

What's happening at CDODC – 21st June, 2020?
An update from President Fiona McGregor

Dear friends,

Many of you will have seen the news reports and the statements made by our state and federal governments concerning the still evolving situation concerning COVID-19. As far as things currently stand there has been a relaxation of some restrictions, a reinstatement of others and delays to some other restrictions being rolled back.

Whilst sport has resumed on some levels, it is not across the board.

Whilst we'd like to be back training as soon as we can, there are all sorts of competing constraints which affect our ability to resume training, including restrictions and requirements imposed by our landlord, Maroondah City Council, as well as the Department of Health and Human Services. At this time we also have no club rooms and shelter and a wet cold Melbourne winter.

Added to that we have a Duty of Care both to our handlers and also to our instructors, all of whom are volunteers. Many of us are older people and many of us too have health issues which may not be immediately obvious but do make us vulnerable.

I for one would hate for our club to be the source of a cluster of infection. I don't want to get sick and I do not want anyone around me to be sick, or catch the virus, especially as a consequence of involvement at or with our club.

So whilst on the face of it, it may seem that training could resume, unfortunately because of the very serious requirements and restrictions upon us and because we take very seriously our commitment to our handlers and volunteers and instructors, we just are a little way off the resumption of training.

To be candid, with the council requiring us to be off our ground in September for the planned improvement to the oval surface, we may struggle to resume much training this year. Whilst we want it to be different, we need to be realistic and we need everyone to be safe.

These are extraordinary times. Wishing it were different will not make it so and we do not have any answers. But we do need to stay home and be safe so when we can resume training, we can do so safely for everyone.

Fiona McGregor on behalf of CDODC committee.