

Victorian Mosquito Catamaran Association (Inc. A0054386W) 2021 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Meeting opened at 5:55pm, 7th March 2021 at Bendigo Yacht Club.

Attendees

Gary Maskiell, Mick & Di Floyd, Phillip & Sandra Warren-Smith, Tim Shepperd, Gary Lane, Rob & Alex Lott, Darrin Tomison, Neil Joiner, Peter Kiely, Ian McAlister, Peter Nikitin, Sam Watson, Philip Mann, Ross Bennett, Stuart Ridge, Michael Anthony, Garry Johnstone.

Apologies

Gina Webster, Justin Prior, Matt Stone, Neil & Jaime Zizman, Peter Porter.

Minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes from the 2020 AGM were read by *Gary Maskiel*.

Motion to accept the 2020 AGM minutes was moved by Di Floyd and seconded by Pete Kiely.

Passed

Business arising from the previous minutes

The 20/21 National Titles at Portarlington came within a few weeks of being run but Covid-19 eventually ruled out the event. The National Titles 21/22 will be at in SA at Victor Harbour.

CAD templates: Tim Shepperd (NTO) reported that it still remained to get a set of templates cut from the CAD drawings prepared by Clancy McColl.

Correspondence

Bills for website and domain name.

Request from Sweden for a set of plans. Philip Warren-Smith will get the plans scanned in so they can be sent.

President's report

This has been a tricky season, although some clubs are still managing to get in some regular racing and McCrae did run their Cat regatta. The number of youth sailors is down this year, partly because they do grow up and find other activities to occupy them for a while. We do need to work hard to keep encouraging activity at the local club level. The reward for such activity is a growing class – or at the least, a continuing one.

Secretary's report

As of today financial membership is as follows.

Senior	19
Youth	2
Life	3
Total	24

VMCA membership is recorded on the VMCA Sailres database.

Treasurer's report

Philip Warren-Smith presented the financial report for the 2020 year (attached).

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was moved by Peter Nikitin and seconded by Tim Shepperd.

Passed

General Business

State Titles 2022:- Somers YC will be approached.

National Titles 2022:- Victor Harbour, South Australia.

National Titles 2023:- Gippsland Lakes YC, VIC is locked in.

Promoting the class:-

There was a discussion around how to promote the class. Ideas were floated such as:

- A training weekend (such as run before at LVYC) near the start of the season at a venue such as.
- Give financial assistance to Mosquitos attending regattas (maybe entry fees).
- A "Mosquito" flag or banner to take to events.

The training weekend was a popular idea and could be looked into.

New boats:-

It was asked "What could the VMCA do to make it easier for someone to buy a new Mosquito?"

Currently it takes 6 months or more to get a set of JK hulls built and ChrisCraft could be quicker but is not currently building due to ill health. The VMCA should find out from Chris Trewern if there is a way the association could help with the production of new platforms.

There are still many decent Mosquitoes sitting idle that need to be tracked down for new owners. This is important to help keep the class alive.

There was lots of talk around the way to get new ready-to-sail boats built, advertised and sold. Classes are usually promoted by a manufacturer who can invest in building many new boats to hold in stock and then persuade good sailors to start racing them at regattas – in the hope that sales will follow. Without a manufacturer backing the class the VMCA alone does not have the time and resources to carry this out. Members in the past have personally invested money and a huge amount of time into producing new boats but this is not sustainable in the long term. On the flip side, classes that receive heavy promotion can boom but tend to rely on that support to maintain the level of activity. This can be seen in almost every manufacturer's class there has been in the last couple of decades, whereas classes like Mosquitoes which are driven by volunteer sailors tend to be far more stable in numbers.

Mosquitoes boomed at a time when sailors were prepared to build and rig their own boats, which is a model that is not so suited to the 2020's. To experience a boom in numbers now, new boats have to be available ready to sail at a very low price. Something that would require a lot of time and financial investment from VMCA members, and a large run of hulls built somewhere like Taiwan. Currently this is unlikely to happen unless someone with the expertise and know-how wants to drive it.

Heavyweight boats were raised.

Election of Office Bearers

President

Gary Maskiell Prop by Garry Johnston and seconded by Mick Floyd **Accepted**

Vice President

Matt Stone Prop by Pete Kiely and seconded by Gary Maskiell **Ask Matt (absent)**

Treasurer

Phillip Warren-Smith Prop by Peter Nikitin and seconded by Garry Johnston **Accepted**

Secretary

Tim Shepperd Prop by Di Floyd and seconded by Gary Maskiell **Accepted**

General Committee

Garry Johnston

Oskar Watkinson (ask as absent)

Mick Floyd

Pete Kiely

Class Measurers

Tim Shepperd, Matt Stone and Phil Mann.

Meeting Closed at 6:45pm