



NYS Commodore's



Newsletter October 2021

Dear Newhaven Yacht Squadron Members,

Once again, I hope you and your families are keeping safe and well. As I write our October newsletter, we are still in a position of uncertainty about what we can and cannot plan. It is certainly frustrating, but this Delta strain remains with us and is very contagious and dangerous, so we continue to remain cautious with planning and opening up our club rooms. We would also be very restricted with only 10 people allowed inside and 20 outside at the moment and we do not feel that we are in a position to monitor this strict set of rules as instructed by the Health Authorities. It looks like we will have new rules soon and numbers will increase for those who have had their double vaccinations.

With our planning, we had scheduled our AGM for 9th October 21 as we had hoped that restrictions may have eased by this date, but unfortunately this did not happen, so we had no choice but to postpone this important event. We now plan to have the **AGM on Saturday 27th November**. Please put this date in your calendar as, per the Club Rules, for the AGM to take place we need a minimum quorum of 10% of Senior Members present

As we move out of restrictions the members of Committee will be starting to plan their activities for their areas of responsibility and also preparing their budgets for the balance of the year. We are very hopeful after a very difficult and frustrating 2020 / 2021 that our activities, comradeship and mucking around on boats will be able to resume once again in the very near future.

On planning and club activities we have had to cancel the first two Aggregate Series Yacht Races due to Covid restrictions. Michael and Jim are very keen to get things moving with boating activities and they have also had some good feedback from members who are keen to assist with yachting or motorboating / fishing activities. If you would like to get involved in these activities, please give either Michael Dixon or Jim McWilliam a call.

Something quite serious that came to light at our recent Committee meeting is damage caused to the marina. In some conditions every now and then marina members can get into some difficulty when docking or leaving their pens. Sometimes accidents can happen, and this did happen to a member who caused some damage to one of the lights. This member did the right thing and notified the Committee and reported the incident, which is the right thing to do. However, on inspecting the damage it has been noted that some other damage has occurred that has not been reported. If you have caused damage to the marina or to another vessel it is your responsibility to report the incident with the details and what damage has occurred. Often this may be an insurance issue, but no matter how minor we expect that any damage is reported. Noel Street is the Vice Commodore and the person that looks after the Marina. Please either contact him or report the incident to Vicki, our Admin Manager, in our office. Noel will be further investigating the damage that has been noted at the recent meeting.

On the subject of the marina, Noel and his Marina Subcommittee are doing some maintenance projects including looking at taps and hoses, and our lead lights which show members the safe course to the entrance into our marina.

On Sunday 7th November, we plan to hold our Annual Working Bee; hopefully this activity will be allowed under the Covid rules. Last year we had a great turn-out of members and all sorts of jobs and tasks were undertaken.

The day normally starts at 9.00am and finishes around midday with a BBQ lunch for those who attend. This is not only a great day to get the Club ready for the season and get odd jobs done, but a great social day as well. Please note this date in your dairies and we look forward to another great turn out of members. Noel Street, our Vice Commodore, looks after the day and plans the activities and jobs to be undertaken. If you have special skills or machinery that you can offer the club for the day, I am sure he will be delighted to hear from you. You can contact Noel on 0409 024 903.

Saturday November 20th is another important day for the club. This is our **official Opening Day** to mark the start of the boating season. We have ordered and predict excellent weather and the day is always great fun. It normally kicks off at around 1.00pm, members are encouraged to bring a plate for afternoon tea, and we normally have an official Sail Past event. This is for motorboats and yachts, and we encourage members to dress up their boats and themselves, some even dress as pirates or the likes and have a bit of fun; boats are covered in all sorts of regalia, we have seen water cannons, bugles and fog horns, etc, all lots of fun. We normally have an entertaining speaker for the day, some music, we have special guests, and we have prizes for the best dressed motorboat and yacht on the day. This is all followed by an afternoon tea, and we will open the bar and give members free refreshments from about 3.00pm to 5.00 pm. We hope that the restrictions will be eased by this time, and we can go ahead and have an excellent day.

Another event we hope to celebrate is **Melbourne Cup Day** at the club. This is on **Tuesday 2nd November**, again Covid Rules permitting. The day is a lunch time event and goes through the afternoon. Members bring their own lunch and champagne, etc. They dress up in their finery and the Club will run sweeps so a few punts on the various races throughout the afternoon. This always a great fun day, hopefully with restrictions easing we can once again celebrate the day at the club this year. Pat Street is our Social Secretary and she can be contacted 0409 024 903, beforehand to confirm that the day is going to proceed.

We are also planning to ramp up our very successful **Sailability Program** over summer and our **Junior Sailing Program** with our fleet of dinghies. Alen Garrett is retiring from Committee after being on Committee for many years but is very keen to carry on with his team of enthusiastic supporters to maintain these programs for the club. The Junior Program is to my mind is very important to encourage young people to our Club, and hopefully with our Junior Membership of only \$15.00 per year we will see a good uptake of junior members joining our Club this summer. These young people are our future members and so let's encourage as many young members to the club as possible. Fishing is another popular pass time, and we are looking at doing more fishing days for our junior members; we had a very popular fishing day in the marina last year and with a few volunteers this could be another way of enlisting young members to join as Junior Members. If you are able to volunteer to assist with fishing for juniors, please let us know so that we can start to plan some activities around fishing.

You can see that the Committee and Sub-Committees remain optimistic that we can once again start to have some excellent activities at the club as soon as restrictions start to ease. It is very important that members get their vaccinations as it appears that is the way forward for allowing activities to recommence once again and is also important for keeping friends and family safe. We have lots of things planned once we can start to open up again, including training programs such as radio courses, first aid courses, training for docking and boat handling, perhaps even a session on maintaining and servicing your diesel inboard engine. We will keep you posted when these activities are allowed to proceed. Also, our social activities may soon be allowed to happen again, and Pat Street our Social Secretary and her team are keen to get some activities going. If you would like be part of Pat's Social Sub-Committee, I am sure she would love to hear from you. Social activity is one of our most important aspects of the club and over the years we have had many fantastic events. With the onset of this pandemic many of us have gotten out of the habit of socialising and it will be excellent to all get together and start enjoying each other's company and all the club has to offer.

Haydn Sherburn is our Communications and Grants officer. Given the lack of events for the club over the last year and the restrictions due to Covid, there has been little to publicise. Haydn is very keen, given that we hope things are going to ramp up again, to get our communication streamlined. He is looking at our Facebook, our Quarterly and at our website. He would like some help from tech savvy members who

can assist with these important functions. He would like to set up a Communications Sub-Committee; if you can assist Haydn with these important aspects of the club, he would love to hear from you. You can contact him on 0429 494 198.

Once again, I wish all our members and families all the very best; I very much look forward to seeing members around the club and at the various events and functions that we are trying to organise within the rules. Soon hopefully our friends from Melbourne will be allowed to travel down to the Island and the club. It will be excellent to have activity once again around the marina and the club rooms, Saturday night Happy Hours, junior sailing in our fleet of dinghies and Sailability in our Hanses etc. With optimism it would appear that with a large proportion of the population being double vaccinated. this all seems very possible and in the very near future.

Best Wishes

Peter Buitenhuis
Commodore NYS

**Sunset/ Rainbow
over Westernport Bay.**



**The Commodore with Jeff Shawcroft and Ian Shadbolt
sailing back from Geelong.**



Our wonderful asset the Careening Berth at the club.

The Snapper are biting!!!