



The Anchorage Advocate

Winter 2026 Edition



Commodore's Report

Well, where do I start....2026 has seen the most transformational changes to the Club infrastructure since the construction of our sheds in the 70's and 80's. The changes started with one of our biggest projects in the last decade being the upgrade to our septic system in 2017. Following that was our slow and steady conversion to predominantly solar power during that period which saw our reliance on diesel diminish to the point where it is no longer our biggest drawn down on club funds.



Monday the 18th of May was wettest, dreariest day I can remember being on the water, but it was the birth of a change to Club amenities that I hope will endure for following decades. The weather was atrocious but that was only matched by the tenacity and resilience of a couple of electricians and five builders who turned up to commence work on the solar battery enhancement and toilet block renovation project. Led ably by our Vice Commodore Craig McPhillips, I could not help but remember the "trench humour" of soldiers in past wars, where, despite the conditions, they could manage a laugh and get the job done regardless. Suffice it to say that the electrician Nick was a Gulf War veteran and wrangling live 240-volt cables in the pouring rain seemingly wasn't an issue to him.

In late June the long-awaited retaining wall renovation was underway. Our skilled volunteers including Jadeo Schmidt, Wayne and his son Kynan, Paul Jackwitz, Wazza, Andrew Gill and Craig were at it again. The project was overseen by James Norton, utilising hard wood this time. The boys burnt out a few drills and bits but the job is about 80% complete.

The finishing touches to the toilet block, being the partitions, was led by Leigh Townsend. Battling the "not so plumb and level" walls of the old structure Leigh managed to get his state-of-the-art fixtures and finishings in to an excellent standard. Many thanks to the crew of 4th of July, Leigh and Jenny Townsend, Dale and Frieda Smith, Adam and Jo Webb and Brad Langfeldt. We're about 95% complete on that project.

In another first for the Club, our showers are now 24/7 and the water now a hybrid of fresh and bore water. Our hope is for the summer rains to convert this to mostly fresh water.

In the midst of all this it would be remiss not mention the efforts of the Fels Boys, John and Bob, for their restoration of the club tractor. True craftsmanship that has brought the old girl back to show room condition. Another unsung accomplishment is the refurbishment of the transpiration trench at the rear of the kitchen – another waste water system that very few know about. Many thanks to Graham Bakon for his attention to that.

So much work and so many people to thank. Don't forget to buy these guys a beer next time you see them over at the club. So many people to thank. No doubt I've left out a few. We look forward now to celebrating 60 years of the Gold Coast Boat Club and cementing the future for another 60 years.

Talk soon,

Steve.

Vice Commodore's Report

A massive thankyou to all that attended the ANZAC Day service. A truly wonderful event put together by the Fel's Brothers and Bob Martin. We also trialled our first Two Up event at Tipplers and what a success. It was great to see so many members get involved. We were joined by members of the BOAT club, Couran Cove residents and the team at Tipplers. Be sure to come along next year.

The toilet block renovations are nearly complete. Instructions on the new keypad entry codes, and a brief run down on using them is on the whiteboard in the Generator room.

Briefly:

- Codes for entry are on the whiteboard
- Hot showers are now available 24hrs day
- When entering, push the power button which will give you hot showers and lights. When exiting, push button again to turn off
- If you forget to turn off, the power will automatically turn off after 1 hour
- NOTE- if using kitchen, you ALSO need to push the power switch at the toilet to provide power to the pump

If I can make a special mention to all of those who have helped during the renovations. You all know who you are. A massive thankyou to all.

The builders- Damo and the team slugged it out through terrible weather to give us what we have. You have done an amazing job that will benefit members and future generations.

Scott and Bec from Tipplers, your assistance and support is greatly appreciated. Without you guys, we couldn't have done it.

And to a very special person who made a very generous donation. Mark, thank you.

This donation allowed us to double our battery storage facility at the club. We will monitor performance over the coming months and if all works as intended, we may look to implement some changes on the hours power is supplied, and what can be used at the club. We remind all members, that any electrical appliance that heats (toasters, kettles, heaters, air fryers, sandwich makers etc) are a HARD no. These items will trip our circuit breakers and cause issues, so please refrain from using them at any time.

In coming weeks, we will also be:

- Installing an additional power point outside South Cabin
- Installing a light (switchable) on the end of the North Cabin for campers
- Installing a light (switchable) on the southern end of the day shed for campers
- Placing new steel firepits around the camping area at the back of cabins to allow campers to have small fires

Anchorage Operations

This is also a friendly reminder that we must ensure the gas in the kitchen area is turned off after use. We are using large amounts of gas, and we attribute this to members either:

- Not turning off barbeques correctly & not turning off the main isolator when finished cooking

Another source of excessive gas usage is cooking the tasty Mud Crab. Whilst everyone has their own method of cooking, filling up the 20-litre steel bucket and waiting an hour for it to boil, uses huge amounts of gas, which the Club cannot afford. *(cont'd over page)*



An alternate method that most members now utilise is steaming:

- Put the crabs to sleep humanely
- Shell the crab and clean it prior to cooking
- Place roughly 1 inch of salt water in the bucket and bring to the boil
- Place the crabs in the bucket and put the lid on
- Allow them to steam until cooked. This varies based on how many crabs, but most of us aim for 12-14 minutes
- Remove from the bucket and cool immediately
- Alternatively, check out steaming mud crabs on YouTube, you will get some great hints

Please, just consider this when next cooking crabs. If we can all think about how much gas we are using, it would really be appreciated

Social events. Well, with so much happening over coming months at the club, time really limits us in organising events at the Club. Do you have ideas? If you have some fresh ideas for a fun social event at the club, please reach out to me. We can help organise or steer you in the right direction to bring your ideas to fruition. The Club is yours. Don't be shy to get involved or help create something to help bring us all together.

For those who love their fishing, jump onto Facebook and follow the Gold Coast Sportfishing club, or visit their website <https://www.goldcoastsportfishingclub.com.au/> They have some awesome monthly fishing competitions, and also host the Flathead Classic. This year, we have 3 teams entering this 3 day event. Myself and Jadeo can attest to the fun had at this event, fishing all day, and just a few beverages at night 😊. You will meet a heap of new people and have a chance at one of the biggest prize pools around. We keep going back each year for a reason.

Also, a massive shout out to our new members. Whilst I have met most of you, I am sure we will have some great times ahead.

All these improvements are aimed at giving back to our members, making the club a little more comfortable, and encouraging people to get the swags and camping gear out and enjoy the facilities.

Remember, keep an eye on Facebook for updates over the busy period ahead

Cheers all,

Craig.

Booking Officer's Report

Hello all,

I had advised the editor that I would be unable to provide a report for the winter newsletter due to my commitments this week, on the surface he was empathetic to my situation, nevertheless, I couldn't help but feel that he would take advantage of the situation and dedicate a page of the publication to tarnishing my reputation, so I figured it best to at least put a few words together.

Primarily though I did want to take the opportunity to thank the team of members that have worked tirelessly in challenging circumstances to complete our new amenities facility, there were many that played a part, but we do owe a big thank you to Craig. He has been a significant driver of this project from day one, being an integral part of the grant application through to project management and completion. He has dedicated a significant amount of his time to this, thank you Craig. *(Hear hear – ed.)*

I was intending to make a list of the problems the team encountered but there are simply too many to mention, the consistent unseasonal rain was obviously a challenge. At one stage all 3 of our generators were out of action, and just to complicate matters there was a failure with the bore water supply, you simply can't pick the roadblocks the island will through at you.

Hope to see you at the Club.

Kev



Have Your Say - Help Shape Our Future!

JOIN THE 2026/2027 GCBC COMMITTEE

Help guide the future of our club

At the AGM, all committee positions are open and we're inviting current financial members to get involved.

- DATE:** Saturday 12 September 2026
- LOCATION:** The Anchorage, South Stradbroke Island
- TIME:** 11:00 AM
- ALL COMMITTEE ROLES OPEN**
Executive Roles • Support Roles

MEET ONCE A MONTH
Both online and at The Anchorage (usually following a working bee).

YOU'LL GET SUPPORT
You will get help and support in your new role.

FRESH IDEAS WELCOME
As our club evolves, enthusiasm and new ideas help shape our club for current and future generations.

Why get involved?

- ✓ Make a real impact on our club
- ✓ Help create great experiences for members
- ✓ Keep our club strong and aligned with Gold Coast City Council lease requirements

Interested or have questions?
Reach out to a current committee member via Facebook, or send a private message, text or give them a call for a chat.
MESSAGE US – WE'D LOVE TO CHAT!

It's your club!
Members ensure we evolve, keep it fresh but also align with Gold Coast City Council lease requirements.

Your club. Your voice. Your future.

Editor's Report

Wow! What a whirlwind few months it has been at the Anchorage. There has been an absolute mountain of work completed by some very dedicated people and I'm simply blown away by what has been achieved. What a great outcome for our members today and for the future, as the Club unveils its renovated amenities block. This has been a very long time coming, and it really is a thing of beauty. As has been noted already, there were plenty of folks involved in making this happen, but we really do owe a huge thank you to our Vice Commodore, Craig. Getting anything done on the Island is logistical nightmare. This combined with multiple moving parts and weather that had to be seen to be believed, made for an exceptionally challenging project.

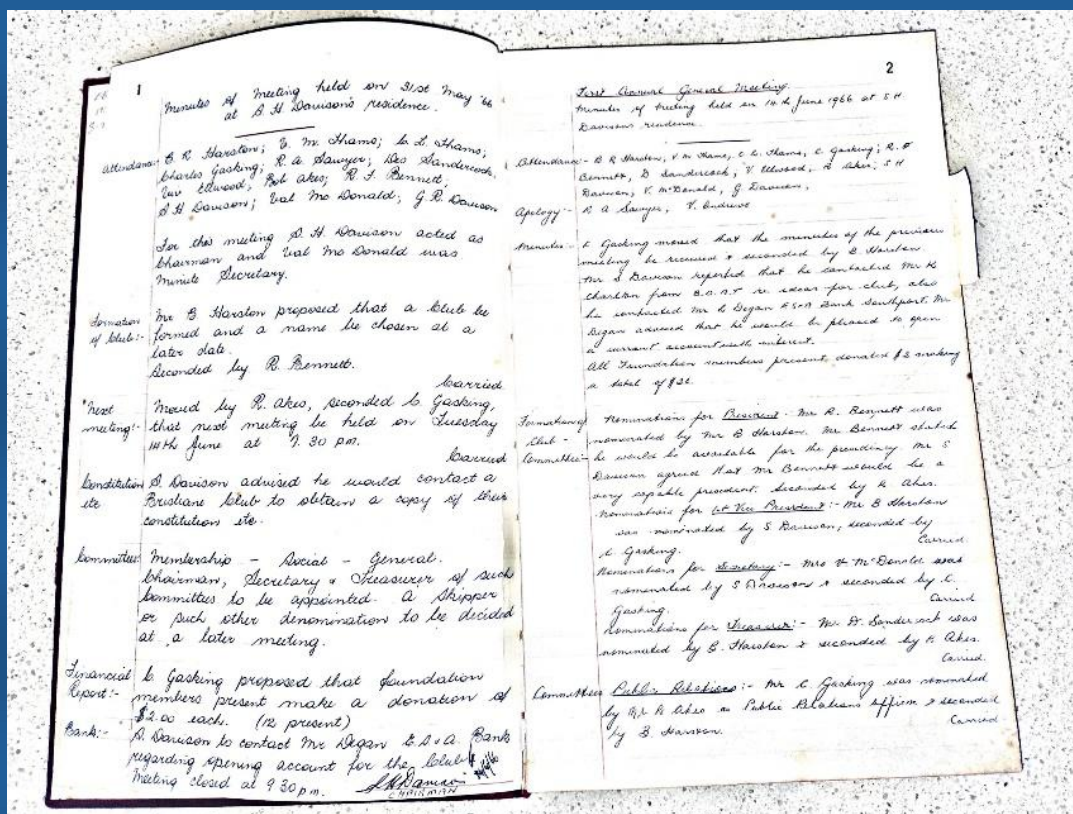


Thank you, Craig, and to all those that you acknowledged also. Damien and his team have done an outstanding job. The time and energy that went into this refurbishment cannot be overstated.

We now turn our attention to the 60th celebrations, where I hope to see a strong turn out. Sharon and her team have put a significant amount of work into planning this event and it promises to be a great night out.

I have found myself in the temporary possession of the Club's early handwritten minutes and archives. Fascinating reading... I hope to include some of this information in future newsletters. Here are some images of the minutes of the very first meeting back in May 1966. The Booking Officer was turning 7... to give a little context to the time that has passed.

If you're reading this on a device you can expand for easier viewing.



Our Club has a long and proud history. It has been built and maintained by generations of volunteers, and will only continue to stand on the efforts of all of us that enjoy our unique slice of paradise.

I look forward to catching up with you as we all enjoy what has been provided for us. There will be plenty more smaller projects to be completed in coming months, and it is important that we all lend our support, whatever our skills may be, to improvements and compliance activities at working bees and the like.

Thanks everyone, talk soon.

Dale.

Management Committee 2025/26

<u>Commodore</u>	<i>Steve Vokes (Ph: 0411 222 884)</i>
<u>Vice Commodore</u>	<i>Craig McPhillips (Ph: 0448 225 870)</i>
<u>Rear Commodore</u>	<i>Jason Mayhew (Ph: 0458 837 272)</i>
<u>Secretary</u>	<i>Jenny Townsend (e:goldcoastboatclub@yahoo.com.au)</i>
<u>Treasurer</u>	<i>Sharon Bakon (e: gcbctreasurer@yahoo.com.au)</i>
<u>Booking Officer</u>	<i>Kevin Sones (e:gcbcbookingofficer@gmail.com)</i>
<u>Anchorage Captain</u>	<i>Jade Schmidt</i>
<u>Anchorage Assistants</u>	<i>Adam Webb</i>
	<i>Scott Ward</i>
<u>Seafari Captain</u>	<i>Robert Petherbridge (supported by Leigh & Dale)</i>
<u>Merchandise Officer</u>	<i>Frieda Smith</i>
<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	<i>Dale Smith</i>
<u>QRBC Delegate</u>	<i>Leigh Townsend</i>
<u>Fishing Captain</u>	<i>Jade Schmidt</i>
<u>Social Committee</u>	<i>Britt Keding</i>
	<i>Nicole McPhillips</i>

Our Life Members:

Ray & Shirley Cary, Geoff & Jan Rose, Jim & Kay Davidson, Des & Clare Sandercock, Patrick & Anne Henry, Leslie Moore (Barry Moore—deceased), Adrian Titchmarsh (Denise Titchmarsh- deceased), Barry & Lorraine Sechtig, Marion Von Bibra (Ken Von Bibra- deceased), Alan Rickard, Shirley Brown (Laurie Brown – deceased), Marcia Rooney (John Rooney – deceased), Julie Madin (Ray Madin – deceased), Margaret O’Hanlon (Paul O’Hanlon-deceased), Leigh & Jenny Townsend, David & Margaret Petherbridge, Kevin & Wilma Sones.



Gold Coast Boat Club Inc

P.O. BOX 321

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goldcoastboatclub@yahoo.com.au

Stay up to date on our Facebook page

What's On - July to December 2026

Date	Details	Location / Contact
July		
Sat 27 (June) to Sun 12 July 2026	Term 2 School Holidays	N/A
Wed 15	Committee Meeting	6:30pm Online 'Teams' – (Secretary)
Sat 18	60th Anniversary Celebrations	6pm (Treasurer)
August		
Sat 15	Committee Meeting – Members Welcome	9.30am 'The Anchorage' (Secretary)
September		
Sun 6	Father's Day	N/A
Sat 12	Committee Meeting	10:00am 'The Anchorage' (Secretary)
Sat 12	Annual General Meeting	11:00am 'The Anchorage' (Secretary)
Sat 19 – Sat 26	Interclub Bay Cruise	N/A
Sat 19 – Mon 5 Oct	Term 3 School Holidays	N/A
Tues 29	GCSFC Flathead Classic commences	N/A
October		
Mon 5	Kings Birthday Holiday	N/A
Wed 21	Committee Meeting	6:30pm Online 'Teams' (Secretary)
Sat 24	Seafari	Details TBA (Seafari Captain)
November		
Sat 21	Working Bee	9.30am 'The Anchorage' (Rear Commodore)
	Committee Meeting – Members Welcome	12.30pm 'The Anchorage' (Secretary)
December		
Sat 12	GCBC Christmas Lunch	'Venue' TBC (Social Committee)
	School Holidays Commence	N/A
Sat 12	Committee Meeting	9.30am 'The Anchorage' (Secretary)

KEY CONTACTS

Cabin & Camp Bookings	Booking Officer	Kevin	gcbcbookingofficer@gmail.com
Anchorage Operations	Rear Commodore		Jason 0458 837 272
	Anchorage Captain		Jade
	Commodore	Steve	vokesy@ozemail.com.au or 0477 335 134
Function and Events	Social Committee		Refer to Facebook Page / Website
General Enquiries	Secretary	Jenny	goldcoastboatclub@yahoo.com.au 0417 766 475

NB: DATES, FUNCTIONS AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE – PLEASE CHECK FACEBOOK, EMAIL OR CALL IF QUERIES