

I am writing to keep you up to date with the restrictions associated with the COVID-19 virus pandemic and what they mean for activities at the Club. Previously I advised that we have closed the clubhouse for Member activities and have postponed all racing until further notice from the race committee. Sail training has also been cancelled.

On the positive side, we are investigating how we can engage members in virtual sailing and are setting up some webinars. I will advise further on these initiatives in the near future.

As you are aware, restrictions are widening and we are currently under Victorian State Government Stage 3 restrictions. Below are some dot points from Premier Daniel Andrews' press release earlier this week;

- Under stage 3 restrictions there are only 4 reasons to leave the house; Food and supplies, exercise, medical care, work and education (if necessary). The definition of exercise was a walk around the block or a quick bike ride to stretch the legs. It means staying local, not driving for miles or being out all day.
- Gatherings of 2 or more people will be off limits.
- Quoted from Premier Daniel Andrews' "I know it's hard not to see friends. I know it's hard to be stuck at home all day. And I know this will ask a lot of Victorians. But we all need to be prepared and be patient – because what we do now will literally save lives."

The yard remains operational on a reduced basis, and boats are being worked on, however with the stage 3 restrictions we have been forced to stop Members from undertaking major work for themselves. If you intend on having a contractor undertake the work, we are allowed to provide this service as it's necessary for their employment, however if you intend on applying the anti-fouling yourself, or other major work, we have unfortunately been forced to prevent this from occurring.

With the curtailment of sailing activities, owners might consider this a time to come out of the water for maintenance, and we would urge you to consider this to continue to support the Club and our valued contractors. Please call or email Yard Manager Ryan Blackstock to arrange for your vessel to be lifted.

Unfortunately stage 3 restrictions now means you can only come to the Club to inspect your vessel's safety and security, but not to go sailing. In fact, Victoria Police have been actively approaching sailors on the water and advising them to return to port. Please follow [this link for Maritime Safety Victoria's response](#) to stage 3 restrictions. [Australian Sailing has also released this statement on their website.](#) The Club deck and BBQ area is also unfortunately not available for members until further notice.

The General Committee are continuing their regular meetings but with moving into the digital age to conduct them. During the week, for the first time in Club history, we conducted our monthly Board Meeting using "Zoom", an audio/visual package. All Committee members stayed at home and communicated via our various devices –

laptops, computers and Ipads. Feedback for the GC members has all been positive, so perhaps this is the way for the future.

The most important agenda item was the Club's finances. We are fortunate to have Warwick Norman as Treasurer. Warwick has evaluated our financial position and future cash flows and remains positive.

Our General Manager, Michael Neumann, has taken several measures to minimise the outgoing expenses to the Club, including applying for rental relief from Parks Victoria and has contacted our bank to work through any options they have available to assist with the Club's finances. Michael has also taken the difficult decision to reduce the working hours of all our Club's staff thus reducing our monthly salary bill, and I thank Michael for leading from the front.

Although no one can tell us how long we will be under restricted operations, Treasurer Warwick Norman is confident that we can weather the storm. Yes, we have reduced our operations and are not conducting on water activities, but the Board will make every effort to keep our staff gainfully employed. Club Members can assist the Club's finances by paying accounts on time wherever possible.

Please also remember our "Royals Foundation". This gives you the opportunity to make a tax effective contribution to the Club. All donations will be managed by the Foundation Board and not the General Committee but will be used on matters beneficial to the Club.

On a completely different front, we have noted more surge issues in the marina. Again, Members' boats have been observed clashing masts and we had one case of masts locked together. So please "look up" when you are next on board and check your rigs for damage. Please advise the General Manager of any damage.

I will provide a weekly update on how we are travelling, or more frequently if required as the pandemic situation develops.

To summarise, all is well, but our world has changed. Our Friday evening Members' night and our racing is being missed by all. However, we are learning to manage in different ways and are learning new skills along the way (bringing we oldies on the committee into the tech age with Zoom technology).

Rest assured your club is in good hands.

John Duffin  
Commodore