



## NYS Commodore's Newsletter January 2022



Dear Members, Families and Friends,

I would like to start the January Newsletter by wishing you all a very happy, healthy and safe 2022. Hopefully this will be a better year, it is hard to believe that the Corona Virus is still with us and that we now have an ever more virulent strain to deal with and we have many more people in our communities affected by this insidious virus. The health experts are telling us that even though the new Omicron variant is more transmissible the effect of the virus appears milder, and particularly for those with vaccinations and boosters and it would appear hospital admissions are less likely for those without underlying conditions. Let's hope this is correct and that this variant is the start of the end of this Pandemic and that we can start to get back to our normal lives. At NYS we remain vigilant and continue to be cautious for our members, we have instigated a policy whereby at the present time all members attending functions must be fully vaccinated and adhere to the Covid Health Guidelines.

We had very sad news in December of the passing of past Commodore Ken Stuchbery. Ken was well known to many members; he was a keen yachtsman, winning many races in his Noalex 30 and will be sadly missed. We pass on our condolences to his wife Fay and the family. You will read a bit more about Ken in our next Quarterly magazine.

With regard to The Quarterly, we have formed a new Quarterly Magazine Subcommittee headed up by Peter Watson, joined by Rhonda Buitenhuis and Stan Jackson and represented on Committee by myself. Thank you, Peter, for volunteering for this important job. Peter is very enthusiastic and would love to hear from members with stories and anecdotes to add to the magazine. You can contact Peter on 0412 678 962. The "NYS Quarterly" will now once again be printed and will be mailed to members, so that it can again be a coffee table issue to share with family and friends. Look forward to the Summer 2022 edition arriving soon.

Even though we are still restricted by Covid, I am pleased that we have seen some wonderful events at the club.

New Year's Eve was a wonderful night, the room was beautifully set up by Mim, Derek and Geoff and we had around 60 members and friends attend the evening. It was BYO food night, and some choose to make use of the BBQ. I volunteered and played some live music for those who attended and also played some Rock'n'roll dance music on Spotify in the breaks. John Baragwanath manned the bar and there was lots of dancing and fun had by all. Nearly all the attendees saw the year out and some stayed as late as 1.00 pm; a great start to 2022.



Stan Jackson together with the Sailability team has held a series of training days with young people in our dinghies. These were well attended by both participants and volunteers, and it was great to see our fleet of dinghies being used and so much fun being had out on the water. Hopefully we will see lots more of these days. To bring youth to our Club is very important and this is a great way to introduce young families to our Club. Hopefully from these events we enlist some junior members and their families to become members of the Club for the future.



## Social Events

On **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January** "Music on Lawn" will be our next social event. This has proven to be a popular event over the years and being outside on the lawn should also be a safe way to celebrate and enjoy the day with members and friends. We have booked a wonderful duo for the day's entertainment, Garry Marr and John, known just as "Garry and John" and have scheduled the day to **start at 11.00am to 2.00pm**. It is a BYO everything- lunch and drinks and we will be charging a small cost of \$10.00 per head to cover the entertainment. There will be some tables and umbrellas set up, but you may wish to bring picnic rugs, extra chairs, umbrellas etc. The BBQ's will be available for those who wish to have a BBQ on the day.

We will also have a raffle on the day, so please bring a few coins. It should be great fun and hopefully lovely weather.

The Social Committee are also planning a **BYO Dinner Dance for Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> of March**, Covid Rules allowing. More information will be forthcoming. Please put these dates in your dairies.



Another fun event is the **Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt** for the children and grandchildren. This will be held again this year, on **Easter Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> April starting at 11.00am**. Stay and bring a picnic lunch if you wish and enjoy our facilities.

Don't forget **Saturday Happy Hour** is on every **Saturday night starting at 5.00pm**, the bar will be open, and you are welcome to bring friends to enjoy comradeship with fellow members. We do insist on the Covid rules, vaccinated people only, and all must sign in or QR code on their phone. At this stage we are limited to 66 people inside.

## Sailing / Motorboat Events

For the Sailors, the **29<sup>th</sup> of February is the Westernport Challenge/Triangular Series 1**, this is always a great race. You will receive more info from Michael and Jim as the date gets closer.

**Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> is scheduled for the Triangular Series 2, Rhyll to Newhaven** and the Cowes and Rhyll sailors have been invited to stay on their boats in the marina overnight; we will have a BBQ and the bar will be open, so it promises to be great fun. The next day, **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> sailing continues with Triangular Series 3, Newhaven to Rhyll**. Hopefully we will have fair weather and lots of fun.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February** the Sailing and Boating Committee have scheduled a **Power Boat Event Around French Island**; this has been a great event in the past and details are still being worked out, but if you have a powerboat and wish to participate, put this day aside in your dairy and Michael and Jim will provide more details on the event.



**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March is scheduled for Agg 5 Yacht Race**, again a fun event. If you have not sailed or haven't sailed for a while and would like to experience a race **there is often the opportunity to join a crew** on a participating boat; let Michael or Jim know and they will see what they can organise.

## **Committee Positions Vacant**

**Now something really important!** We are short two Committee members at present. This is a wonderful opportunity to support your club and give something back. Members on Committee are all volunteers, but it is very rewarding and a great challenge.

We are looking to fill two Committee positions:

1. **“Motorboat and Fishing Officer”** - This person will represent the motorboat and fishing fraternity of our members, get involved with fishing competitions and events, motorboat events and cruises and be the representative for the motorboat members of the club.
2. **“Safety Officer”** - This position is looking after safety and developing programs to assist members with all aspects of boating safety including insurance and understanding current regulations and requirements for safe boating.

Both positions will be supported by the Boating Sub-Committees and also by Michael our Rear Commodore and Jim our Boating Secretary. This is great opportunity, and I would be delighted to talk with anyone who would like to get a bit more involved and be on the NYS Committee.

Give me a call on 0407 045525 if you have bit of time and would like to help run our fantastic club.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of our Committee and those on the Subcommittees plus their families for their hard work and dedication as volunteers for the club. Without the support of these members the club could not exist. There are also members who work around the club, Marianne Watson, Yvonne Brown and Jackie Murray who maintain our gardens in and around the Clubhouse and other members assisting us with special projects who all need to be thanked and I would like them to know that their efforts are appreciated.

We have a wonderful, affordable club which is the envy of many Yacht Clubs throughout Australia. We have a proud history and this year we celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Newhaven Yacht Squadron. I cannot say that it has been easy dealing with the restrictions throughout this Covid Pandemic, but the Club has remained strong and vital, and that is a result of the many people who have continued to work hard and support the Club. Our membership remains strong and I urge Members to get involved and make the best out of their membership.

I wish all the Members and their families, safe boating and a wonderful 2022. Most of all keep well and safe.

**Best Wishes**

**Peter Buitenhuis**  
**Commodore NYS**

