



Polish Community Association in Geelong Inc.
Związek Polaków w Geelongu
White Eagle House Breakwater
46-48 Fellmongers Rd, Breakwater 3219
Secretary@whiteeaglehouse.com.au
www.whiteeaglehouse.com.au

Dear Members of the Polish Community Association in Geelong,

I trust this letter finds you all well and safe from this dreaded coronavirus pandemic.

I write to keep you informed about the current situation at our Club. I'm sure you are all aware that as of 22 March, all clubs and hotels were required to lockdown all their operations and unfortunately as a consequence, all our valued staff, including Bistro staff, had to be stood down during the lockdown.

Not only were we required to close down our business operations but all activities that were held at the White Eagle House had to be put on hold as well. This included Soccer training and competitions, Senior Citizens Activity Group meetings, Jukebox Rockers activities and GSODA rehearsals.

As the national unemployment figures soared and the queues at Centrelink got longer, the Commonwealth Government introduced the "JobKeepers" scheme, giving financial support to employees who were stood down.

The Mercury Group and our accountants immediately lodged applications on behalf of the PCA Committee to include all our staff in this new scheme.

We greatly appreciate the work the Mercury Group continues to do behind the scenes, especially Andrea Tournier and also our Operations Manager, Jacqui Bisby, who all continue to keep in touch with myself and the President during the lockdown.

Naturally, we don't expect clubs and hotels will remain closed forever. For that reason, Andrea and Jacqui held an online meeting last week with our staff to discuss a progressive transition back to work, during the lockdown period. Staff have all agreed to the proposal. Their tasks on the days they attend the Club will be to refresh and perhaps re-organise the inside of the venue so it will be ready to welcome all our members and patrons when the Club re-opens for business, hopefully in the very near future.

Regarding the matter of Memberships Renewals for the 2020/2021 Financial Year. We understand that it will not be possible to have 30th June 2020 as the deadline for the payment of membership dues. When the Committee meets again soon, we will set a new deadline and I can assure members we will be flexible and very understanding this year with membership renewals. So, in the meantime, do not concern yourself with this matter.

Please remain safe, look after yourselves and I hope to see you all soon at the White Eagle House. I will endeavor to keep you informed when new developments arise.

Regards,

Henry Szkuta
Secretary
15th May, 2020