

NYS Commodore's Newsletter September 2021



Dear NYS Members,

I hope you and your families are keeping well and safe. The Covid situation in Victoria is unfortunately very disappointing and as I write we are seeing in excess of 500 cases a day. It is obvious that the Delta strain of the virus is more contagious and spreadable in the community and much more difficult to get under control. The answer to getting out of these restrictive lockdowns is getting vaccinated; if you haven't been vaccinated at this stage, I would urge you to do so for your own health and protecting your families and friends. It is also clear that once we have the majority of the population vaccinated things will begin to ease and we will be able to get on with some form of normal life. I am certain that like me you are all looking forward to getting out in your boats and enjoying the clubs' facilities once again. More importantly, being able to visit your families and friends once again, which is so important. It also appears that this virus is attacking the unvaccinated, not just the older members of the community but young people as well. Who would have thought that we would still be facing lockdowns after eighteen months of this pandemic? I feel really sorry for those members in Metro Melbourne, at least for those in Regional Victoria there are some freedoms and less restrictions. Even though Regional Victoria has had the restrictions eased slightly we are still in lockdown and cannot go about things in the normal way. With this knowledge we still cannot open the club house for events or even Saturday night Happy Hour; we feel that we cannot manage the limited numbers allowed at present with venues only being allowed at this stage 10 people inside and 20 outside, the risk is too high, too difficult to monitor, and we have a responsibility to keep our members safe. Likewise, we have not been able to conduct any scheduled yacht races and other activities. As frustrating as all this is we feel that we can see things improving and we are hopeful that in October we might start to see light at the end of the tunnel and be allowed once again start some activities and some socialising within the club.

With optimism we are still planning ahead and in October at this stage we are hopeful that the plans and activities that are scheduled will be able to go ahead. So, our planning program for October is as follows (Covid restrictions permitting):

October

Saturday 2nd: Summer Agg 2 Yacht Race event. Hopefully if allowed a Happy Hour and BBQ at the club starting at 1700

Friday 8th: NYS Committee Meeting at 1800

Saturday 9th: Our NYS AGM starting at 1400 (more on the AGM in the newsletter)

Saturday 16th: Single Handed Race starts at 1200, hopefully followed by an NYS Happy Hour event and BBQ starting at 1700

Saturday 23rd: Happy Hour and BYO BBQ at the club starts 1700

Saturday 30th: Happy Hour and BYO BBQ at the club starts 1700

The Committee have continued to meet every month regardless of the lockdowns either by Zoom or in person when allowed under the Covid rules, within the restrictions for regional Victoria. I thank the Committee Members for working hard and keeping things going despite the frustrations. As you know all the Committee Members are volunteers and all the Committee have put in a terrific effort this year despite the limitations. The Subcommittees have also been meeting and I thank them for their enthusiasm and input.

We continue to remain positive, continue planning, looking after our finances and the clubs' facilities including our marina. You will have received the AGM Agenda from David Tonkin, our hard working and dedicated Secretary: we are hopeful that the AGM can proceed and have planned a limited agenda of items that need to be voted on by the members. We have looked into having the AGM by Zoom, however after exploring what would be required, the cost with outside technical people assisting, and with a reasonably large portion of older members who might find it difficult, we decided not to go down that path. Given the ever-changing Covid restrictions in the event we are unable to hold our AGM we will give you as much notice about the postponement as possible. If we cannot either have the AGM due to the restrictions or do not get the numbers for the required quorum, we will postpone the special items proposed for a later meeting of the members and keep the AGM items simple as per the requirements. Every year as per the rules, six positions on the Committee come up for election as part of the AGM. This year the following positions are up for election, some of the Committee have volunteered to re-stand for their current positions and a couple have decided to retire. Of course, any Senior member can nominate for any position that is up for election. The positions coming up for election are as follows:

Commodore: Is up for election and I have decided to stand again and nominate for the position.

Secretary: Is up for election and David Tonkin has decided to stand again and nominate for this position.

Rear Commodore: Is up for election and Michael Dixon has decided to nominate and re-stand for the position.

Safety Supervisor: Ray Frith has decided to retire from the position, and we thank him for his hard work over the years. Ray has been on Committee many times for many years. This is an important position and hopefully a member will come forward and nominate for this position. The good news is that Ray has agreed to continue with the role of looking after casual berthing. This is a big responsibility and a lot of work and we thank Ray for his dedication and volunteering for this important role for the club.

Social Secretary: Is up for reelection and Pat Street has nominated to re-stand for this important role for the club.

Other member: Alen Garrett has decided to retire after many years on Committee and developing and looking after the Sailability program which has been a wonderful thing for the club. We thank Alen for his hard work and enthusiasm and commitment towards the club. I am certain that Alen will still be involved in many projects and hopefully he and Denise will have a bit more time to go boating and enjoy their family and other activities. Alen has been nominated for a Life Membership in recognition for his outstanding efforts in the club over many years.

I thank those members who have volunteered to renominate, being on Committee is a privilege but also a lot of work and a big commitment. Hopefully we will have other eager members come forward and nominate, particularly for the positions becoming vacant I would be delighted to discuss these positions should any Senior member wish to know more about the positions or what coming onto Committee involves.

Please read the article written by Alen Garrett on a very dedicated club member Gavin Russell who unfortunately is relocating to Geelong and leaving the club, I am certain you will join me in wishing Gavin all the very best for the future.

Hopefully as restrictions ease and things start to improve with the Covid situation the club will open up again, boating activities will resume and we can all get together and enjoy some good company and comradeship. I look forward very much to seeing you all around the club, having lots of fun activities, training and getting out and mucking around on our boats.

I wish all our members the very best, and please keep safe.

Best Regards

Peter Buitenhuis
Commodore NYS



This photo shows Gavin Russell one of our dedicated volunteers who has actively supported the NYS Sailability Program from its commencement. Gavin and Linda are moving to Geelong to be closer to their daughter. We wish them all the best in this new venture and know that Geelong Sailability will benefit from Gavin's input. Gavin will be greatly missed from our Sailability and Boating Program and as handicapper for yacht racing. I have had many adventures with Gavin starting races from the Club Boat down at Rhyll and in the deep off Cowes. We have been caught in many a storm and calms. He has been a wonderful club person, always cheerfully prepared to give a hand. He has positively contributed to our club in many ways; thank you Gavin.

Alen Garrett (Sailability Coordinator)

The Commodore Peter, Secretary David and crew member Ian enjoying **2020 Opening Day Sail Past**. Opening Day is scheduled for November 20, 2021. "We hope we can have the event again this year, and that we get lots of boats participating".

