

Greetings to you all

Another COVID Christmas season. As I sit here typing this report, the news is full of the Omicron Variant, with ceaseless speculation as to its implications. Although tempted, I will not go on about pandemic fatigue, interrupted travel plans or similar, as we are all suffering in our own way.

So, enough of COVID!! This Report will be a COVID free area!!

I have a couple of things to report. First, many thanks to those of you who volunteered your advice and/or support in overcoming our banking issues. I am happy to tell you that we seem to have negotiated our way through the thicket of rules and regulations, and we think we have a solution.

Secondly, Tony Knox, our former president, is the guardian of a trove of VOCS memorabilia, dating back to the 1920's and to the earliest Boat Race Dinners. Tony inherited this trove from the previous chairman of VOCS. Over 2022, we intend to digitalise as much as we are able to, and to add some more pages to our website (vocs.ca, as if you didn't know). By this time next year, with a bit of luck and a lot of technical assistance, we hope to have a number of new sections to the website, capturing some of this memorabilia.

At the same time, we also intend to add a page or two to the website devoted to VOCS activities as they occur. As I have frequently mentioned, we have a very active VOCS book club as well as an equally active VOCS movie club. Both these clubs will get space on the website, as well as any future clubs which VOCSians choose to organise.

In addition to clubs, we also have the occasional one off event, like the VOCS summer picnic (rain cancelled play this year) and the VOCS cherry blossom bike ride (an excellent outing). As and when other events may be organised, they too will be given space on the website.

All of which is a roundabout way of bringing the website to your attention. At present, this is a static, brochure-like site. Going forward, we intend to make it more informative, and hopefully to give it a bit more relevance to the Society.

We already have a page showing the current Board members. As with any organisation, we are always on the look out for new Board members. So, for those of you wondering about New Year's Resolutions, try a stint on the VOCS board, please. As always, email us at vanoxbridge@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more about the fun and adventure which a seat on the VOCS Board entails.

Finally, Tony Knox is preparing a Christmas OB, which will be sent out before Christmas Day. It is currently in draft format.

All that remains is for me to wish you all the very best of the season, however you chose to celebrate it (in my house, Christmas). Here's looking forward to a 2022 which is more open and less pandemicy than 2021 has proved to be.

Merry Christmas

Simon Taylor