



NYS Commodore's Newsletter August 2021



Dear Newhaven Yacht Club Members,

I hope you and your families are keeping safe and well. As I write this we are once again in uncertainty about what we can and cannot plan. With Melbourne in its 6th lockdown and regional Victoria now also going into lockdown situation continues to frustrate us all. However, with this new Delta strain of Covid which appears to be more contagious and more dangerous we continue to be very cautious with our planning of events for the club. Hopefully the restrictions that have been put in place will see the Victorian situation once again contained and by September 2nd and we hope that again the strict lockdowns will be eased and that we can get on with some form of normal life. It does seem that it is now very important for everyone to be immunised as a matter of urgency and that we will have to learn to live with Covid in the community.

Rhonda and I have been lucky to have had a sabbatical over June and July and have been able to head north for much of the winter. We travelled to Darwin with our caravan and had a lovely holiday. Even though there has been very little activity at the club over June, July and August the Committee has continued to meet and continue to plan ahead. We **remain optimistic** that we can have the following events:

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 9th October 2021: We plan to have our **Annual General Meeting**. This is an important day for the club, we require as per the rules a minimum of 10% of the Senior members to be present to constitute a quorum. David Tonkin, our hard-working Secretary, will forward a written notice of the meeting, including an agenda. The meeting will commence at 2.00pm and Covid restrictions allowing will be followed by a Happy Hour for members present to enjoy some comradeship with fellow members. Please put this important date in your dairies and try your best to attend. A number of positions have become available for election this year for members to volunteer to come on to the Committee, if you wish to nominate for a position, you will see details on what to do in Statement and Purpose Rules booklet (on our website) or David our Secretary will let you know soon what positions are available via email and what the correct procedure is for nominating for a position.

Tuesday 2nd October 2021: We plan to hold our **Annual Cup Day** event at the club. This is always a fun day where members dress up in their finery and enjoy a flutter on the various races. Pat and her Social team will forward more details of the day as we get closer to November. Please put this in your dairies as a date to remember and join in the fun.

Sunday 7th November: We plan to have our **Annual Working Bee**. This is your chance to help beautify the club ready for the new season. There is always plenty to do, and all members are most welcome. The day usually kicks off around 9.00am, there is usually a morning tea set up by the Social Committee and followed by a BBQ sausage sizzle for lunch. Noel Street our Rear Commodore coordinates the day and will allocate various tasks to members attending. This is a great day to also catch with other members and meet new members of the club. Again, please note this date in your dairy and try and make the effort to help the club.

Saturday 20th November: We have planned our **Annual Opening Day event**. This is an important date where we celebrate the official opening of the season for the club. The day kicks off at 1.00pm, members are encouraged to bring a plate for afternoon tea and members with boats, both yachts and power boats, dress up their boats (and often themselves in all sorts of costumes), for when we have the Sail Past (weather permitting) and have a salute to the Commodore. Once the boats return to the club, we will listen to a Guest Speaker who will talk on

some interesting subject, award prizes to the best dressed yacht and motorboat and often have some other awards to present to various members. We finish with an Open Bar for members to enjoy some comradeship with fellow members. It also often our custom to have some live music to entertain those who attend. This is a great day and all are welcome. I would remind members with power boats, this is for all boats in the club so you can launch your trailable boats and we will find places for you to raft up your boats while you enjoy the festivities in the club. Even though it is called a Sail Past it is for both motorboats and sail boats. Please put this day in your diaries and come along and join in, it is great fun and well supervised for those who want to join the Sail Past.

Over the last month or so there have been a couple of changes to the Committee. Jim McWilliam, who many of you will know, has come on board to take on the position of Boating Secretary. Jim is an experienced boatie with both sail and power experience and has been a member of the club for many years; he has a wealth of boating knowledge, and we are pleased to welcome him to the Committee. This is an important position on Committee, and he will be excellent value in the planning and running of many boating events into the future. John Baragwanath who was Boating Secretary has moved into the important role of Training Officer, John has held a number of positions on Committee over the years and is a dedicated NYS Member; he is already planning with his Subcommittee a number of exciting training opportunities for our members to improve their skills on the water and with their boats. We also welcome John to this position on Committee and we are certain he will do a great job.

We have received our Audited Financial Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2021. You will receive this in due course with the Agenda and Notice of the AGM to be held in October. It is a very pleasing report and despite Covid I am pleased to report that our finances are in excellent shape. I will cover a few highlights for you. Our operating income for the year came to \$248,549 (previous year \$245,109). Our operating expenses came in at \$171,962 (previous year \$187,603). Our net surplus came in at \$268,778 (previous year \$200,671). Total equity for the club came in at \$3,014,325 with accumulated funds of \$799,325 and capital reserves at \$2,215,000. Of note: with the reduced interest available from cash investments, we have increased our share portfolio in line with our Investment Policy Statement. We remain conservative and as of June 30th, 2021, we had \$2,068,367 invested in cash, mainly term deposits, and \$871,733 in our share portfolio. Membership as of June 30, 2021, was 543 (previous year 528). We have 467 Senior Members, 18 Senior Crew Members, 34 Social Members, 17 Life and Honorary Members, 2 Crew, 1 Junior and 4 Absent Members. So overall the club is in great shape and hopefully as we move out of Covid we can start to get things ramped up again with lots of activity around the club.

On Junior Members, this is something we want to encourage. The annual cost for a **Junior Membership** is a modest \$15, these young members will receive their own membership card and be recognised as part of our club. We now have a fleet of dinghies and a junior training program which is free to members and will hopefully re-commence in November. We have many members who have either children or grandchildren who we encourage to take advantage of this opportunity to get young people out on the water and mucking around in our boats. These young members are seen as the future of our club, so please encourage your children or grandchildren to come along, join up and get involved, its great fun, healthy and educational.

Spring is just around the corner, and hopefully in a couple of weeks when the restrictions are eased and our members will once again be allowed to come to Newhaven and to launch and visit their boats. It will be excellent to see a hive of activity around the marina/club and hopefully lots of boating events for members to participate in.

The latest **NYS Calendar of Events** was emailed to you a few days ago for you to diarise or print it off and put in on your fridge, hopefully we can move forward after this bout of restrictions and have an exciting and fun group of activities going forward. There are plenty of activities planned and as we get more confident about what we can do we could increase planned activities. With the sailing events, we are keen to see some of the yachts that have not participated in the racing programs to come out and give it a go. For those who are lacking some confidence please talk to us; we are here to help, we could have a special day or evening to do some training on racing, rules and what you need to know. Joining in the races is the best way to learn to sail you boat, it's not necessarily about winning (although we all like to be winners) it's about learning what your boat can do. Learn

about different points of sail and give it a go. It is fun. For those members who have motorboats and have always wanted to try sailing, we often have opportunities for extra crew, come along on a race day and we will get you on a boat so that you can also experience what sailing is about. For those with Trailer Sailors we could accommodate you in the marina for the night if you wish to participate in a race. We note that there are a number of yachts in the marina that have not participated in races for some time, this is either because they have got out of the habit of racing or perhaps due to not getting out enough and members have lost confidence. Please think about giving it a go.

I wish all members all the very best and hope that you are all keeping safe. I also look forward to seeing you at our Saturday Night Happy Hours or our various functions once restrictions have eased and we can open up again.

Best Wishes & Stay Safe

Peter Buitenhuis
Commodore NYS



**MARINA IN LOCKDOWN NOT A SOUL IN SIGHT
EXCEPT FOR THESE GUYS WHO HAVE SETTLED IN ON OUR LAUNCHING PONTOON**

