Mens. Pat owned and drove "Boss" to many race wins, towing lots of skiers. When asked to comment on the fun times, he said "that he has none that can be told in company!!!" True Coley style...

### ***Kaye Osmotherly***

Kaye first came to Region V in 1978 as a supporter of her children. Her son Darren at the age of 8 years old, represented Region V in the USA in 1978. She recalls that they had a fantastic time, almost got thrown out of a motel in Arizona for Skiing in the pool. Kaye's advice – don't let Tania Williams baby sit your kids as upon her return she found Darren and Tania sliding down the motel staircase in LA. Kaye says "she misses the great weekends at Toukley".

### ***Marc Edwards***

Marc raced at Region V from 1978 to 1984 behind several boats being "Tomahawk, "Louise J" and "Firebird". Marc was selected to represent Australia at the Nationals, however was unable to attend.

### ***Louise Butlin (nee Griffin)***

Louise started at Region V in 1978 and has so many fond memories of her Region V days. Louise claims that some stories are better left untold. However the weekends at the Harrod's when they lived at Figtree, Region V at Oak Flats and Kanahooka and who can forget the weekends at Toronto and Toukley. "Pretz" and the smokes he passed onto us and the way he gently pushed me off the boat (with the biggest smile ever) when I didn't want to start. My Dad, well what can I say? Nothing really, he says it all himself and Mum the trooper, traveling around doing as she was told. So many people I could mention...these are just a few.

### ***Di Webb***

Di's first year at Region V was in 1981 and she is a current "Life Member" of Region V. Di worked tirelessly for Region V as President and Secretary and the sport of ski racing, along with campaigning her successful boat "Rock Solid", together with her four children who also skied. Di said there are too many fun memories to list.

### ***Nick Combes***

Nick is a former Vice President, Race Chairman and Driver at Region V. He started in 1985 with his boat "Belly Dancer" later to then have "Miss Behave". Nick has won High Point Boat and Driver. When asked about one memory that sticks in his mind, Nick told how he made Marty Osborne cry, when he blew up his boat. Nick used "Smuggler" as a substitute in one of the Mens Races as he needed to win for overall points. Marty assured him that the boat was all good and to "Go Hard – It will handle it". They got down the first straight and smoke and ooze started pouring from the engine. Nick said "he really hated seeing a grown man cry!!!"

### ***Eva Ryan***

Queensland Girl... Eva first came to Region V in 1982 and skied behind a few boats – Rock Solid, The Judge, Assassin, Plus One, Tiger, Firebird and was Tania's closest rival. The two of them were also known to hold up the bar at Toukley after winning everything they could possibly enter!!! Eva recalls they weren't on their own though many a time accompanied by Picko, Rory, Geoff Hardaker, Dave Morris, Louse Griffin, Matt Develin, Mark Ward, Mark Savage and many more including many a Boat Driver and Observer.

### ***David Whalley or better known as "Whall"***

Dave started at Region V in 1982 and skied in age Classes from 13-15 through to 25-29 Mens behind "Rock Solid" and "Bloody Mary". Dave also represented Australia in the US on several occasions. When asked a funny memory he said "can't forget Bloody Mary's Party when Tania Williams failed to negotiate the "S" bends on Tizzana Road at 4.00am in the morning, stopped a good party!!

### ***Greg Campbell***

Greg and his family started at Region V in the early 80's, Greg recalls a few memories;-

1. Towing Kevin Boylan with the Haines Hunter. Boylo said "you just drive the boat as fast as you can and I'll follow". It was a rough day and KB went down in the race for the finish line.
2. Towing June Hamilton – always a great rivalry between her, Mary Mac and Grace Nichols. It was dead smooth one day and we were all flat out. I thought, if one of these ladies falls, I don't want to pick up the pieces. June and Mary always had good races, whoever got poll would usually win. They went hard!!!
3. Winning the "Unders & Overs" competition on the rafters in the Clubhouse against Peter Eagle and Mark Ward.
4. All the fun times the kids had competing against each other and having fun eg: sliding down the hill on cardboard.
5. When "My 3 Sons" was called "My 4 Motors". We broke 3 Power Heads in one weekend and Kerrie saw through the story that I only needed \$200 for a new propeller...

### ***Chris Teelow***

Chris started at Region V in 1984 and claims to have won the title of "High Point Drinker". He skied behind Greg Foran's "Bloody Mary" and "Argo", one of his memories is when he asked Greg Foran if he would tow him in his age class (20-24 Mens) and Greg replied "sorry mate, I'm already towing someone in 30-35 Mens". Chris new it was time to shave off the beard...

Overall the night was a great success with many people traveling miles to make the effort. Picko, Renee & Nick all the way from North Queensland

was an outstanding effort. Everyone has vowed it will happen again in the not too distance future.

Special thanks must go to Tania Teelow and Rory Brown for chasing down the older members.

Thank you to all current and past members who attended to celebrate Region V's 30<sup>th</sup> Fun Year.