

# Newhaven Yacht Squadron

Founded 1962



## NYS Commodore's Newsletter December 2021

Dear NYS Members,

I hope that you are all keeping well and safe. NYS is finally starting to get back to normal with the restrictions due to the Covid Pandemic starting to ease. We are optimistic that we can again resume social, sailing and fishing programs. Now that we no longer have restrictions on numbers in the club rooms, we can also start to have some planned social activity. Hopefully the new Omicron variant will not cause major problems as we plan ahead. We do have a double Vaccination Policy in line with the Health Department recommendation and continue to follow procedures as laid out by the authorities for the safety of our members.

On Saturday November 27<sup>th</sup>, we held this year's AGM; this was postponed from the original date of October 9<sup>th</sup> due to Covid. We needed a quorum of 10% of the Senior Members; given that we have 474 senior members we needed to have 47 senior members present to hold the meeting. At 2.15 pm we had a count and had only 40 senior members, so we had to do a fast ring around in an attempt to get some of the local Members to come along to bolster the numbers. We ended up with 51 Senior Members after this effort. It is a pity we had to go to these lengths, as numerous communications had been sent out to members about this important event.

The Members and Associates who did attend had a good meeting which finished with drinks on the Commodore and some good comradeship with fellow members. As per the agenda we had a number of things to discuss, and we went through the club financials which you will be pleased to know are in excellent shape. To me the highlight of the day was **awarding Alen Garrett a Life Membership** for his work and efforts as a volunteer for the club. Alen was delighted with the award and the Members present were very supportive of this special accolade for Alen. Alen joined the club in 1982, he has been on Committee many times in many roles including serving as Rear Commodore. However, Alen's most outstanding legacy is establishing **Sailability**, which is a wonderful program for the club and the community.

We, as per the AGM Agenda, have an election, to give members the opportunity to come onto the Committee: every year, six of the twelve Committee positions become available for members to come forward and nominate for the various positions. This year the Positions of Commodore, Rear Commodore, Secretary, Social Secretary, Safety Supervisor and Other Committee Member were positions available for nomination. No one other than the existing members of Committee nominated for any position, and luckily existing members of the existing board committed to continue their important roles assisting the club. I would like to thank these members for their commitment and giving up their personal time to help manage the club; without these members the club would not be able to run.



The Committee for 2021/2022 is as follows:

**Commodore** Peter Buitenhuis

**Vice Commodore** Noel Street

**Rear Commodore** Michael Dixon

**Secretary** David Tonkin

**Treasurer** Denis Loweth

**Social Secretary** Pat Street

**Boating Secretary** Jim McWilliam

**Communication & Quarterly editor** Position currently vacant

**Training Officer** John Baragwanath

**Other Member / Building** Nick Blackmore

**Other Member -** No nomination in time for the AGM, but Ray Frith has since come forward and will fill this position and also look after casual berthage as part of his responsibilities. Thank you Ray for once again Volunteering for this important role for the club.

**Safety Officer/Boating & Fishing -** Position unfilled at this stage (We are seeking someone with fishing and boating skills).

**I am certain you join me in congratulating and thanking these members for their commitment to our club.**

Unfortunately, Haydn Sherburn has retired from his position on Committee as Communication and Promotion officer. Haydn still works full time and has found that his business activities have increased, not allowing enough time to be able to commit the way he would like to his role on the Committee. I would like to thank Haydn for volunteering to assist the club as Communication and promotion officer. We wish Haydn and his family all the very best. Haydn is still keen assist with various projects as a volunteer as time allows.

We now **urgently** need a volunteer from amongst our members to step up and take over this important role. This is an exciting position, the suitable candidate should have good computer skills, be able to co-ordinate and develop the all-important job of communication and promotion of the clubs' activities and with the assistance of a Subcommittee plan and create a Quarterly magazine. Communication is very important, keeping members informed and abreast of activities and connected. If you think you would like to take on the challenge and would be prepared to assist your club, please step up. I would be delighted to discuss the position further with any member who believes that they have the skills and interest for this exciting position on Committee. Please give me a call on 0407 045 525.

**There were two special business items to that needed to be dealt with at our AGM;**

1. We had a Motion which was passed by Committee to develop a new category of membership "Joint Senior Membership". This motion failed, as we needed, as per the rules, a 75% majority to pass this Motion as this constituted a change to the rules. The result was 31 in favour and 20 against. This was one of the ideas that came from a special planning day held two years ago and due to Covid was put on the back burner and only presented at this AGM. This planning saw some 60 members over an 8-hour day examine all the facets of the club and come up with ideas and suggestions to plan for the future of the club. It was a fantastic day with some great ideas, unfortunately due to Covid most of the ideas were shelved, and I hope





to resurrect some of the great ideas and perhaps hold a similar day in 2022 to continue with the planning for the future of the club.

The Joint Membership was originally named “Family Membership” and somewhere along the way it changed to “Joint Membership”, this was perhaps an oversight because the aim of this membership was twofold: (a) to entice younger families to join the club and (b) to allow wives and partners, (currently Associates) to become full members with all the rights and privileges afforded to Senior Members. I feel this would make it more affordable for both husband and wife (Partners) to become full members, which in turn would allow wives or partners to be able to nominate for Committee positions without having to pay a full membership fee for the privilege of volunteering to help run the club. This idea came mainly from the women or partners of Senior Members and after much discussion this was passed by the Committee. The idea was that the annual cost of this new membership would be 130% of the senior annual fee and then both husband and wife (or partner) would be full members. In our club boating is mainly a male dominated sport, so if you look at our membership most Senior Members are male. Having said this it was apparent that we could make our club more inclusive for women by having a “Family Membership” Category.

Many of our Associates have great management skills and could assist in the running of the club. We have had women on Committee who have done a terrific job and it would be good to encourage more women to assist with management and activities in our club. In such a case why should they have to pay a full membership to volunteer their services to assist the running of the club? [Given<sup>[pb1]</sup>] that there was obviously support for the idea I will continue with the Committee to discuss this idea, and look at the pros and cons, but I feel this concept has got merit and is worth reconsidering and re-presenting once we look at how we could make this work.

2. The second Motion was to establish a Debit card with a maximin limit of \$1000 for use by either the Treasurer or the Secretary for NYS expenses that need to be paid by card. This was passed unanimously.

Our next major organised social function will be **New Year’s Eve** and hopefully we will get a great attendance. The night will begin **at 7.00pm and it is a BYO food function**. The Bar will be open, and I have offered my services to entertain those who come along with some music. You are welcome to bring some friends and family to the event, but we do ask you to RSVP so that we know how many will be attending and that we can set up the club rooms accordingly. **Please RSVP to [admin@nys.org.com.au](mailto:admin@nys.org.com.au) by December the 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Of course, now that we are allowed under the rules, **our Saturday Night Happy Hour evenings** have recommenced. These popular evenings now start at 5.00pm and even though we call them “Happy Hour” they generally go much longer than the one hour! You are always welcome to bring your friends and family, the bar is open with very reasonable prices, and it is always great to catch up with fellow members and talk about boating and experiences out on the water. Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> of December saw one of the largest number of members attending for some time and everyone had a great night. Come along and join in the fun; you are always welcome and it’s a great way to make the best out of your club. We also have a couple of billiard tables for those who wish to play a game of pool. Our wonderful club rooms are the envy of many and if you have not yet come to Saturday nights you are missing out on a great part of being in the NYS club. You can use the BBQ’s if you wish to do a sausage sizzle, or some members bring in takeaway and Pizzas. Everyone is welcome but please remember to leave everything clean and tidy when you go.

Some of you will have seen that we have recently had a couple of Sailability events; these again were eagerly attended. Thank you and well done to the volunteers who made the events happen, they are always popular and a great thing for the club to do. The Sailability team are holding a series of introduction-to-sailing sessions. Scheduled **for Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of December from 12.00 pm and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> of December from 1.00 pm**. These are fantastic days and very well run, a great opportunity for young people to get a chance to experience sailing. It is also a great day for parents and grandparents, and if you wish to know more about these exciting events you can contact Stan Jackson on 0417 318 629.

The Club's Volunteers are to be commended for organising these days, please come along and get involved and give them your support. To develop programs for young families and junior members is seen as important to the future of the club and these types of activities promote boating and the club. We hope from these events we will see enthusiasm from potential junior members and their families.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December saw Aggregate Race 4 with one of the best attendances we have seen for a while. It was an exciting day with some strong gusts. The day was won by Marcus Bond on Joalda but everyone sailed really well and thoroughly enjoyed the competition on the day. It was excellent to see that racing has once again resumed and it would be really good to see more of the yachting members get out in their boats and participate. These race days are well organised and even for novice sailors racing is a great way to learn and experience sailing their boats. If you have a yacht, be it a fixed keel or trailer sailer, why not have a go and get involved. If you need some pointers or lack confidence, there are plenty of more experienced sailors only too happy to share their expertise or even have you crew on their boat so you can gain some experience before tackling a race in your own yacht. Give Michael Dixon (0408 343 319) or Jim McWilliam (0427 333 287) a call to discuss sailing and getting involved in race days.

We hope to also ramp up our fishing competitions: we are looking for any members who are keen to get involved and help organise these events. Again, Michael Dixon or Jim Mc William would be delighted to hear from volunteers to assist with these programs. You will also see in the calendar a **Fishing Day for Kids** scheduled on the **2<sup>nd</sup> of January 2021**; this has always been popular and should be a fun family day. Michael and Jim would also like to get some assistance for this day from fishermen who can share their skills for the event. Have a look at your Calendar of Events on the website or in the Quarterly, there is something for everyone. All of these events are designed for you, the members, so get involved and make the best of being a member of the club. More events will be added to our calendar, things like Music on the Lawn, various cruises, and some overnight events. If you have the time and wish to assist in organising events, please let us know. The more volunteers we have the more things we can do.

It is with great optimism that we see 2022 being a great year for the club. I am hopeful that we will see lots more young families getting involved, more young people joining as juniors and making use of our fleet of dinghies, more social events, and at some point, celebrate our wonderful history as our Club reaches its **60<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary** since its proud beginning. I am hopeful that we will see more involvement from members, more volunteers coming forward to assist with events and more members enjoying our wonderful facilities, particularly at social activities. This is your Club and the more involved you become the more you will get out of your membership.

We have re-introduced the "**Newhaven Yacht Squadron Quarterly**" a hard copy magazine will once again be sent out by mail to all members. Many members over the years have enjoyed our magazine and during Covid there has been little activity to report, now that things are opening up again and we start to have planned activities it is seen as an important vehicle for keeping members connected. This is a coffee table edition, and we sincerely hope that you enjoy the magazine and share it with your family and friends. If you have articles or photos that you would like to share with fellow members, please submit these to [Admin@nys.org.au](mailto:Admin@nys.org.au) and these may appear in the next issue.

I would like to wish all members and their families a very Happy Christmas and a very happy, prosperous New Year. Please keep safe and enjoy the festive season and most of all enjoy getting out on the water and mucking around in your boats.

Best Wishes,

**Peter Buitenhuis**

**NYS Commodore**



# Committee Members



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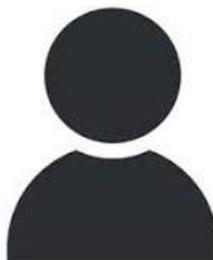
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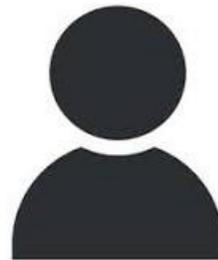
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Communication  
and Grants Officer



Other Committee  
Member