



Merewether Historical Society

"A society aimed at recording memories of the past for the benefit of the next generation."

Telephone: 0412 925 918

Email: secretary@merewetherhistorical.com

Website: www.merewetherhistorical.com

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The Arnott Family and the RMYC

[Club History \(rmyctoronto.com.au\)](http://rmyctoronto.com.au)

Meetings: Next meeting will be held at Merewether Bowling Club Caldwell St on **Tuesday** 11 April, 10.30 for a 10.45 start. Hope to see you there.

Guest Speaker Rick Pointon of Benny and the Jets will speak on Aspects of Music and also bring a number of his books to sell at a reduced cost (\$50 each) for those interested. As there are no EFTPOS facilities you will need to bring some cash!

Birthday Wishes Many happy returns to Rick Neville, Ian Sherman and Judy Preston who all celebrate birthdays in April. Wishing you and all 'MHS Aprilites' a wonderful day. I am sure you will be appropriately feted by loved ones.



Bus Trip: Tuesday 21 March saw 40 plus members and friends set off for Dobell House after what was a confused start. All ended well though and a truly enjoyable day was had by those who went.



An interesting anecdote was told by another guest at the Royal Motor Yacht Club during lunch and that story follows!



The Arnott Family having afternoon tea at Lake Holme Toronto 1906

The first RMYC premises was 'Lake Holme', the former residence of William Arnott (of Arnott's biscuit fame) and family. It was given to the club for use as a clubhouse by the then owner Charles Bacon. Charles Bacon was the publican of Toronto Hotel and lived next door to the RMYC in the Pagoda house. A very generous gift indeed!



Pagoda shaped house on right built in 1911 originally belonged to Leslie Arnott.

In 1927 a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the Toronto 16ft Sailing Club and R.M.Y.C. Rose Bay, and the Royal Motor Yacht Club Newcastle Branch was formed, and opened on Saturday 1st November at its present location.

The parent club was very happy to have a branch in the Toronto location because of the

"natural advantages afforded local owners of motorised yachts by the magnificent stretch of water at Lake Macquarie, and the facilities offered at nearby Newcastle harbour"(Fulton, p16). At the time of formation thirty members were enrolled.



The Club remained at this location until the beginning of World War II when boating activities on the Lake were suspended, and the property was requisitioned for use as an Air Force Recreation Centre, to service nearby Rathmines Air Base. At the end of the war, when the Air Force Recreation Club was no longer required, the building was converted into a nightclub named "Lake Holme" which operated for a short period of time.

Also at the end of the war the RMYC Newcastle Branch re-formed, and once more the local hotels and boatshed became the headquarters. These temporary premises proved very inadequate, and on September 5th 1947 a Special General Meeting resolved that the club name be changed to "Toronto Motor Yacht Club Limited" to enable funds be raised to purchase Lake Holme for a club house once again. The funding was raised and the building purchased, the name of the organisation was changed for a final time. It now became the "Royal Motor Yacht Club, Toronto" and this is still its name today.

Major alterations were made to the club in 1957, including re-roofing, extending the dance floor, addition of a new bar and new ladies toilets and showers. Construction of a new ramp and marina also began in this period.

In 1969 the club saw the need for future expansion and purchased adjoining property between the existing clubhouse and Bath Street. This provided the incentive to enlarge the building to its current size. Local architect Tim Mayo designed the extensions which were opened by Ex-commodore S. J. Cummings on October 12th 1974.

Since its establishment the club had produced many local, state, national and international speed boat champions. This includes Ken Warby holder of the World Water Speed Record of 511.11km/hour which was set in 1978 and still stands today.



Ken Warby in "Spirit of Australia"

In sail boat racing the club has been as equally as proud and has also produced local, state, national and international champions; such as 1983 World 505 Skiff Champions Terry Kyrwood and Reg Crick, and 1992 World 505 Skiff Champions Chris and Darren Nicholson. The club has an active sail boat committee which conducts sailing yacht races twice a week.



Point to Ponder: Don't forget until too late that the business of life is not business, but living.

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