



Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club
INC.
REGISTRATION NO. A0017353E

Minutes of the 58th Annual General Meeting held online via Zoom on Wednesday 14th October 2020 at 7.00pm

After a few connection issues at the beginning of the meeting 32 Members and 6 Members of the General Committee were in attendance.

1. Notice Convening the Meeting

In accordance with the rules, notice of this meeting was first given on 20th August, more than 21 days ahead of the AGM, and details of the business were sent out on 19th September, more than 14 days ahead.

2. Apologies

Seven apologies were received prior to or at the meeting and were recorded by the Secretary.

3. Obituaries

Commodore Laker reported with sadness that there had been a number of deaths during the past year. Past Commodore Greville Gowty, Family Member Ann Nicol, wife of Colin Nicol and Senior Member Roger Randall, father of Senior Member Michael Randall. David Pollard advised that Family Member Denise Gunst also died during the past year.

Members observed a period of silence in remembrance.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 57th AGM in October 2019 were noted as having been posted on the website since November 2019 and copies were made available prior to the meeting.

Motion: that the minutes of the 57th AGM be accepted.

Moved: Sam Davis

Seconded: Mike Phelan

For: 17 Member votes online prior to the meeting plus 5 valid proxies **Against:** Nil

Resolved: in the affirmative.

5. Commodore's Report

Commodore Chris Laker started his report by reviewing the past year which started with the resounding success of a well-attended working bee, luncheon and the first AGM held at the clubhouse. The Committee Members were thanked for their work during the year:

- Louise Woodley, who was new to the Committee and has taken to it with great enthusiasm giving sound advice and having a steadying influence in these difficult times.
- Michael MacTavish and Catherine North, also new to the Committee, who unfortunately were not able to stand again this year.

- Vice Commodore Michael Graf and Past Commodore Richard Lowe had also not re-nominated for Committee and were thanked for the time and effort they put into the Club.
- Rear Commodore Alan Farman for quietly getting on with the many maintenance jobs and keeping the Club running. Also to Margot, Alan's wife, who with Alan make a good team for our Club.
- Treasurer Justin Brennan who has looked after the finances for the past three years and constantly reminds the Commodore to spend wisely but also supports the big projects that need to be done.
- Tom Hinton who has taken on the task of managing the dinghies and other watercraft around the club as well as recording all certificates of currency for Members boats.
- Sam Davis who has looked after the bar for the last three years but has had a very lean year due to the closure of the clubhouse.
- Club Captain Mike Phelan who ran the Goorangai Race and the Queenscliff Cup with military precision but is not sure what he will be able to organise for the rest of the year.
- Legal adviser, Peter Crofts, and Past Commodore Richard Lowe who have been working on the club lease. A protracted exercise but with only a few points still to be clarified hopefully it will be signed soon.

The coronavirus quickly changed everything with the closure of the clubhouse but it also presented an opportunity to get some maintenance work done, which included replacing all the external doors to comply with fire regulations, removal of asbestos in the ceiling of the rec room and fixing a persistent leak.

The Working Bee would usually have been held at this time of year, but as this is not possible, a list is being compiled of all the maintenance jobs that need to be done. This list will be posted on the website and emailed to Members who are encouraged to pick a job and time when they want to do it. It will be necessary to co-ordinate the tasks and the number of Members at the club to ensure social distancing can be maintained.

Commodore Laker requested volunteers to join the Committee and also for a Member, who does not need to join the committee, to complete the biennial review of the QCYC Strategic, Business and Management Plans. If anyone is interested they should contact the Commodore or Secretary.

The Cygnet Bridge works will commence on 26 October which means the bridge will be closed for 1 to 2 weeks. The top deck and handrail are being replaced with new timber and Armco railing.

Commodore Laker finished off with a hope that it will be possible to open the club soon, that plans are being finalised to ensure the safety of all members and the importance of everyone keeping the club safe from the virus.

Motion: that the Report by the Commodore be accepted.

Moved: Louise Woodley **Seconded:** Tom Hinton

For: 17 Member votes online prior to the meeting plus 5 valid proxies **Against:** Nil

Resolved: in the affirmative.

Presentation of the 2020 Club Person of the Year.

Commodore Laker announced that the Club Person of the Year 2020 is Senior Member Hugo T Armstrong.

Commodore Laker introduced Hugo as one of life's characters. A Point Lonsdale local, he has grown up in the area, he is the proud owner of the Blues Train and was involved in the Queenscliff Music Festival for many years. His love of the ocean goes back a long way. Hugo has been a member of QCYC for many years and more recently has taken on the role of presenter and organiser of the Cottage by the Sea fundraiser at the Prawn and Oyster Lunch. Hugo and his family organise all the prizes and run the raffle. Last year at the Lunch a sum of \$3,795 was raised which is a fantastic achievement. The club during the year raised another \$663 which will be presented to Cottage by the Sea at an appropriate time later in the year.

Hugo, congratulations on becoming Club Person of the Year, we thank you for your enormous hard work for the Club and Cottage by the Sea and wish you, your family and business well in the future.

The plaque was presented to Hugo by his partner, Desiree Jacobson.

Hugo thanked the club for the honour of receiving the award. He said that he had had a hard time, today marking 214 days since the Blues Train last ran which had created challenges that were ongoing. Although he grew up locally he had never visited Swan Island until Jim Richardson urged him to join the club. He and his family got the love of boats from his late father. With daughter Astrid, Hugo and Desiree joined the club and it has brought a great amount of enjoyment but also the opportunity to experience a part of the region that he did not know as a child and to share it with his family has brought great joy.

Many Club members volunteered to help Hugo while he was working with the Queenscliff Music Festival and it has been wonderful to be able to volunteer and give back to a place that now means so much to his family. Hugo thanked the Club again, saying there had been some dark times with business challenges and looking forward to coming back to QCYC was one of the things that kept him optimistic. He looks forward to enjoying a beer, a pizza and just spending time at QCYC's Paradise.

6. Vice Commodore's Report

The Report was made available prior to the meeting. Commodore Laker thanked Vice Commodore Graf for his work over the last few years. He has been a very enthusiastic member of the Committee and the Commodore wished him all the best for the future.

7. Treasurer's Report

Honorary Treasurer Justin Brenan presented his report (audited financial statements attached to these minutes). The results for 2019-2020 showed that most of the year's business had been completed before the virus closed the Club so the affect was rather benign. Revenue was down which was mainly due to reduced activity with the bar and wharfage but the big concern is the continuing gradual decline in membership which has been happening for some years. This needs to be addressed.

Cash on hand went up from approximately \$500,000 to approximately \$540,000 notwithstanding the expenditure of \$40,000 on the piles for the Cygnet Bridge. The cash position is very strong. Reserves stand at \$365,000 for the wharf and bridge, \$40,000 for clubhouse improvements with \$134,00 remaining unallocated.

The outlook for the current financial year is a lot more challenging. In the event that the club cannot open by Christmas the loss of revenue will probably wipe out the

entire profit which would normally be approximately \$40,000. Subscriptions, in terms of invoices issued, are about the same as last year but the concern is that the Club currently has approximately \$41,000 of unpaid subscriptions from about 115 members.

There are quite a few challenges on the expense side, which include the current work in the clubhouse which is approximately \$70,000, capital works of the Cygnet Bridge deck and rails at \$65,000 plus the south wharf whaler. It is expected the club will go into a significant loss this financial year, whether the clubhouse opens up soon or not.

Reserves are likely to fall from the current \$540,000 to approximately \$380,000. It has been decided not to increase fees this year and hopefully the clubhouse will open sooner rather than later in which case the outlook presented might be a little pessimistic.

Motion: that the Report by the Treasurer be accepted.

Moved: Justin Brennan **Seconded:** Peter Crofts

For: 17 Member votes online prior to the meeting plus 5 valid proxies **Against:** Nil

Resolved: in the affirmative.

Member Question: What are the current total Members and current financial Members?

Treasurer Brennan advised there are 115 non-financial Members and Peter Stow advised there are 184 financial memberships.

Member Question: Does anyone know if there are any funds available from Victoria or the Commonwealth for clubs who suffered loss due to COVID?

Treasurer Brennan answered that the club has not suffered a loss so far. He was aware of the offer of rebate for the liquor licence and a possible grant from the State Government but suspected this might not go ahead.

Hugo suggested, in regard to the liquor licence, that the Business Victoria website has the current guidelines which were released 4 days ago. He also suggested there were some small community grants available through the Borough of Queenscliff's Business Development Officer.

8. Election of Office Bearers and General Committee

The Commodore announced that the following nominations had been received:

Commodore:	Chris Laker
Vice Commodore:	Vacant
Rear Commodore:	Alan Farman
Club Captain:	Michael Phelan
Hon. Treasurer:	Justin Brennan
Hon. Secretary:	Louise Woodley

Members of the General Committee:

Sam Davis
Peter Crofts
Tom Hinton

As the number of nominations for Officers and General Committee Members does not exceed the positions available, an election was not held and the Commodore declared these members duly elected

Commodore Laker asked again for volunteers for Committee if anyone is interested.

9. Appointment of Honorary Solicitor:

Motion: that Peter Croft be appointed as Honorary Solicitor.

Moved: Chris Laker **Seconded:** Alan Farman

For: 17 Member votes online prior to the meeting plus 5 valid proxies **Against:** Nil

Resolved: in the affirmative

10. Next AGM

Motion: that the next AGM be held on Sunday 17st October 2021 at the Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club clubhouse.

Moved: Tom Hinton **Seconded:** Louise Woodley

For: 17 Member votes online prior to the meeting plus 5 valid proxies **Against:** Nil

Resolved: in the affirmative

11. General Business

Commodore Laker asked Members present if there were any matters of general business.

Member Question: Have you considered an annual membership drive and advertising in the Rip Rumour and the Queenscliffe Herald, as well as the nautical publications?

Commodore Laker responded that this suggestion had not been considered and that the Committee needs someone who can take on the marketing of QCYC.

Treasurer Brennan added that the strongest and best method of attracting members is through organised Club visits as the Club tends to get new Members who are boat owners and therefore, contribute to wharfage and boat registrations. Many boats tend to stay at the Queenscliff harbour and should be encouraged to stay at QCYC.

Member Question: Are Committee meetings always planned to be held at the clubhouse?

Commodore Laker responded that he felt it was important to hold meetings at the clubhouse but it was up to the Committee of the day to vote on this.

Member Question: When will the guidelines for visiting the club be released?

Commodore Laker stated that the Club would be guided by the Victorian Government and, at this stage, had no idea when the clubhouse could open again.

Louise Woodley added that the Committee is working on a QCYC COVID-19 Safety Plan so that when the Club can re-open everything will be ready.

Member Question: Has an annual open day been considered?

Commodore Laker advised that this is a suggestion that has been brought up before. It is a good idea to look into when restrictions have eased enough to be able to hold one.

Member Comment: When restrictions ease, the season opening would be an ideal Open Day event.

Member Question: Could the Members be updated as to actions available to the Club Treasurer regarding non-financial members, ie. fines, interest, etc.?

Commodore Laker felt it was hard enough to keep members without fining them. Non-financial Members are generally contacted by the Committee though greater leeway has been given this year due to COVID-19. The Club does need to get money in to keep it viable but does not want to lose Members.

Member Question: Should we consider fundraising during this year/season via events such as the Prawn and Oyster Lunch for the Club in lieu of Cottage by the Sea as an exceptional move this year given the circumstances arising from COVID?

Commodore Laker stated the Club can only be guided by the rules and regulations of the time. Members might be concerned about gathering for a function in a confined area. If the club can open in some form it will be a start but he could not see that any sort of function like the Prawn and Oyster Lunch could be held in the foreseeable future.

Treasurer Brennan added that wharfage is normally worth about \$25,000 a year to the club. He suspected that as soon as sailing is permitted on the Bay there will be an incredible surge in activity.

Member Comment: It's more about the direction of dollars to Cottage by the Sea.

Member Question: Could the Club and bar be opened to regional Victorians?

Commodore Laker responded that as long as there is the problem of COVID-19 there will be limits to the numbers that can be allowed in the clubhouse. The bar is small which will probably mean it will be a while before it can be opened. Once the QCYC COVID-19 Safety Plan is finalised we will be in a better situation to be able to answer these questions.

12. Closing Remarks

In closing the meeting, Commodore Laker thanked Past Commodore Richard Lowe for his time as Commodore which was undertaken under great difficulties, without a Secretary and having to hold down a fulltime job but he did a great job.

Commodore Laker thanked everyone for attending the online AGM, another first for the Club, and hoped it will be possible to see everyone at the club soon.

Meeting finished: 8.10pm

Attachments:

Audited financial statements for 2019-2020

Signed:
Commodore Chris Laker