



Newhaven Yacht Squadron
Founded 1962

NYS Commodore's

December 2020 Newsletter



Dear Newhaven Yacht Squadron Members,

I would like to wish all the members, their families, and friends all the best for the season and hopefully a much better 2021 year! I hope all our members are keeping safe and well.

Since I last wrote to you in November there have been a number of activities held and it is pleasing to see that restrictions continue to ease as Victoria's position on Covid 19 improves, with no cases for over 40 days. This also means that we can really start to plan

some return to club activities albeit with some Covid precautions and following the Government Guidelines on keeping our members safe.

The Committee held our monthly Committee meeting on Friday 11th December. At this meeting we discussed the current updated Covid rules, how they apply to our activities and what we can do within the rules to start our road map to club Covid-normal programs. We discussed many variances including employing a bar/cleaning person for the Saturday night happy hours and other social events. It was decided that this was cost prohibitive and that we would continue with volunteering for these functions at this stage.

We are pleased to announce that this Saturday, 19th December, we will resume Saturday night Happy Hour events from 6.00pm to 9.00 pm, but we will need to follow a set of Covid guidelines. We will give the club rooms a deep clean on Friday before the event. On the night we have worked out under the new 2 square metre rule we can have up to 48 people with 1.5 M safe distancing rules. We will only have chairs for this number of people and once we reach this number, we will not be able to have any more people in the upstairs room. Any members who arrives after this number has been achieved will have to either sit outside or perhaps a few can go downstairs. We do not anticipate more than 48 people so it should be fine. Members and friends who wish to attend must follow the guidelines including: registering their names, sanitising of hands on entrance to the club, not sharing utensils, keeping a safe distance, and cleaning of tables etc. when leaving. We expect all members to play their part so that we can all enjoy the club. Our Covid-safe Rules will be clearly displayed so that members can follow procedures and help keep each other safe. The Committee has adopted a Covid Safe Plan for the club, which you will find around the club.

To make the first return to our Saturday Night get together a bit special, I have agreed to supply some musical entertainment for the night with some relaxing jazz, I look forward to seeing you on the night.

As many of you would be aware, we held our 2020 Annual General Meeting on Saturday 28th November, unfortunately we did not reach our quorum under the rules of 10% of Senior Members being in attendance, we got close with 41 Senior Members attending but we needed a minimum of 48 under our rules, this meant we had to reschedule the meeting for the following week to be held at the same time. So, on Saturday 5th December we had a second AGM with 27 Senior Members plus Associates attending. Under the rules we did not need the 10% quorum for this meeting, so the meeting was held.

I would like to thank the members who made effort to attend both these meetings and for those who did come it is very much appreciated. It is a pity with nearly 500 members plus associates that such an important event for the club is not better attended. We even noted that there were some members launching their boats or going out fishing and apparently not even aware that the AGM was happening, despite sending each member a notice well in advance. It would be good to see a bit more support from some of these members, we run this club with volunteers to help keep costs down for the members, so a bit of acknowledgement for those who put in so much would be appreciated.

An important part of the AGM is the election of Committee members. All nominations for available positions on Committee have been filled and as there was only one nomination for each position received, all were elected unopposed. The positions on Committee for 2020/2021 are as follows.

Commodore:	Peter Buitenhuis	Ph: 0407 045 525
Vice Commodore:	Noel Street	Ph: 0409 024 903
Rear Commodore:	Michael Dixon	Ph: 0408 343 319
Secretary:	David Tonkin	Ph: 0427 947 889
Treasurer:	Denis Loweth	Ph: 0414 508 218
Social Secretary:	Tom Rawlings	Ph: 0468 341 076
Communication & Grants Officer:	Haydn Sherburn	Ph: 0429 494 198
Boating Secretary:	John Baragwanath	Ph: 0418 377 218
Training Officer:	Robert Millard	Ph: 0418 565 467
Safety Supervisor:	Ray Frith	Ph: 0419 163 607
Sailability Co-ordinator:	Alen Garrett	Ph: 0429 417 552
Building Officer:	Nick Blackmore	Ph: 0409 708 685

I am certain you will join me in congratulating and thanking these members for standing for these important position and volunteering to assist with the running of our excellent club.

I would also like to thank the retiring members of the Committee for their commitment to the club, Derrick Kershaw as Vice Commodore for 6 Years, Stan Jackson as Communication and Grants officer for 6 years and Annalisa Elliott as Treasurer for 2 years.

The various Committee members have specific roles, they are also responsible for the various Subcommittees which are very important to the successful running of the club's activities. The Subcommittees are being reviewed by each committee person responsible for their area of concern. If you as a member of the club have special skills or feel you would like to volunteer your services to help the club and put something back into the club, please contact the Committee member who looks after the area of your particular interest. For example, if you feel you have building or maintenance skills, you would contact Nick, likewise if you have skills to assist with training you would contact Robert, or perhaps if you would like to assist with social events, then you would contact Tom. Volunteering can be very rewarding, additionally you will meet some lovely like-minded people and make some new friends.

Another important event that was held on Saturday 12th December was our important Club Opening Day including the Sail Past with the Commodore. If you haven't attended one of these days, you have missed out on a fabulous event for the club. This is the day when the club is officially opened for the season. This year was very different to our normal Opening days when we normally have entertainment and a special guest speaker plus food and drinks. Due to Covid restrictions we could only have the Sail Past and not the social aspect of the day. None the less it was an excellent day, we met for a briefing on the lawn at 10.30 am and over a dozen boats took part with their various guests on board. The weather was perfect and everyone who attended showed great enthusiasm. The boats were dressed with flags and regalia and some members even dressed up in pirate hats etc. Lots of fun. Photos from the day will be available on the club website. Please let me know if you would like the photo of your boat and I will ask Rhonda to email it to you.

There was a bit of drama however, it was a big out-going tide, and we were faced with an unusual amount of floating kelp which unfortunately fouled some of the propellers on a number of boats. This caused all sorts of problems and we saw some Skippers going overboard to remove the kelp from their props.

A few boats stalled their motors and needed assistance and two yachts, "Joalda" and "Girt By Sea" ended up on the other side of the bridge having been washed down with the outgoing tide. Alen Garrett saw the problem and quickly brought his yacht back into the marina and actioned the club boat together with the assistance of Kevin Arnup to rescue "Joalda". I also saw the problem and went to the aid of "Girt by Sea" with my yacht "Southern Spree." Unfortunately, due to the strong tide and also with my boat suddenly catching some kelp on the prop, I lacked the power to get them under the bridge and at one stage we noted we were actually going backwards and I was running at 3000 revs, so I had to abort my rescue attempt and let them wait for Alen and Kevin in the club boat. In the end everyone got back into the marina safely and Alen and Kevin were the heroes of the day. Whenever you go boating there is always a story, and this day was no different.

While we are on the subject on boating, Sunday 6th of December was a very windy day. Usually on a Sunday there is someone out fishing. This day there was no one out and it was gusting 30Knots. This is when I noticed my neighbour and good friend Matt Ingham and Sally running towards the yacht club and looking out to sea, I noticed a very small tinnie with a fellow holding up a paddle shouting "help!" To my amazement this was a small 12ft tinny with a tiny 4 HP motor that had conked out, drifting with the strong tide, this fellow was desperately trying to paddle with one oar back to the public jetty, but was in fact going further out to sea. I quickly also ran down to the yacht club to find Matt and Sally getting their boat at the ready to rescue this person, I jumped on board and off we went. When we got to this fellow, we noticed he had no life jacket, no anchor and this young fellow was exhausted trying desperately to paddle back to shore with one small paddle. We threw him a rope and safely got him and his tinnie into our Newhaven Safe Boat Haven. He was very grateful, but I don't think he realised how much trouble he was really in. Matt and Sally with their quick reaction rescued someone who could have been in very serious trouble, perhaps they even saved his life. It does show how important it is to respect the sea, look at the weather conditions, understand the rules and safe boat handling and not go out without proper preparation and the correct safety equipment.

Michael, our Rear Commodore, together with Alen, Robert and John have been working on a new calendar of events which will be distributed very soon. We hope to have a sailing program for January, a dinghy sailing program for January, a motorboat event around Phillip Island and a number of other events including some fishing events. There are also some cruising events planned which are for both yachts and motorboats and all should be great fun.

Also, Glen Botterill is currently repairing our billiard table and is planning to organise a series of Wednesday night pool comps. Please let him know if you want to join in the fun, give Glen a call on 0419 514 395.

Robert our Training Officer will also be offering some training programs in the near future and we will keep you posted on these activities.

In the club rooms we have now repaired the damaged ceilings and walls which had water damage, these have also been painted and we have had new ceiling tiles installed in the downstairs area of the club.

Finally, over the past couple of months we have had some eight new members join the club which is excellent to see. I would like to congratulate and welcome them to the club. Hopefully, they will join in and come along to some of the events we have planned. Please make these new members feel welcome.

Once again I would like to wish members all the best for the season. Please keep safe on the water and I look forward to saying hello over summer as we get out and muck around in our boats.

Best Wishes

Peter Buitenhuis
Commodore, NYS

NYS OPENING/SAIL PAST DAY 12/12/2020



TO THE RESCUE



MERRY XMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR