

## Fresh Water Piped to Yaringa — a 21 Year battle is won at last

**Maurice Perona and Joe Stohl who have lived on their boats at Yaringa for over 18 years have waited longer than other Yaringa members for this breakthrough.**

But all members will be pleased that mains water is flowing at Yaringa Marina for the first time. At last we have access to fresh drinking water and should not have to contend any longer with the inconvenience that comes with the high mineral content of bore water. Providing of course our state water supplies don't dry up completely by prolonged droughts or the impact of climate change!

*So, after 21 years of applying, appealing and lobbying to anyone who would listen, including those in positions of responsibility or even remotely connected in any way to the water authorities, we have finally broken through.*

Reliant on our own bore water and tank water from the outset and trucking in town water weekly for the Restaurant for the past 5 years, we finally received permission to tap into a relatively nearby pipeline to which we had always been blankly refused access. So we have now brought the water down to Yaringa via a 2.5 kilometer private pipeline. Needless to add, this exercise has not only involved prolonged negotiation and inordinate delays in providing members with fresh water but has been entirely at the Marina's expense costing in excess of \$150,000. There is *some* consolation as earlier strategies to tap into mains that deliver water to major towns such as Somerville were costed at well over a million dollars. Special thanks to Yaringa member **Brian Elliot**.

As an aside, but of significance to members, one could be excused for thinking that a busy community of residents, boat owners, business employers, employees, other users and visitors at a busy marina and boat servicing precinct like Yaringa would be entitled to have access to fresh water. After all, water users in other small townships and coastal villages throughout our State take the provision of such a basic service for granted and many of these are much smaller communities than ours.

However given that the Marina originally had to pay to bring down other basic services such as electricity and telephone, perhaps the water supply issue is no real surprise. But it does little to reduce the frustrations and costs involved. Similarly with our access road. Many of you are well familiar with all those years we put up with an unmade unsafe Lumeah Road. The authorities simply could not accept that our repeated pleas and submissions to seal the road had merit or priority.

To those members who have come to Yaringa within the last five years the sealing of the road was eventually undertaken after 16 years, at the Marina's expense and with the assistance of Yaringa staff and members, in particular engineer **Brian Elliot** (see Feature Article 'Blasts from the Past' - *The sealing of Lumeah Road*)

The Shire Council has since provided some road-making support and we are optimistic about future Shire support for a whole raft of plans for future improvements at Yaringa.

**Thank you Yaringa Members**  
Thanks for your understanding and patience about the water at Yaringa. It's been a long, frustrating & costly exercise. Sharing the story may assist members to better understand why this and other improvements around the marina sometimes take so long!



Fresh drinking water now flows from storage tanks into the marina precinct and supplements existing bore supplies. Fresh water is used for drinking, showers & toilets. Initial



fresh drinking water outlets are located outside the office, at the day berths and on the new floating services dock alongside the fuelling point & pump-out station. Fill your water tank when fuelling or simply moor alongside to

fill your tank (and even wash your windows & clears if water restrictions allow). When Melbourne's water storage levels are restored and restrictions ease we may be in a position to extend fresh water along the walkways. Meanwhile we trust the improvements are appreciated. Enjoy drinking the water, lathering-up in the shower and filling your tank! But be conscious of climate change, drought, water supplies and bushfires! They are now realities - not just threats!



**Yaringa now has 3 sources of water bore water, rain-water tanks and after 21 years, mains water . The founder & owner of Yaringa, Stefan fires up mains water (above) and enjoys a glass from the Marina office tap (left).**