

had the boats ready to start launching from the gantry. One by one, Port Phillip Bay started to fill with APYAC member boats. The majestic Queen Elizabeth had just berthed at Station Pier, adding an elegant backdrop to our race's northern mark.

As competitors milled around the start line, there was plenty of cheeky banter. Even those professing to not being competitive, and just out there for the fun, had a steely glint in their eyes. Say what they want, every Skipper was out to win!

The starter gun went off and the motors were pushed to full throttle. Not known for their high speeds, the boats looked like a string of elderly residents frantically pushing their walkers on the way to lunch in the nursing home.

There were squeals of joy whenever anyone overtook a competitor, or got hit by a watery blast from the Super Soakers, courtesy of the race officials. We all waved at the Queen Elizabeth as we went by, knowing that their passengers were witnessing history in the making.

One by one we hit the finish line. There was absolute jubilation; many surprised to having made it back alive.

Spectators cheered, and the atmosphere was electric. It was easy to see why the race is a highlight of the APYAC annual events calendar.

After cleaning off the boats, and putting them back into the boatshed for a hard-earned rest, we all went upstairs to the clubrooms to regale each other with tall tales over some welcome cold beverages.

Ron Amy, one of the longest serving Members of the club, was honoured with the Good Bloke award. Ron has served as President, as well as boat mechanic / repairer of the clinker boats, and boat hire co-ordinator, amongst many other

involvements over the years alongside his hard-working wife, Eadie.

Ron was also the first cook at the Club, when the only meal available was lunch every Friday.

His heartfelt speech ensured that there was not a dry eye in the house, whether it be from laughing or crying.

RESULTS

Petrol 1st

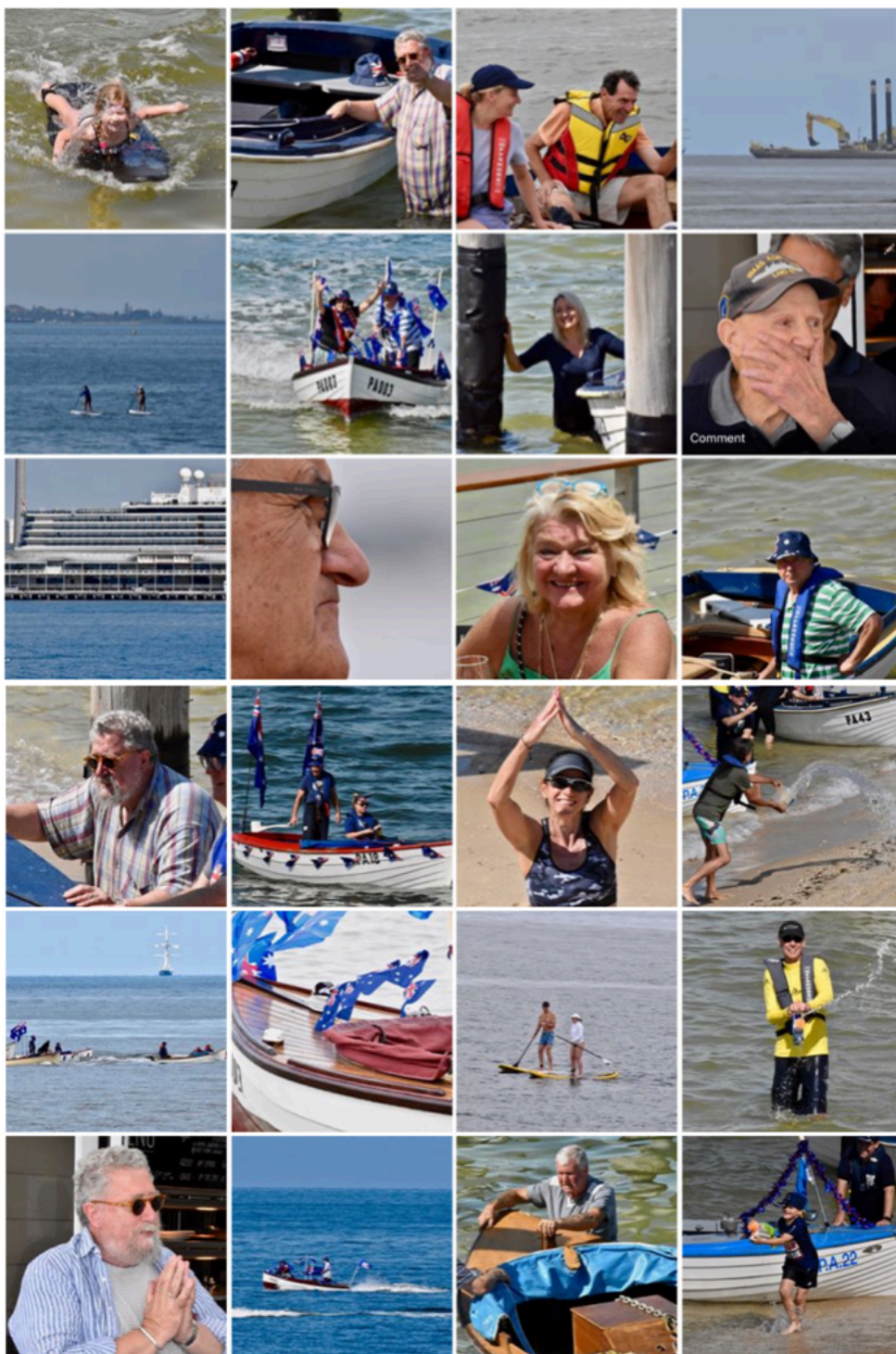
Bob Small / Mary-Ann Phoenix

Petrol 2nd

Ray O'Keefe / Peter Murphy

Diesel 1st **Ian & Rob Raffa**

Diesel 2nd **John Borrell / Amy**



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“Had my birthday party there in February. No fuss. No drama. Great night.”