

WRAG Quarterly Newsletter No. 186 – OCTOBER, 2020

Waverley Retirement Activities Group Inc. (WRAG) began in April, 1974 and is the “umbrella organisation” for 16 leisure activity groups for the over 50s living in and around the Monash Shire. WRAG is a non-profit, community-based organisation with over 150 members, run by volunteers with support from the City of Monash. Our activity groups meet in council halls, public places and private homes. WRAG makes it easy to meet new friends and make retirement fun.

Presidents Corner - October, 2020

Greetings to all WRAG Members:- We hope this newsletter finds you all well, safely locked down, and looking forward to the easing of the current Coronavirus restrictions.



It is now official, **2020 is CANCELLED!** Well, at least for all WRAG members and WRAG Group Activities. The WRAG management committee have now agreed to cancel the following

-
- October 2020 Games Afternoon,
- Cup Eve Picnic, and
- WRAG Christmas Dinner.

WRAG members continue to remain in the high vulnerability, high risk, Covid19 risk category, at least until such time as a vaccine becomes widely available in Australia. Which at this stage does not appear as though it will be until sometime in late 2021. The committee therefore believes that we should continue to exercise an “ultra-conservative” safety strategy for all WRAG members, before we consider recommencing any WRAG Group Activities.

As a consequence of such a disastrous year for WRAG members, and with pretty much all WRAG Group Activities being cancelled since January 2020, the management committee has decided to **extend free membership to all current WRAG financial members for 2021**, subject to the following condition.

Under normal circumstances the official WRAG constitution, (*Associations Incorporation Regulations*) **Section 12 – Annual subscription and fee on Joining**, requires that:

- (1) At each annual general meeting, the Association must determine –
 - (a) The amount of the annual subscription (if any) for the following financial year; and
 - (b) The date for payment of the annual subscription.

Given that in these extraordinary circumstances, we are trying to mitigate any Coronavirus risks by avoiding any WRAG group meetings, the management committee have agreed that like the April 2020 AGM and Election of Office Bearers, if no less than 5% of current financial members (136) object to the proposed 2021 free membership (7 members) a formal AGM will be advertised to allow a vote to be taken on the free 2021 membership proposal.

This newsletter is published by the Waverley Retirement Activities Group Inc. Printed by courtesy of City of Monash, as a community service. Responsibility for its contents being solely that of the Editor, Committee and Convenors. Member information in this newsletter is private and for WRAG use only.

Yes, it is a fact that WRAG is now down to only 136 financial members, with a further 33 or so members remaining as unfinancial, or who did not pay their membership fee in January 2020. Long before the Covid19 pandemic, the committee discussed options available as a consequence of continuous falling membership.

Roel, Erica, Mary, Nicole, and myself, made a pact that we would continue to manage WRAG, provided it remained economically viable, with however many members, and ongoing support from our wonderful Convenors, and from the City of Monash, for as long as we have the support of the remaining members.

No matter how many remain. (ps from Ed, the important ones are still with us).

We will meet again as a committee early in the new year to assess the Covid – Normal situation, and to consider if any WRAG Activity Groups can recommence, subject to Covid safety requirements, including the development of Covid Safety Plans for each Group, as may be mandated.

In the meantime, please stay safe, have a Covid Safe Christmas, and a Safe and Prosperous 2021.

As always we welcome any feedback on any of the matters raised in this newsletter, or anything else that you may wish to raise.

Regards,

Terry Spicer
President