

Dear Members,

I am sure you are well aware of how the COVID-19 is affecting the community and is changing almost daily. The Club wants to ensure Members are as informed as possible about how the Club is responding and understand our priorities as we move through these uncertain times. It seems inevitable that things will become worse before they get better.

We will continue to follow expert advice from several sources including Australian Sailing and government action, which is constantly changing and are grateful for the advice of General Committee Member Professor Damian Purcell, Theme leader for Viral Infectious Diseases at Melbourne University, who is heavily involved in combating the Coronavirus Pandemic and has assisted greatly in ensuring the Club is proactive in responding to this crisis. Rest assured an immense amount of work has been done to prepare the Club for a range of scenarios.

With the uncertainty within the community, we want the Club to be a place to clear your head, get some fresh air and keep yourself physically and mentally strong. Of course, there will be some changes around the Club to be able to provide this safe space for Members, employees and contractors.

Members are reminded that they are ultimately responsible for making decisions on their health status and need to make an informed choice as to whether to use the Club. The Club is not responsible for assessing each person's well-being and if a Member has the slightest doubt about their health status, they must not attend the Club.

The General Committee requests that Members only talk about the facts in relation to the club. Making comments that are based on scuttlebutt and hearsay can create anxiety within club Members, employees and the community.

Everyone is dealing with this Pandemic in different ways. A simple pat on someone's back or intentionally being within someone's personal space, spreading misinformed information whether it be as a joke or not; this behaviour with your fellow Club members and Club employees can create anxiety and/or paranoia and we must respect each other and acknowledge how our interactions could affect others.

We will keep Members and employees well informed about how our Club is managing the evolving situation through this e-News platform and the Club's website.

### **Club Activities**

We are implementing a number of mitigating measures to protect our Members, employees and contractors. We will be distributing paper towel and spray bottles with a bleach solution around the club to enable Members to sanitise club chairs and tables before and after use. We will of course be regularly cleaning these surfaces with employed & contracted staff, however we want to provide Members with the peace of mind that the surfaces you're touching are sanitised. The bleach solution will not stain or affect your clothes. By Members assisting with this, this will help keep the operational costs minimal while providing a safe environment for everyone to enjoy in these stressful times.

We will be providing area specific measures as detailed below.

### **Club Administration**

We will be installing rope barriers to provide the social distancing between members and employees.

The office will not be accepting cash payments until further notice. If you would like to pay your account via cash we can provide you with our banking details to enable you to deposit the funds directly into our bank. Should this Pandemic affect your ability to earn an income, we ask that you contact the office to come to a solution to retain your membership through these times until you get back to normality.

The office will be open Monday – Friday 9am – 4:30pm, and Saturdays from 9am – 4pm, Sundays Closed

### **Food & Beverage Services**

We will be reducing the hours of service for the bar and imposing some restricted areas. The Members' bar will be closed, however the dining room area will be converted into a bar area to enable service of alcohol to continue. This larger space provides the area we need to enable the government imposed 1.5m social distancing. We will setup tables and chairs in this area at the prescribed distances and we ask Members not to change the seating arrangements, so we comply with the social distancing. Although the government has imposed a ban on groups greater than 100 persons in an inside space, the size of our dining room will not allow for this number of Members while complying with the social distancing. We will advise the total number of Members to be inside this space ASAP. The outside decking and grass area will also be setup, and we will be removing some chairs and tables to maintain the social distancing.

The bar will temporarily not be accepting cash payments.

Currently the bar will be open Wednesday – Friday 5pm – 8pm, Saturday 12pm – 8pm, Sunday 12pm – 5pm. A limited menu food service will only be available on weekends from 12pm – 3pm.

Pier 41 has also offered members a 10% discount at their other two local restaurants. Squires Loft Williamstown and Oscars Teta in Spotswood. You'll need to produce your membership card for this discount.

### **Yacht Racing**

We have decided to postpone all RYCV run yacht races until April 30 2020. Leading up to this date we will undertake a risk assessment to ascertain the risk to not only the sailors but the volunteers and employees that facilitate the racing. The risk assessment will raise any control methods that we can implement to provide a safe environment for all involved.

We do recommend that if safe to do so, that members utilise their yachts to help maintain a positive mental wellbeing.

### **Sail Training**

We have decided to postpone all RYCV sail training that cannot maintain the social distancing. We are undertaking several risk assessments to ascertain the risk to not only the sailors but the volunteers and employees that facilitate the sail training.

We are able to adhere to social distancing and implement sanitising practices to maintain our Tackers 2 & 3 training programs and these will proceed.

### **Yard Operations**

The yard will continue to operate. We will impose some control measures to protect all persons utilising this space. We ask all non-essential persons to remain out of this area.

### **Sub-Committee Meetings**

Any non-essential Sub-committee meetings will be cancelled. The Chairperson of each sub-committee will contact the members of each sub-committee to advise if their meetings will proceed. All on-going Sub-committee meetings will be held via a telephone or video conferencing.

### **In Conclusion**

Should the situation continue to deteriorate, or Members fail to adhere to social distancing, the next step will be the closure of the clubhouse. With your assistance, and the hard work of our management team, we hope to avoid this situation.

If you have any questions about Royal Yacht Club of Victoria and COVID-19, you should contact our General Manager via [manager@rycv.asn.au](mailto:manager@rycv.asn.au) or on 9397 1277. Our website also has further information and recommendations.

We wish all our Members well during this time and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Commodore John Duffin