



VDL-C 2021 Cruise Has Been Deferred for 12 Months

After much agonising and with some reluctance, the VDL-C Organizing Committee recommended to the RYCT Board of Management that the Van Diemens Land Circumnavigation Cruise scheduled to begin on 10th February 2021 be deferred for a year. Yesterday, the RYCT Board accepted this recommendation.

In reaching this decision, the Organizing Committee judged that in the current virus-ridden environment, the risks associated with a sudden resurgence of the epidemic, subsequent complications of unstitching expensive cruise preparations (by participants as well as organizers), and the need for infection preventative measures such as social distancing were too great to warrant pressing on with a cruise in early 2021.

A new cruise plan has yet to be finalised:

A plan for the VDL-C cruise in 2022 will be finalised within the next few months, and will be posted on the website. For recent cruises, the commencement date has been the Wednesday after the Australian Wooden Boat Festival weekend, which now will next be staged in 2023. The good news is this will allow more flexibility in planning the dates of a 2022 cruise.

If the 2022 cruise goes ahead as planned, the following cruise will be scheduled for 2024.

Entry withdrawal arrangements:

Prospective participants in the 2021 cruise can elect to remain on the entry list for 2022 by doing nothing. Their deposits will be retained and no invoices for the remainder of the entry fee will be issued until November 2021. The existing *Refund Policy* will be retained, with relevant dates adjusted accordingly.

Potential participants wishing to withdraw will have their deposits refunded in accordance with Item 2 of this policy. Participants choosing to remain on the entry list will move up the queue in the normal way, as withdrawals occur of boats with a lower queue number.

There have been two withdrawals this month. If either participant wishes to have their entry reinstated they should contact the RYCT before the end of November 2020 and, on repayment of the deposit, the boat will be restored to its original position in the entry queue.

Conclusion:

Other arrangements already in place, such as HF radio certification, will be deferred by 12 months.

Perhaps it is worth pointing out that this is not the first time there has been a gap of three years between VDL-C cruises. It has happened once before, between 2002 and 2005.

We look forward to meeting, greeting and cruising with a VDL-C fleet in Tasmania in early 2022.