

**MINUTES FOR THE RYCV HALF YEARLY GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CLUB
HOUSE ON SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2017**

- 1) MEETING OPENING:** Commodore Michael McLean declared the meeting open at 10:02 hours

In opening the Commodore advised the meeting that the resolution proposed in the Notice of meeting would not be presented as there was not sufficient notice given on the Special Resolution.

- 2) .ATTENDANCE:** Commodore Michael Mclean, Vice Commodore John Duffin, Rear Commodore Doug Shields, Club Captain Troy Croft, Hon Secretary Noel Williams, Treasurer Peter Botica, Peter Abrahams, Rex Allum, Rod Alsop, Nola Anderson, Ross Anderson, John Arnold, Helen Bedggood, Peter Bedggood, Ray Borrett, Grant Botica, Rod Bourke, John Boyle, Lyndall Boyle, Dale Brown, Arch Burns, Barbara Butler, Lindsay Butler, Bernard Case, Mal Chisholm, Mike Clancy, Dennis Clark, Ross Clark, Jim Conway, Peter Digby, John Donati, Alexandra Doran, A Doull, Peter Dusting, Peter Elliott, Tony Fishley, Ian FitzGibbon, John Forsyth, Richard Gates, John Gausden, Tony Gibson, David Godley, Ann Goodwin, Graeme Goudie, John Gregson, Phil Harding, Doug Hem, Stephen Hendy, Corvan Hughes, Dean Jackson, Doug Jenkin, David Johnson, Eirene Johnson-Sneddon, Tony Johnson-Sneddon, Colin Johnston, Elizabeth Johnston, Rodney Keating, Peter Kerr, Jon Kledstadt, Stephen Lake, Alan Latta, Andrew Lean, Peter Lloyd, Gary MacKinven, Gary MacLeod, Richard MacRae, Phillip Mahon, Bob McGregor, Peter McIntyre, Doug McLean, Peter Miedecke, Cathy Moore, Drew Murray, Terry O'Hare, Tim Olding, Graham Orr, Nola Orr, Andrew Osborne, Marilyn Parsons, James Permezel, Max Peters, Michael Pointon, Fiona Prestedge, Gary Prestedge, Damian Purcell, John Purtell, Moira Quinn, Duncan Rae, Nigel Robertson, Charlie Salter, Bonita Schultze, David Scott, G Scott, David Seaman, John Semmens, Samantha Smith, Greg Snowball, Tony Spencer, Dennis Spinley, David Sterrett, Geoff Stevens, Mark Sutherland, Rob Tanner, Bruce Taylor, Tony van Broekhuizen, David Wallace, Martin Watkins, Bernie Webber, Susan Webber, Graham Wells, Graeme West, Denis Whiteley, Carol Williams, Andrew Wilson, Lester Wise, Geoff Wright, Brian Yarnall

- 3) APOLOGIES Received:-**

John Burgess, Elizabeth Dickin, Cath Beaufort, Mal Botterill, PC Andrew Munro, Patricia Peart, Ron Sulman, Bob Munro, Rick English, Tom Moss, PC Bas Hubers, Geoff Klestadt. Liz Meyer, Kay Watkins, Ann Gibson, Alan Shear, Wil Shear, Matt Solly, J, Solly.

- 4) OBITUARY:**

Commodore Michael McLean called for one minute's silence in memory of the following members:

Jim Johnston

Vsna Levar

5) NOTICE OF MEETING

Commodore Michael McLean Called for a resolution "that the Notice of Half Yearly Meeting as displayed on the notice Board as circulated be taken as read.

Proposer: PC Coiln Johnston

Seconder: PC Ray Borrett

The motion was carried

6. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Commodore Michael McLean Called for a resolution "that Minutes of the 163rd Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 3rd September 2016 be taken as read and confirmed"

Proposer: J. Forsyth

Seconder: PC Ray Borrett

The motion was carried.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 163rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Nil that will not be covered by presentations at this meeting

8. REPORTS:

Commodore Michael McLean (CMM) informed the meeting that the reports would proceed and reminded the members that before asking questions from the floor members should state their name and membership category for the minutes.

The Financial statement was available at the meeting and the Commodore's report was made available at the office for those wishing to read a full copy or for those not in attendance. Other reports to be received at the meeting are from Finance, and Floating Marina sub-committees:

8.1 COMMODORE'S REPORT : Commodore Michael Mclean

As attached

8.2 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION REPORT: Treasurer – Peter Botica

The Treasurer provided a summary in slide form of the current state of finances of the Club. All areas of the Club except the marina / hardstand ran at a loss for the 7 months to December 2016 and while providing a small operating profit after depreciation no repayment of the substantial bank debt had been made to date.

Efforts are being made to improve the finances which should come to fruition in coming months. However the accounts highlight the need to be prudent in consideration of any capital expenditure and in particular, the unacceptable risk that would have ensued if the Floating Marina project had proceeded in its original form.

Membership subscription increase for 2017/2018 was proposed at 1.5% and as this is in line with inflation, no resolution was required under the relevant By-Laws.

Summary Report attached.

8.3 Floating Marina Project - John Forsyth

John Forsyth, as chair of the Floating Marina project, presented the status of the project. The summary of the presentation is attached with the key points as follows:

- There is currently an unacceptable level of financial risk associated with building the full floating marina project.
- The MPC is investigating a staged development of the new marina, including the following:
 - Construction of the full depth and partial depth wave screens as originally proposed and a section of the western floating attenuator walkway.
 - 41 floating berths beyond J row (entire current marina retained).
 - This appears to be the lowest risk financially for the Club and has the added advantage of little or no disruption to the existing marina.

The intention is to maintain the current level of income from the piled marina to the Club to subsidise other Club activities until efficiencies in those activities are achieved.

Questions on Floating Marina project:

A series of questions were posed by members on the FM project:

Brian Yarnall – Disappointed by the lack of progress on the FM but suggested that there were many boats in the current marina that were not participating in Club activities and should be moved out of the marina. Brian also suggested that we should look at lobbying the State government for support and/or for financial assistance. – Response – We have looked at that and we continue to look for opportunities of funding from government sources.

Geoff Stevens – Asked what would be happening to the allocation of FM berths vs members who had provided \$5000 funding for the initial studies. Response – When details are known of the future structure we will inform all members of the situation and options that would be available.

Dean Jackson – Members generally disappointed with the lack of progress – the committee just needs to get on with it.

Lindsay Butler – Suggestion to workshop the FM project with members. –

Alexandra Doran – Expressed frustration with the lack of progress on the FM as a financial model had been proposed by the previous committee and this had not been implemented. – Response – The previous model would have put the Club in serious risk of financial default and the current committee thought it prudent not to put the Club at risk financially considering the state of the finances.

Commodore: The General Committee shares the member frustration with the limited progress of the Floating marina Project but with the state of the finances, the GC felt that it would be irresponsible to embark on such a project if the financial health of the Club was put in jeopardy. The Committee is seeking ways to proceed with a project scope that will maintain the financial security of the Club. This is likely to be the extension (41 floating berths) to the north of the current marina and the corresponding wave wall.

Questions: CMM then called for Questions from the floor.

A series of questions then followed :

Insurance : Question on notice – PC Ray Borrett asked as to the status of the insurance coverage on members yachts. Response: Despite many requests to members to provide copies of their current insurance coverage there are still about 26% of yacht in the marina for which the Club does not have proof of insurance. This is unacceptable and further action will be taken to individually consult with members who have not provided proof of insurance.

David Sterrett reinforced the unacceptable nature of the situation and he was assured that action had and is being taken.

PC Bruce Taylor suggested that the Club might like to consider as one of our sponsor Insurance companies to provide information on the availability of 3rd party property / Liability insurance.

Yard Charges: VC John Duffin outlined proposed changes to the yard charges to reduce free time in the yard to one week but to also change the lifting charges so that charges were more indicative of the costs incurred.

Lindsay Butler objected strongly to any increase to boat owners. Response: Members were assured that RYCV was the most inexpensive of the Clubs on Port Phillip and a survey of other Clubs had been undertaken. - Tony Johnson-Sneddon. (The operation is current running at a loss and we need to improve efficiency and improve performance.)

VC John Duffin also detailed the need to perform outstanding maintenance on the travel lift and hardstand cranes. This was required by Worksafe by July 31st.

Brian Yarnall suggested that a study to assess the best option of repair or buy a new travel lift.

David Sterrett suggested that we should be encouraging kindred Clubs to use the yard – Response – The Club is working on this and will be marketing the yard along these lines.

Resolution: THAT the written and verbal Committee Half Yearly Reports **be taken as read and received.**

Proposer: Susan Weber

Seconder: Ray Borrett

The motion was carried.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS ON NOTICE: Submitted in accordance with Rule 9.5.

Nil

10. General Business

Nil

11. CLOSURE:- Meeting closed by the Commodore at 11:20 am

CMM declared the Meeting closed at 11:20 am. and thanked the members for their attendance and asked all present to join him, Flag Officers and fellow committee members for beverages.

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.