

COMMODORE REPORT FOR 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



What an incredible journey it has been over the last two years as Commodore of the ORCV. As I write this in Covid-19 lockdown, I scan through some of the photos from my time on the committee. The memories make me proud of what a wonderful club we have.

As you see in the selection of photos, many of the committee wear multiple hats. In some I am the suited up Commodore, chairing meetings and representing club members. In others I am the volunteer, working sometimes through the night as Race Director to ensure our races are safe, fair and enjoyable. In others I am the Training volunteer, at the whiteboard or in the pool passing on knowledge to others. There are the photos where I am doing media, a job I really enjoyed, passing on progress and stories of our competitors to supporters and friends. Then there is the one that brings the most joy, the photo co-skippering with Maurice Contessi as we competed Double Handed in the Melbourne to Hobart. Most of our committee ocean race when we can, we love it.

So what is the ORCV ? It is a collection of passionate people like yourselves, people who love our sport of Ocean Racing. We all work hard either behind the scenes, in the media or on the water promoting our sport. The ORCV is technically yourselves, the members represented by people like myself, the elected Committee. It is also the broader ORCV community, the volunteers, staff, supporters, partner clubs and most importantly participants in our events. To represent the club and the broader ORCV community has been an honour, thank you.

When I took on the Commodore role two years ago the club was facing significant problems with participation levels dropping and some significant cultural issues. Through the hard work of the General Committee and a commitment to change, I am proud to reflect on the many successful initiatives completed and still underway.

With a focus on ORCV's core values, which you will see reflected in the new Code of Conduct document, we have reinforced the need for inclusiveness, transparency and respect in all areas of the club. Our interactions between the club and members now focuses on ensuring a positive customer experience. You may have noticed the club

adopting the Australian Sailing Member Protection Policy, it sets the benchmark for expectations and protection of both members and non member participants. You may have also seen a subtle shift away from women in sailing seen as a novelty. We see women in sailing as a fundamental part of who we are. We celebrate women's success and look forward to seeing increased numbers of women on all race crews, on the podium as skippers, as boat owners, as members and on the committee.

Racing has changed over the last couple of years thanks to the hard work of the sail committee chaired by Justin Brenan. The club has extended short handed sailing through our "four plus autohelm" initiative. Our new coastal sprint series proved popular and we are looking forward to seeing the success of that program when racing restarts. Our new winter series was popular prior to the shutdown, member feedback on that has been excellent. We had other racing revamp plans underway too, for now they are parked and will be dusted off once things get back to normal. Focus is understandably now on restarting racing, doing what we can when we can.

Training hasn't been sitting idle either. Chaired by Simon Dryden the training team has been working hard refining existing courses as well as developing new courses for members. Our SSSC revalidation one day course with it's new format has been very well received. Covid-19 has provided significant challenges for training but also an opportunity. It was the catalyst for the development of our online series of navigation training courses, with an increased focus on using navigation technology. It could not have been done without volunteers like Rod Smallman, we are most grateful. The success of the new online training delivery capability means further innovation is likely in the future with Weather and possibly even components of the SSSC being delivered online.

Tim Boucaut and his assistant Delma Dunoon have produced amazing results with the marketing team. They have a big job, keeping in touch with all ORCV stakeholders and communicating our stories, plans and events. Tim and Delma took on additional responsibilities over the last two years including the revamp of the yearbook and revamping membership. Have you noticed not only the excellent posts and web site articles but a focus shifted back onto members? Have you also noticed the focus shift back to pre and post race social events? Feedback from members was that these events were valued and missed. I certainly noticed the great vibe during the socialising at Blairgowrie, Geelong, King Island, Stanley and Hobart.

It would be easy to miss the improvements behind the scenes too, the stuff you can't see as members. Over the last two years we have seen further rollout of our SharePoint and Office365 platform thanks largely to Neville Rose's efforts. This came off the back of a Committee Strategy for enabling working remotely. How pleased were we to have that in place when Covid-19 hit, without it we would not have had the business continuity plan to enable the transition of the office to working remotely. With a change in staff and the opportunity thanks to Covid-19 to review all our business processes, the ORCV is well placed for a more efficient restart to racing.

There are other unsung heros working hard behind the scenes on compliance and finance. Our club Secretary John Gordon, who recently took over from Matt Fahey, and our club Treasurer Simon Dryden worked hard to ensure the club meets all it's legal and

financial obligations. The club has some significant investment assets which need to be carefully managed, Simon has done a great job there proposing a new Investment Management Committee and exploring the opportunity to sell the Docklands office. As will be reported, the club is in a strong financial position with another slight surplus last financial year despite the impact of Covid-19.

I have a good friend of mine, one of those crusty been around forever sailor types who has been racing in ORCV races for years and loves to give his opinion about what is wrong with the club whenever we catch up. Recently, over a beer, he said to me, "Marty, since you took over I have been struggling to find a reason to dislike the ORCV." It made me laugh and reflected many similar comments I have received from other members over the last year. To the all ORCV Committee members, current and past over the last two years, well done that complement is for you.

Looking forward, the club will be in good hands. We have passionate, hard working committee members, committed and diligent staff, agreed and shared values and a plan for moving forward. Importantly we have an amazingly experienced and talented incoming Commodore. They will all receive my full support.

Thank you to everyone, I look forward to many more years as I return to being a club member, competitor and occasional volunteer.