

COVID-19 and the Club: Ken Case

MONDAY 23 March saw all Squadron activity brought to an abrupt halt with the nationally enforced closure of all pubs and clubs, with cafes and restaurants restricted to takeaway. But, before then, the Management Committee had already met – followed by a Combined Committee Chairs Meeting – with all Squadron events subsequently cancelled, including the March Quarterly Meeting. Soon afterwards the Easter Regatta was cancelled following a call for people to stay away from the regions. Winter Series racing was cancelled and Squadron cruises frozen.

The Squadron became a ghost town with members staying away, apart from the occasional solitary member wandering the pontoons checking their own and their neighbours' boats. The Clubhouse, the Quarterdeck, the barbecue areas and the marina, which were normally a hive of frenetic activity and a hubbub of conviviality and camaraderie, suddenly fell silent, but occasionally a small group of live-aboard members would be sighted congregating in a corner of the Quarterdeck eating dinner while observing the 1.5 metre social distancing rules.

The MC quickly moved to weekly Special meetings while the COVID-19 response was evolving in order to manage a potentially devastating impact on Squadron finances. The MC acted decisively but cautiously,

approving significant adjustments to staff and operations while still holding on to all our valued permanent staff members, with some working from home. Budget implications were huge and financial viability became critical. We faced the prospect of losing significant membership, as individuals and families across the country began to tighten their belts and prioritise spending. To comply with Government restrictions, meetings moved to using Zoom and we were introduced to the backdrop of members' studies and quiet places at home. Members of Management Committee and Limited Board came together on Zoom for a briefing from the Treasurer. You all received a letter from the Commodore on behalf of the MC outlining the implications of the Government restrictions and MC's actions. Carrie Cooley, our Finance Manager, successfully applied for each of the relevant Government grants, creating a window for us to retain staff. Later we convened another Combined Committee Chairs Meeting, this time via Zoom, to plan our course out of the COVID-19 lockdown.

But this didn't mean the Squadron wasn't active. Despite all this, work continued on members' vessels in the slipway area and members found creative ways to keep in touch.



Phil Tassicker convened a Zoom meeting to update the Anchorage Guide

Last Tango cruise and Corona: Peter Cooling



West Cape – Marion Holden, Noeline Cooling, Roger Holden

WE wondered what all the fuss was about with this popular beverage! We were away cruising from early March, en route to Port Lincoln via Black Point and the annual Hill's barbecue, when we found ourselves with a surprising supply shortage in the Lincoln supermarket of all the essentials – toilet paper, bread, potatoes and more. We soon learned Corona was more than just a beer!

Our cruise took us to many beautiful anchorages, but often this meant little to no communication with the world we'd left behind. Fortunately, we had Roger and Marion Holden on board as our trusty crew. In addition to taking on the role of cruise and

anchorage director, Roger also provided the Telstra communication line that intermittently kept us in the loop with what was happening back in Adelaide as a result of the coronavirus lockdown.

After a blissful three weeks away it was time to sail back home to the Squadron via the north coast of Kangaroo Island, leaving behind memories of mateship and cruising, but unfortunately back to a far different world.

Since our return *Last Tango* has continued to provide an escape from isolation, keeping us sane while enjoying some stunning autumn weather with fishing, crabbing, sleepovers at the Squadron, and a very short cruise with *Erica* and *Mojo* anchored at 1.5 m boat lengths in the River opposite the Squadron.



Western River sunrise, Kangaroo Island

Looking to the future: Barbara Beacham



THE 2020 coronavirus pandemic has touched us all. The sudden lack of certainty, familiarity and security thrust upon us by the pandemic has not only been a source of stress, anxiety and social dislocation but has also highlighted the funny, compassionate, innovative, resilient, and resourceful sides of our characters. It has been a time for dispensing with things that don't serve us healthily and focusing on connections, actions and attitudes that are most valuable and important in nourishing and sustaining ourselves (and each other) and our ability to continue pursuing meaningful lives.

As well as restricting sailing activity, for me a major impact of the pandemic was the suspension of my business activity. Pre-COVID-19 I practised as a Bowen Therapist running a busy (hands-on therapy) practice across two locations. On 25 March Government public health restrictions, aiming to limit spread of the virus and

promote social distancing, required me to close my practice locations. Navigating successive waves of information about Government financial support initiatives then eligibility and application processes, along with grasping the nuances of electronic portals used by Centrelink and the ATO, was overwhelming, frustrating and time-consuming.

I am grateful that the COVID-19 pandemic did not touch me or those close to me healthwise. I am also grateful that the restrictions on my work activity and social interactions provided me with a range of new lifestyle experiences. I have enjoyed the 'slowing down' of my life and have come to relish being 'time rich'. I have been enriched by having time to enjoy nature, gardening, walking and kayaking. I have had the absolute pleasure of being able to spend a lot more time with my grandson, as his parents chose to keep him away from childcare. And, like many others, I have had the satisfaction of getting on top of a myriad of maintenance projects around my home.

With Squadron life being suspended during the height of the pandemic, my desire to still get out on the water while observing the COVID-19 Responsible Boating requirements, pushed me to start 'dabbling' in solo sailing my boat *Stella Rouge* – although in company at the moment just for safety. So far, we have had a couple of short adventures, including an overnight anchoring experience in the Barker Inlet. I'm now looking forward to extending our range and skills.

Looking to the future, I see a time of innovation, recreation and rebuilding. I am eager to see Squadron and business life return to some kind of pre-COVID-19 normality. That said, however, having had the experience of being 'time rich' for a while, I will be ensuring I preserve some of the learnings and lifestyle changes I have adopted as a result of this time.



Sailing solo in *Stella Rouge*

Every cloud has a silver lining: Sue Beaufoy



IT would be somewhat remiss of me not to acknowledge the uncertainty and chaos of the past few weeks in this ever-evolving time of COVID-19. As an educator in a primary setting this pandemic scourge continues to pose a number of problematic and contentious issues. But as they say, 'every cloud has a silver lining'.

Normally weekends are consumed with RSAYS racing, Club events, seamanship and fellowship. Working in the cockpit on *Outrageous* is at times very onerous but exhilarating. However, with abandonment of all Club events temporarily, *Outrageous* has slowed her pace down and become somewhat of a sanctuary for us. With social distancing being the go and some rather glorious sun-drenched days over the past couple of weeks, *Outrageous* has taken us from being completely frantic to a more relaxed and contemplative place. So at this particular moment in time I am ever grateful, and never lose sight of just how fortunate we are to be able to step away and spend time sailing, navigating the seas and enjoying the simple things.