

2017 HALF YEARLY GENERAL MEETING – COMMODORE’S REPORT

Good morning Members.

Firstly let me say thank you to all GC members for their support and hard work over what can only be called a challenging 6 months, but we still have much work to be done.

Hopefully with the reports we can answer some of the questions you may have regarding the operations of the Club. Reports from Governance, House & Social, Yard & Marina and Sailing are incorporated in my report. Any questions I will direct to the responsible sub-committee chair.

Rules and By-Laws

Firstly let me apologise for our procedural error in not being able to have the proposed new Rules and By-Laws ready for tabling at this meeting. This is a task that has been a long time in coming. However all members now have the proposed Rules and By-Laws, and you will now have ample time to consider the changes and make any suggestions for amendments. The choice now is to call a SGM to consider the rules and by-laws such that they can then be in place for the AGM, or put the special resolution to the AGM?

Clubhouse Re-Development

As communicated to members, Mr. Nigel Peck has withdrawn his donation of \$5M to the Club. The original \$500,000 does not have to be repaid. His reasons for doing so are private and were not communicated to the Club. The balance of the original donation will be used in some way on improving the existing Clubhouse, more later.

COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

The past six months have seen many changes at the Club, with new Flag Officers and members on General Committee as well as a few movements amongst our staff, and this period of change has kept the Communications Committee very busy as we assist with the flow of information reaching our members. Throughout this time, we have also continued to implement ideas formed from the constructive feedback submitted by members in last year's Communications Survey. The Committee is always looking for new suggestions to improve interaction with our members and the marketing and promotion of our Club and we aim to conduct another survey within the next twelve months to gauge your views on the changes already made and to guide the Committee's next steps.

Last year, 'Royals' magazine was modified to a yearbook format, a change that received a broadly positive response from the membership. In its new format, 'Royals' presents a recap of the year's events, which we hope will provide a valued memento for members to keep over the years to follow. We are grateful to the many members who have assisted us by providing articles and news for us to publish and we encourage our members to continue contributing and sharing stories in our weekly email newsletter 'Enews' and the 2017 edition of 'Royals', which is expected to be released in August. Please contact any member of the Communications Committee if you would like more information about our publications or on ways you can contribute.

The 'Portraits from the Pens' video series has continued, with a number of our members taking part and more to follow soon. Keep an eye out online for more videos and please get in touch with the Committee if you would like to take part or know someone who may, we would love to hear from you. Our thanks go to all participants and to member Brad Collis for his kind assistance in producing these new and valuable sources of history for the Club.

As mentioned in the Annual Report, the Communications Committee is also working on a brand new website. The design phase of the new website was completed late in 2016 and now the

significant task of transferring content has begun – you can keep an eye on our progress through the new website domain www.rycv.com.au. Our new website will have a professional appearance, will still provide quick access to race documents and results and will also have a forum, a new feature where members can register and communicate with one another in a member-exclusive environment. Despite some unfortunate delays to date, we are expecting to have the website fully operational within the next few months and we will let you know when this is complete and distribute the appropriate information so you can go online and make the most of this new, exciting platform.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the Communications Committee members, including Alexandra Doran, Claire Fazakerley, Cameron Mead, Julie Neyland, Joe Wetzels and myself, if you have any questions or thoughts regarding the communications at Royals.

Elizabeth Johnston
Chair Communications Committee

GOVERNANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Rules and By-Laws

As you are aware, as a result of legislation changes some time back, the Club has been proposing to change the Rules of RYCV to be compliant with the “model Rules” under the current legislation. This task has been outstanding for a number of years and it was of the opinion of the committee that we should move it forward to a conclusion as soon as possible.

Chris Tucker, our Honorary Solicitor, completed an initial draft of the Rules based on the model rules and the task over the last few months has been to modify the By-Laws and update the proposed Rules to level that could be presented to the membership. Thanks to Noel Williams for his work on that. These have been sent to all members with a request for comments and suggestions.

We initially hoped to have the Rules and By-Laws ratified at this meeting but due to the insufficient time at the beginning of the year we were not able to give the required 21 days notice of a special resolution, so we have withdrawn the proposal for this meeting. We encourage all members to comment and make suggestions on the current documents so we can develop a final version for your review. Once this is complete we will circulate both documents again and then proceed with a Special Resolution at an appropriate meeting to accept the new Rules and By-Laws.

Thanks to all of those who have provided comments to date. Each will be considered for adoption as we develop the final version.

Governance Practices

From September last year a series of changes have been made to practices around the club to improve governance procedures. We expect more changes will be required to be made in systems and practices to have the Club’s activities fall in line with ‘Good Governance’. The practices that have changed include operating practice and responsibilities of the General Committee and Sub-Committees; financial and work order practices and communications.

The current committee is very cognisant of the need to keep members well informed of how the Club is operating, as well as improving communications with permanent, casual and contract staff. We seek to be transparent in all our activities and would ask for your support as we upgrade the practices of the Club.

Noel Williams
Chair Governance Sub-Committee

HOUSE & SOCIAL

Food and Beverage Operation:

The house operation continues to grow after the reduced activity due to the past hiatus in functions booking pending the re-development of the clubhouse. Trading results are slowly improving. A detailed review of the food and beverage operation is being finalised and soon to be tabled to General Committee. Improvements will be initiated in conjunction with input and direction from the new Operations Director.

Social Functions:

The regularly scheduled major Club functions continue to enjoy good member support.

House Improvements and Maintenance:

At the request of General Committee, Hon Architect Charlie Salter has commenced the concurrent development of 2 works schedules:

- The General Maintenance Schedule, which will list and prioritise general repairs, repainting and the like.
- The House Improvements Schedule which will list prioritise and plan for coordinated, modest and affordable capital improvements such as ablutions upgrades, kitchen upgrade and planned provision for future additional member facilities.

RC Doug Shields

Chair House & Social Sub-Committee

MEMBERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee under the Chairmanship of Susan Webber would like to welcome new committee members Pamela Matthews, Tony McNicol, Sam Sulley and General Committee member Greg Snowball to the committee.

Thanks must go to the many volunteers who assisted the committee with the very successful December "Try Sailing Day". 136 people were taken out for a sail from which we have had a number of inquiries about Membership. From this day we also had 4 new members join RYCV. A very good result and proved to be a successful day.

From our Membership Committee meeting last week, we have set aside a day in April for a special meeting to review the various categories of membership. From this day we hope to come up with recommendations for a more streamlined category of membership

Greg Snowball

Membership Sub-Committee

OH&S AND WORKSAFE

As members know, WorkSafe paid us a visit in May 2016, which left us with a number of Improvement Notices to attend to, primarily in the yard. Most of those were satisfactorily dealt with, but with everything else going on at the Club, a follow up meeting on 18 November was initiated by the Club. In the course of that meeting and site review, it was found that 2 of the 3, but effectively all 3 of the remaining improvement notices had not been complied with, and had in fact expired. The 3 notices related to major inspection of the two hardstand cranes and the travel lift. As a result of the discussions with WorkSafe, we applied for an extension on these 3 notices. These extensions were granted on 7 December, but the inspections are to be completed by 31 July 2017. The Club has engaged Pitt and Sherry to assist with that process. In the meantime all three are fit for purpose and use up to the time of the major inspection.

In addition to this formal procedure, there is an on-going list of items to attend to around the Club, and Yard and Marina sub-committee are currently working their way through those. As with all things OH&S, this list never gets completed because there are always items being added to it, as it should be.

YARD & MARINA SUB-COMMITTEE

\$90k has been authorised to replace piles at the northern end of marina.

Y&M Committee has concluded a survey of the condition of attachment points to the marina and we have contractors undertaking a replacement programme.

As already mentioned we have engaged Pitt and Sherry to manage a major overhaul, as required by WorkSafe, of our two hardstand cranes and the travel lift.

Significant changes have been made to Operating Procedures within the yard to comply with WorkSafe requirements.

A new schedule of yard charges has been approved in principle by the GC and will be introduced in the near future.

It is planned to advertise for, interview and appoint a Yard Manager in the near future with a view to improving efficiencies in the yard.

The club is checking that all boats in the marina have insurance as required in the By Laws.

A survey of marina pen sizes is in progress and will be completed in the next couple of weeks. (It is yet to be completed due to weather and Y & M volunteer availability).

The Marina Pen waiting List is at present being compiled from records that require verification. (It would be helpful if members that require a pen contact RYCV Admin ASAP. This includes those that have already done so).

VC John Duffin

Chair Y&M Sub-Committee

SAILING SUB-COMMITTEE

Its hard to imagine that we are already more than half way through this years summer sailing season. Looking back to the first half of the season there have been some solid results by a number of Royals skippers and crews, both within the bay, offshore and off the beach. Congratulations must go to all those who took part in the various races to Hobart, some great results there. Not to mention a number of boats taking a more leisure pace and spending some time cruising. As Ian Lewis, skipper of Blue Chip says, the only reason to race somewhere is so you can have a fun time cruising home.

We have once again held a very successful Lipton Cup Regatta, under what can only be described as challenging circumstances. Looking forward we still have the remainder of the Club Marine series to conclude, followed by the Association Cup and the remainder of the Club season. We wish everyone safe and enjoyable sailing.

Troy Croft

Club Captain

In closing I'd like to thank all the chairs and members of all the sub-committees for their tireless work. Don't forget we are all volunteers.