



filiated with Australian Sailing

ABN 44 004 625 414

Draft Minutes of the
75th Annual General Meeting held at the Morrington Yacht Club on
Sunday 22 August 2021 via Zoom

PRESENT: 24 members **COMMENCED** 11.05am.

1.0 **APOLOGIES:** Pam & Noel Heyes, Tim Melville, Sarah Grant, Stephen Bolton, John Best

2.0 **CONDOLENCES**

The Commodore expressed our sincere respects to the following valued members that passed away in 2020-2021 season: Grant Canning, Steve Urbanic, Glenys Neate, John Berry, William Young & Shirley Jackson.

3.0 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held Thursday 10th September 2020 were circulated.

Greg asked for the minutes of the previous meeting to be accepted.

Moved: Stuart Gooley Seconded: Andrew Young **CARRIED**

4.0 **COMMODORE'S REPORT**

The Commodore's report was tabled in the Annual Report which was circulated by email to all members. Greg read a brief resume of the report, saying that the club has done an amazing job in the last 12 months of keeping the ship rolling with the great support of our board and sub committees (who are the engine room of the club). Fantastic progress has been made in a lot of areas despite the fact that we have been locked up. And struggling. Special thanks went to Andrew Weber with his T&D sub committee, Greg is really happy that the board supported the new SLM program, also supporting the purchase of a couple of new RIB's - a great forward move for the club and hopes is stands in good stead in the years to come. Thanks went to Sarah, Michelle and Tayla for their fantastic job through the trying times. Finally Greg thanked the membership for their support and hopes that they will bring the club forward when things get a little simpler.

Tabled Commodore Report "Still didn't read the fine print – what a year!"

This should be the shortest Commodore's report in MYC history, or perhaps I'll just recirculate last years. Who would have thought that we would spend so much of the last twelve months in and out of lockdowns, denied the freedoms that we all take for granted? Lockdowns do however focus the mind on what's important to us as evidenced by the reaction of our members. As soon as we were allowed the club was buzzing with activity with our restricted numbers.

We missed the place.....

Your club did however manage to get up and running a new Learn to Sail Program (see details in Bill's Rear Commodore's Report), which we hope will provide us with a membership path for the future. I must acknowledge the initiative of the Training and Development Committee ably lead by Andrew Weber supported by Mel H-H and Sophie J. Their love for our sport and our club is one of MYC's great assets. I am very happy that the board unanimously supported the program and through support from members and the Club foundation we have purchased two new RHIB's. The board is grateful to the generosity of Dave Eickmeyer for his part in the procurement of the new RHIB's.

The standout highlights for the sailing season were the fantastic results from MYC sailors in National and World Championships; all highlights detailed in the rear commodore's report.

We are no doubt facing some challenges in the next year with the arrival of the ferry service late 2022 and the changes to our mooring grid to accommodate the ferry fairway. The board formed a sub-committee to negotiate with Parks, Port Phillip Ferries and the MPSC to ensure that the Club stays relevant in the conversation. Let me assure you that our goal is to put the club in a better position than we have ever had. Discussions are ongoing and we will update when we have news. There will be no effect on season 2021-2022.

All clubs are a composition of members from varying backgrounds and with diverse strengths. MYC is no exemption. As your Commodore I am grateful for the input and support of all Board members and members of the many sub-committees. The engine room of MYC.

No annual report can be complete without mention of our Sailability Program. A large group of MYC volunteers give great pleasure to large groups of clients from a wide range of centre's each week during the season. This year the COVID pandemic created enormous challenges for the Sailability crew. Well done to Graeme, Noel, Brian, Mick and all the crew. The Sailability Program is a very important part of the MYC DNA.

Can I single out special thanks to our Flag Officers? Thank-you to Rear Commodore Bill Bennett and the Sailing Committee, it's not easy to get a sailing program organised in normal times, but with the COVID factor it's been a nightmare - well done Bill.

Behind the scenes Vice Commodore John Underwood has been working hard liaising with the Shire and State Government all stuff no one wants to do - John does it well.

What can we say about Club Captain Laurie White? Another sensational effort Loz. Your love for the club is infectious and we are forever grateful for you input.

Our office has run like clockwork despite girls working from home during the lockdowns. Thank you to Sarah and Michelle for keeping the place running.

To our membership. It's been tough going for everyone over the last twelve months, I thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you around the Club.

Greg Martin
Commodore

Greg introduced Rear Commodore Bill Bennett who read to a brief version of his report.

5.0 *Tabled REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT* Bill Bennett: *"The COVID influence on last season which we hoped would was just a bad memory continues to heavily affect us."* Almost getting a sense of DeJa'Vu writing this report at the end of our season as it seems very similar to last season.

The COVID influence on last season which we hoped would was just a bad memory continues to heavily affect us. We began the season with no Opening Day and our first senior race not till 21st November, a lot later than our usual October commencement.

Our first races were COVID affected with social distancing rules dictating crew numbers and consequently no spinnakers.

We had 4 standalone Saturday races (not part of a series) starting 21st November. Our first Aggregate Race was not until the 2nd of January. Our Thursday racing began with Series 2 on the 24th December. This extremely late start to the season combined with weather cancelled races meant we only sailed 14 out of a planned 28 Saturday aggregate races.

The Long-Distance Series was greatly affected with only 3 races of a planned 7 completed. The Saturday Championship Series was probably the most COVID and weather affected, only 2 races had been completed by 17th April so a decision was made to run 2 consecutive races on 24th of April so we could get a series result.

These 2 back-to-back races threw up everything weather wise, with bright skies then a 30 knt squall with sideways rain and a bright sky finish! A fitting end to Saturday racing which sort of summed up the entire season.

One plus from covid's influence on sailing was the Cock of the Bay being shortened this season to finish at MYC. Blairgowrie could not accommodate yachts in their marina due to restrictions so the shortened course (which was sailed in years past) was promulgated. This allowed most yachts who were not further racing (Melbourne to Hobart was cancelled) being able to return to their clubs before dark, a popular proposition. Consequently, a record fleet of 112 yachts with 618 crew entered. It was great entertainment for the members who came down to the club and watched all the boats finish.

Himalayan Women skippered by Paul Dynes had an outstanding race winning both AMS and PHs in Div 3. In the highly competitive Div 1 Shining Sea skippered by Chris Jackson finished a creditable 5th and Mark Nicholson's Javelin 12th. We hope the 60 % increase in numbers for this season's race will give the ORCV incentive to offer a shortened race finishing at MYC next year.

Sunday sailing for juniors and OTBs has also been a great challenge for our hard-working Training and Development team. The new SLM system including trysail has been a success with a total of 73 young sailors being part of this program. 40 young sailors took up the TrySail Program (an offer of 4 free Sunday sessions) and 10 of these joined as members and will move through the learning sailing tiers. Six others, already past the novice stage also joined as members with some buying their own boats. These are great numbers far exceeding our previous Tackers Learn to Sail Program. 6 new optis contributed by club fundraising efforts have made the good participation numbers achievable.

On the weekend of Feb 6 and 7 MYC hosted the Champions League. This is a teams racing event conducted in identical RS21 yachts and was open to participants from WA, SA, TAS and Victorian clubs. The team must consist of 2 males and 2 females with an under 22 division. This saw some great racing on very short courses with multiple starts. Many members had a great view from the deck as did avid watchers on the pier.

The final results for the 3 MYC teams were:

5th Chris Jackson, Dave Eickmeyer, Sophie Jackson and Mel Hitchen Haw

7th (3rd U22) James Jackson, Jack Eickmeyer, Lily and Matilda Richardson

11th (5th U22) Lachie Weber, Will McKenzie, Brooke Hutchinson and Chloe Harper

The weekend after this we hosted the Victorian Junior Carnival and Snapper point Regatta. It was great to be able to conduct this as it had previously been postponed due to COVID, resulting in a massive workload for T & D and in particular Andrew Weber to get participation numbers up again for the changed dates.

These combined events gave us School Teams Racing, OTB Racing in various classes and on Sunday a great opportunity for 50 young folk to get to participate in great on and off water activities. A highlight for many was an address to the youngsters by Olympic Gold Medallist Mark Turnbull. A storm cell moving through on Saturday certainly tested all participants and volunteers.

Sail Sandy Gave MYC some great results:

420s - James Jackson 1st, Sophie Jackson 3rd and Will McKenzie 4th

Laser Radials - Lachie Weber 2nd, Jack Eickmeyer 3rd and Daniel Laverty 8th

Laser 4.7 - Ben Hodder 4th

Optimist Green Fleet saw Heath Jones and Leigh Harvie 15th and 16th

Girlsail saw Sophie McKenzie 1st for Padua and Ada Edwards 1st in Div2 Gold for Peninsula.

The Laser States were conducted at Sorrento with a 49-boat fleet.

Lachie Weber and Jack Eickmeyer 4th and 5th (1st and 2nd youth) and Daniel Laverty 2nd Junior.

These results bode well for the future in lasers for MYC.

Fireball States were conducted at Cairn Curran - Sophie Jackson 3rd

420 States were conducted at Royal Brighton with great results for our club:

James Jackson 1st

Will McKenzie 4th

Sophie McKenzie 6th (1st female)

Jay James and Digby Taylor 7th

Victoria Pryce and Sassy Taylor 8th

470s also got to compete:

Sophie Jackson 1st

Chloe Harper 2nd

Lily and Matilda Richardson 3rd.

The Opti States were conducted at Royals at Williamstown with many of our younger sailors competing in Open Fleets for the first time:

Leigh Harvey 23rd

Lucy Laverty 27th

Heath Jones 30th

The 420 Nationals were conducted on Sydney Harbour in typical Sydney trying conditions, we don't get to practise dodging ferries in our waters. James Jackson and his crew took out the event making James the 35th National title holder from MYC. Will McKenzie finished a creditable 8th.

State and National sailing bodies continue to recognise the talent some of our junior sailors and have selected them for specialised training in Government backed programs:

James Jackson - VIS Scholarship Holder.

Sophie Jackson, Lily and Matilda Richardson - Aus Sailing Futures Pathways Program. This program transitions top youth sailors to the Australian Sailing Team and Olympic selection.

Jack Eickmeyer, Lachie Weber and Will McKenzie – Victorian Performance Pathway Program.

Despite huge disruptions in the sailing calendar, regattas and training schedules this season MYC youth and juniors keep performing boding well for the future of MYC sailing. I would like to mention the great fun and entertainment

given during the Thursday zoom meetings during the COVID lockdown organised by T & D - Some of the stories were fantastic.

Once again, the sailing season was only possible due to our great team of volunteers, in towers, in offices, on beaches, in boats, in the yard, on the BBQ, on committees and all the work done in homes.

TAG is the team who just keep delivering. T & D just keep achieving despite everything COVID and the weather throws up. A BIG thankyou to you all!

Looking forward to next season hoping it is COVID free (think I said that last season.....)

Bill Bennett

Rear Commodore

7.0 **TREASURER'S REPORT** Andrew Klose read to Key Points of the Treasurers Report and Financial reports which were circulated to Members via email.

This Treasurer's report is for the financial results of the Club for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Tabled report:

Overview;

The Net Surplus for the financial year was \$134K (prior year \$4K) and an Operating Surplus before Interest, Depreciation and Abnormal items of \$99K (prior year \$154K).

Closing cash on hand was \$372K (prior year \$133K)

Capital Expenditure was \$20K (prior year \$42K)

Loans decreased \$25K (prior year decreased \$144K)

Comments on the results

Despite the many State government imposed 'lockdowns' from the COVID pandemic the club's closing *Cash Position* improved \$239K to \$372K cash on hand versus \$133K prior year closing. The COVID restrictions caused much lower sailing activity income and a rent income holiday of 6 months for The Rocks. This was more than offset by Government COVID support payments, a 6-month CBA loan repayment holiday, minimal capital expenditure and much lower cash expenses.

The *Operating Surplus* (before Interest, Depreciation and Abnormal items) represents the club's operating cash generation capacity before repayment of loans, capital expenditure (depreciation) and other non-operating items: declined to \$99K versus prior year of \$154K. The major contributors to this poorer result were lower *Member Subscriptions* income (-17% or -\$42K versus prior year), lower *Rocks Rent* income from COVID rent holiday (-\$150K versus prior year), and lower income from Sailing Divisions (-\$44K versus prior year) due to lower activity from COVID restrictions. Lower expenses offset this result declining \$186K to \$473K (versus \$659K prior year), COVID restrictions caused lower or no activity in *Building Repairs and Maintenance, Utilities and Cleaning*.

(Note: the Finance Committee is concerned about the steady decline in membership, and hence subscription income, from a peak of \$280K in 2017/18 to \$200K in 2020/21. The most recent billings for 2021/22 continue to be low.)

See the Financial Report for more details.

Capital Expenditure of depreciable assets for the financial year was \$20K (\$42K prior year).

The *CBA Loan* was renegotiated with a view to freeing up cash by extending the loan's maturity date and reducing the interest rate via a competitive tender. The Board approved the consolidation of the two loans (fixed and variable) into one variable rate loan, at a reduced interest rate and extended for a further 2 years with our existing provider Commonwealth Bank Australia (CBA). Our cash commitments to loan repayments are now \$106K per annum (previously \$174K per annum). A special thanks to Michael White for facilitating the negotiations and brokering a successful outcome.

Acknowledgements

As Treasurer, I chair the club's Finance Sub Committee consisting of Stuart Gooley, Michael White, John Best (retired from the committee) and Mark Nicholson. I thank the Finance committee for the valuable insights they give me with their many years of accumulated experience with the club. The Finance Committee also appreciates the office and bookkeeping support from Sarah Grant, Michelle Levenspiel and Tayla Harris.

Subsequent Events Post Balance Date

There have been no events that have significantly affected the club's financial position post 31 March 2021. At the time of writing, a further \$8K had been received from the government for COVID support and The Rocks have returned to paying full rent, as per the lease agreement, since November 2020.

No questions

8.0 As there has been no general business items received by the 8 August 2021 there is no general business.

Before going to Elections Greg reiterated the concern mentioned in the Treasurer's report of the need to increase membership numbers. The past year has been very difficult to do this and when people are allowed out we plan to do a big push on Social memberships, and there is also a need to increase our Sailing and crew memberships. He informed members about current negotiations that have been taking place with the authorities to try and take over the management of Fishermans Jetty which we see as being critical in putting boats at the club. The Ferry will be coming to Mornington harbour late next year, which from a Mornington Peninsula point of view will be sensational, but the Yacht Club needs to make sure that it stays in conversation with authorities. The board have formed a working group who have entered into discussions with Parks Victoria, the Shire and Port Philip Ferries to make sure that the club remains relevant in this matter.

9.0 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE FOR THE SEASON 2020/2021

All positions were declared vacant.

Greg thanked all Board members individually and thanked for them for standing again.

All Nominations were received unopposed and hence declared elected.

The following Senior Members were nominated to the Board:

- Greg Martin Commodore
- John Underwood Vice Commodore
- Bill Bennett Rear Commodore
- Laurie White Club Captain
- Andrew Klose Treasurer
- Stuart Gooley Board Member
- Noel Heyes Board Member
- Joanne McKenzie Board Member
- Trevor Neate Board Member
- Andrew Young Board Member

A motion was moved that those members nominated for the positions of Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Club Captain together with the six other members be elected as Board members. CARRIED

Greg congratulated the board members and thanked them for standing again, saying that they have some work to do in the next 12 months to sure up the clubs future & he can assure all those present and not present that they will be working hard again to make sure that this happens.

Tim Donaldson; *"Thank you to all those standing again, well done"*.

10.0 Meeting closed 11.19am

Commodore:



Honorary Secretary:



Date: 22 August 2021