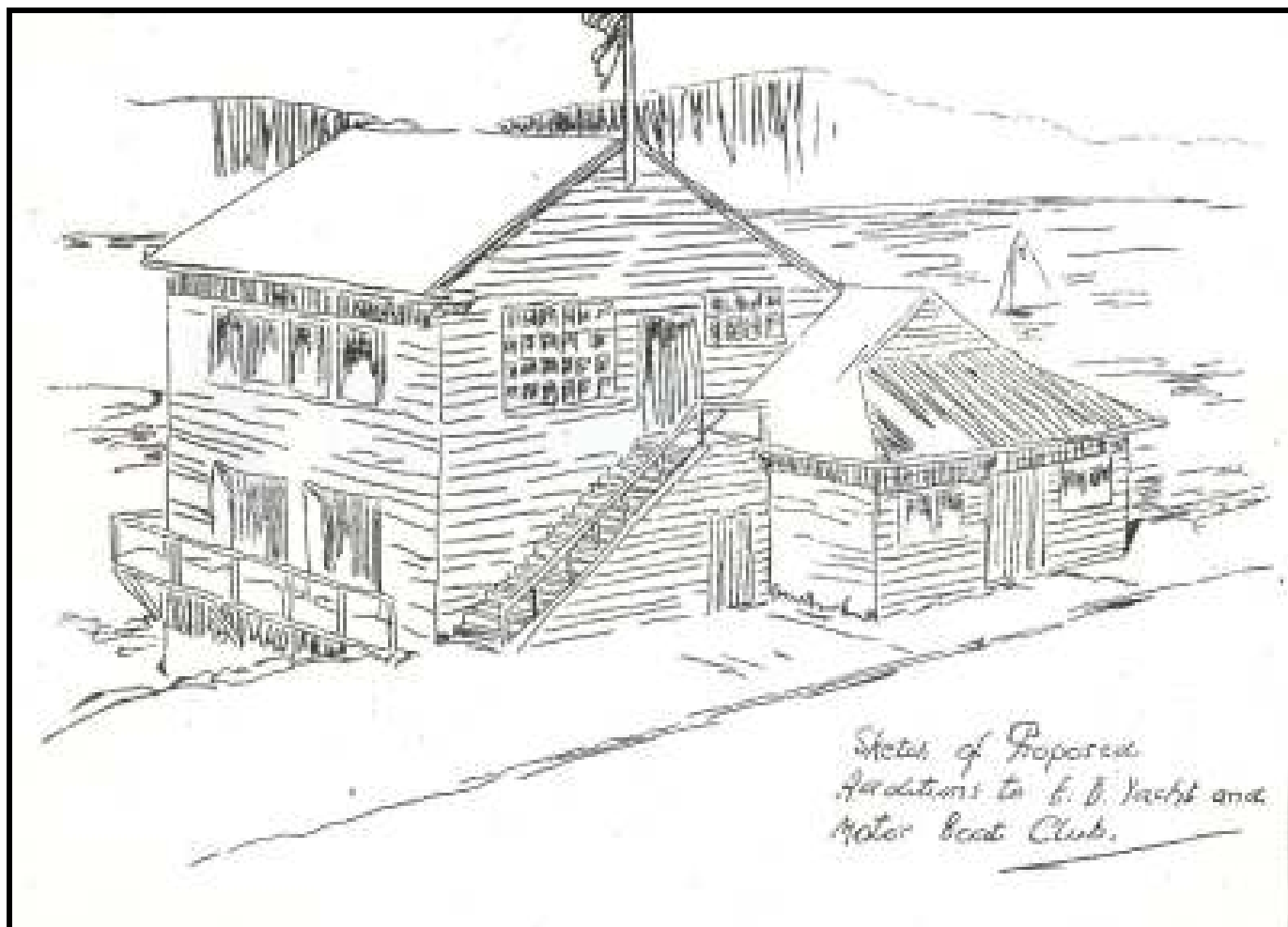


# The Spinnaker

The official magazine of the Evans Bay Yacht & Motor Boat Club

APRIL 2006



Before you all start having kittens, the handwritten note attached to this sketch was dated May, 1936. Presumably one of Popeye's earlier plans...

## Contact Details

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Kilbirnie, Wellington

Physical address: 501 Evans Bay Parade,  
Kilbirnie, Wellington 3.

Slip master / Bookings 027 240 5109

Clubhouse (members) phone 939 4170

## Calendar

April 15 - Easter

*Racing for those who aren't elsewhere*

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>

*Series catch-up races (ex Cruising Div)*

May 14<sup>th</sup>

*Prize giving & barbeque*

## **From the Commodore's log.....**

While we haven't had the busiest of sailing seasons due to weather conditions, on the administration front it has been hectic.

Dealing with the café proposal, gaining resource consent after a special hearing and now further stalling while we deal with objections in the Environment Court has been a time consuming affair.

Progress in that area is being made with a request from the objectors to meet informally with the club to see if a resolution can be reached. We had hoped that meeting would have been held prior to the Special General Meeting so we had some positive action to advise members on... unfortunately it hasn't happened but we are working on this.

In the meantime various proposals are being looked at for the future upgrade of the club house, all of which will depend on the outcome of negotiations with the neighbours who have objected.

On the employment front we have three new people getting to grips with their various roles, all contributing to the day-to-day administration of the clubs affairs. Despite Dale Adams being away for the first two weeks due to illness I would have to say the decision to split the work load between three people, albeit mainly part time, is working exceptionally well.

The office is manned from 9am to 5pm everyday except Tuesday (1pm to 5pm) and now the club manager is also available on Saturday mornings to deal with inquiries and problems.

The recent Special General Meeting gave us all a chance to clear some confusions that have been about since last year's AGM. The meeting gave a clear decision to the committee on the subscription matter and the committee will send a separate letter to all members on that subject very soon. The meeting also brought to light the anomalies that exist in the club's Constitution and a decision to completely review the Constitution to present to the next AGM. That in itself was a good outcome from the meeting.

All clubs have a variety of personalities and ideas on how things should be managed. That is the very nature of a club such as ours. I can honestly say to all members that you have a committee dedicated as volunteers to the prudent management of the club, its finances and future.

We have lively debate on a wide range of matters but in the end hopefully make the best possible decisions on your behalf for the betterment of the club and the services it provides.

The end of another season is nearly with us. Let's all go forward together with the same objectives and hope for a top winter sailing season

***Mike Coupe***  
Commodore

## Facilities

As we near the end of the season it is appropriate to reflect on the season generally. It hasn't been an easy one from a facilities view point. Although we have accomplished a significant amount there is still much that has been left undone as we have struggled with cash flow issues as a Club. Completed as extraordinary budget items were the sewerage disposal system from the changing rooms beneath the startbox, which could not be delayed if savings associated with opportunities presented by the new washdown facilities were to be realised. We still have to finish the changing rooms and this is underway thanks to Gary Wagstaff. Dorothy has diligently kept the Black Shed in order and has done some great work in topdressing the grassed area outside the Black Shed and disposing of larger rubble from the various excavations that have been made from the alterations.

Yet to do are - the improvements to the trailer yacht park - power point distribution and lighting, and the extension of power services to allow the club boats better battery charging convenience. These projects will continue when sufficient funds are available; it is sad to realise that the recent decision by a minority of our club members not to agree to pay 5 months of outstanding fees will further burden the Club and see these projects further delayed.

Congratulations are due to our Vice Commodore for winning the Motuihe Island Regatta, hosted by Bucklands Beach Yacht Club. This three day, 10 race, regatta was shortened by bad weather but not before Miles Tremlett and his crew sailed very consistently, fending off the very stiff competition from Auckland (and Wellington), to have a lead on the second day. Of the 11 boats in the under 30 foot Division, 'Ice man' was the smallest, and two were from Wellington - 'Supergroove' was 5<sup>th</sup> in the same division. Auckland yachties generally get more practice than we do in Wellington, sail ruthlessly and know the rules - the names they give their boats tends to reflect this generalisation with our main competition coming from 'Hot Property', 'Grunty Chicken' and 'Junkyard Dog' ! "

Graham Rowe  
Club Captain

Builders of composite race yachts now offer Wellington an accessible workshop facility for repairs, refits and resprays. With a door height of 6m there is not even a need to come off your keel.

Recent jobs include chainplate and window replacement, and rudder repairs on 'Splash Palace' for Geoff Herd, structural repairs and topside repaint on 'Esprit' for owners Cheryl Ferguson, Phil Bishop and Terry Steven, rudder rebuild on 'Titus Camby' for John Wood and prod installation on 'Supergroove' for Graham Rowe.

[www.hakesmarine.com](http://www.hakesmarine.com)

23 Toia Street, Seaview, Wellington, New Zealand, Tel: +64 (0)4 376 8332

**Hakes**  
marine  
Wellington New Zealand

# The Spinnaker

## East-West Dash, 11 February 2006

## Results

37 Boats with 137 people total entered.

Race started 1402hrs in a 15 knot NNW breeze.

Air temperature 21c.

				Time	
	Place	Boat Name	Skipper	M	S
<b>DIV A: DIV 1</b>	1	Iceman	Miles Tremlett	53	33
<b>KEELERS</b>	2	Eat My Shorts	James McCarthy	53	53
<b>DIV B: DIV 2</b>	1	Glenfiddich	Neil Blance	55	43
<b>TRAILER YACHTS</b>	2	Wag 'n Trail	Gary Wagstaff	57	59
	3	Sedate	Craig Ryburn	58	24
	4	Tarantula	Warren Rankin	58	40
	5	Stinger	Mike de Ruyter	58	59
<b>DIV C:</b>	1	470	Mark Hill	47	31
<b>OPEN C/BOARDERS</b>	2	420	Jonathan Clough	47	38
	3	420	Stephen Ballinger	50	58
<b>DIV D: CATAMARANS,</b>	1	PT	Peter Robbins	37	34
<b>TORNADO'S,</b>	2	Unplugged	Glen Syman	44	38
<b>R's, SAILBOARDS</b>	3	Swell	Chris Valentine	46	10
<b>DIV E: CRUISING,</b>	1	Wakarere	Matt McCullough	57	51
<b>LAUNCHES</b>	2	Crisara	Matt Freeman	63	10
	3	Summertime	Alan Irvine	65	54
	4	Quasimodo	Graham Leslie	69	16
	5	Gaffer	Bob Mawson	75	40

### MASTS and THINGS

There has been no response to the request for information about masts in The Black Shed. I have spoken to two people and have their details. If the personal approach is the way to get this information, you will be seeing me and hearing from me in the future.

There are currently five windsurfers in The Black Shed and their ownership is a mystery. Would the owners of the windsurfers please contact the office to register their windsurfer boards and paraphernalia, or ring me on phone 586-3919 or 021-650-236 as soon as possible. It is a Club regulation and requirement that all boats and sailing items are registered with the Club.

Dorothy Fox

## *The Spinnaker*

The East West Dash event is not possible without major sponsorship & support  
 Thank you to:- **DB Breweries, The Malthouse, Park Pak 'n Save (Petone),  
 Copthorne Solway Park, Resene, Harvey Norman (Tory St), Altex Coatings**

Sweepstake (on fastest time B Div)	\$15	Gary Wagstaff	
Sweepstake (on winning boat B Div)	\$15	Shirlene Vautier	
Voucher <b>ALTEX COATINGS</b>	\$50	Robert Larsen	Cruise
Voucher <b>ALTEX COATINGS</b>	\$50	Andrew Hawley	TY
Voucher <b>ALTEX COATINGS</b>	\$50	Laura Coulson	TY
Dinner Voucher <b>MALTHOUSE</b>	\$100	Georgina Banks	Cruise
Dinner Voucher <b>MALTHOUSE</b>	\$100	Daryl McGee	Rescue
Dinner Voucher <b>MALTHOUSE</b>	\$100	Mike Coupe	TY
Dinner Voucher <b>MALTHOUSE</b>	\$100	Stephen Ballinger	C Div
Dinner Voucher <b>MALTHOUSE</b>	\$100	Paul Goodwin	Cruise
DVD Player <b>HARVEY NORMAN</b>		Georgia Mawson	Cruise
3 Burner BBQ <b>PAK 'N SAVE</b>		Andre La Borde	Cruise
"Champagne Reviver"			
(Weekend for two) <b>SOLWAY PARK</b>		Ross Davies	TY

### *Lifejacket Design*

*Hi my name is Kylie Gunn, I am currently studying a Bachelor of Design. I major in Industrial Design in Wellington. This is my fourth and final year at uni.*

*I have just started working on my major project. The area of interest I have taken is "water safety." Around 130 New Zealanders die in the water every year... life jackets are the most important single factor in deaths. A lot of people choose not to wear them or they simply do not fit properly. If a jacket doesn't fit you don't have a show!*

*I will be focusing on women's life jackets. Looking at the comfort, ergonomics, and overall fit and aesthetics.*

*It would be greatly appreciated if I could interview some of your female club members. I need people who have experience with the product and its performance. My contact details are 027 484 8846 and manu\_gunn@hotmail.com*

*Thank you very much for your time  
 Kylie*

Always acknowledge a fault. This will throw those in authority off their guard and give you an opportunity to commit more. - Mark Twain

## *The Spinnaker*

Time to hear good news from **'The House'**

First off I would like to thank Yvonne Mexted for her unwavering dedication to provide a Friday night meal for all those members willing to brave the elements and enjoy the ambivalence, sorry ambiance, of the Friday night social gathering. I would also like to encourage all club members to come along Friday nights and join in with the 25-30 club members that are regular patrons.

Yvonne's Friday night roasts have been an overwhelming success, read 'Sellout'. Yvonne has presented the wary and hungry Friday night clientele with roast chicken, roast pork sirloin, and last week a roast beef sirloin, with a lamb roast next Friday night, 31st March. All for just \$12.00 (inc GST).

Secondly, I would like to thank the members that help out, Lynley Manning (shopping duties & bar duty), Kate O'Brien, Darryl McGee, Rodger Wilson, Paul Sara & Paul Vautier (bar duty), Rory Graham (full-time bar duty), Simon Estall & Alex (occasional bar duty and cleanup, that's Simon on the bar duty and Alex on cleanup), Anne Seggie (waitress duty Friday nights) and all other members that pour the odd beer etc. Thanks to you all for your help and assistance. Rory and I need the nicotine fix sometimes, (*Ed. Quitline 0800-778-778*).

We, ManCom and The House, are currently preparing plans and budgets to upgrade the 'look & feel' of the clubs facilities, tart it up in other words, for membership use. I personally am plugging for a revamped upstairs. If anyone has any suggestions, ideas, brain storms, wants, likes, must haves (for the club facilities) then please bail me up and let me know or email me at [alano@palantir.co.nz](mailto:alano@palantir.co.nz)

We have had an inquiry regarding The House financial figures lately, questioning the ratio between 'Bar Sales' and 'Cost of Sales'. The ratio is currently running at 62%, this figure should be around the 50% mark, a reflection of our margins (38% rather than 50%). Now I can make all sorts of excuses & reasons for this anomaly like increased costs, wastage from the club's outdated beer lines, not enough members supporting the social aspect of club life etc, but I am not going to, instead from 1 April 2006 the bar prices will increase slightly. Beer pints \$4.00, beer half pints \$2.00, wine glass \$4.50, wine bottle \$20.00-\$25.00. All other prices will remain the same for the time being.

During the Winter Series The House will be offering a choice of toasted sandwiches and barbecue sausages after racing so that the intrepid sailors that do get on the water and battle the elements can have something hot when they come in and I'm not talking about myself of course.

Finally I would personally like to thank all the members who regularly patronise and socialise at the club bar. The clubhouse and associated facilities are there for all members to enjoy.

Hope to see you all soon.

May you live to 100 and have the income to support your bad habits.

Al

## Sailability Update

Sailability Wellington recently sold two of its 2.3 dinghies to a person in Christchurch committed to starting up Sailability there. It is great that Sailability is growing within New Zealand and to know this should create opportunities for our members to participate in sailing activities in other regions.

We are now looking at purchasing some new boats, which will probably be a combination of the 303 and Liberty. The 303 has proved to be a versatile boat, as it can be sailed by one or two people, and with or without the jib. The Liberty is a single-seater, is a bit longer, has a self tacking jib and twin rudders and has become the dinghy of choice for many a Sailability racing sailor overseas.

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## **www.crew.org.nz**

Hi

I just wanted to send this email to clubs and associations to thank you for your help with Crew.org.nz and also to remind you of how we can help you, in particular with publicising your events and increasing your fleet sizes – we helped one club build their fleet from around 10 boats per race to 25 boats, through our coverage (and it didn't cost the club a cent).

www.crew.org.nz, if you aren't familiar with it, is an online magazine and forum all about sailing in New Zealand. It's professionally run, completely free to use, and the second biggest boating website in NZ according to 'Hitwise' (the first is boatpoint.co.nz). I aim to make it a one-stop resource of everything you need to know about sailing in New Zealand and have added some new features recently:

### ***New events calendar***

This month I added a new Events Calendar to the website, which can also feature your NORs, Sailing Instructions, Entry Forums and Results – so if you don't have a website, or if you just want to expose your race to more people, please just email the details to me at [zoe@due-north.co.nz](mailto:zoe@due-north.co.nz).

### ***Trade directory***

We are also launching a Trade Directory so if you would like to suggest any local boat builders, riggers, sail makers, upholsterers or other small marine businesses for inclusion, please email them through. The person to email the most leads will receive a 1L bottle of Mount Gaye Rum.

### ***Race coverage and press releases***

I also really appreciate receiving your press releases and photos, both before and after your races, and I will definitely publish them, as our users love reading about events and boats in their local town or region. Also, I've just commissioned a rebuild of the news section of the website which will let me put up bigger photos and longer stories than I can currently do.

### ***Boat of the Month***

You are also welcome to nominate the next Boat of the Month, from your city or region. It might be the latest boat off the blocks or it could be a loyal racer who turns up for every race, rain or shine. We like all types! All I need from you is a photo and a few details or the contact details of the boat owner and a couple of words about why you selected the boat.

If there is every anything I can do to help you out, please let me know. In the meantime, keep the press releases coming! We'll try to treble your fleet sizes too!

Cheers, Zoe

## *A quick word from Communications*

I had a bit of a ferret around the clubhouse recently & found a closet full of all sorts of historical bits & pieces, in fact I should think there's probably a skeleton or two in there, if I dig deep enough. But what I had set out to, & did indeed find, was a supply of old Yachtsman & Spinnaker magazines, going back to around 1977. There were no Wake issues though, & I'd love to get my mitts on a few of them, so if anyone has any closets of their own they might be hiding in (the magazines that is), could you let me know.

It's funny to look back on old magazines, & read about the hot topics of the day, the things that the club fought, bickered & argued about over many a Friday night beer, or via Chinese whispers between parked boats. Who remembers what was controversial 20 years back, even five years ago? There's been a bit of that sort of disagreement around the place lately, its been resolved now, & it too will be forgotten about in a few months, or as soon as the next dispute comes along.

The most important thing is that the club survives, & continues on to support yacht racing, to encourage newcomers to the sport, to help those who like to cruise around at their own pace, even just to provide a place where people who like boats can get together & talk about them. We've been doing that for nearly 90 years now, & hopefully still have another 90 years on the clock. The duty of the Management Committee is make sure that happens, to keep the club moving forward, yet at the same time to retain the spirit that makes it the place it is & has been. Sometimes the decisions we make may seem wrong, puzzling, even stupid, but if you've ever timed our monthly meetings, you'll realise that every decision has a lot of discussion put into it, & we believe is made for the right reasons.

If you disagree, tell us, if you disagree often, maybe think about putting your money where your mouth is & become part of the decision making process. The AGM is still a few months away, but now's the time to start considering whether you want to change the way things happen around the club, to have your name in print for future generations to look back on & see what your contribution was.

But back to those old magazines. There are some fabulous (& not at all blurry) photos of some very familiar faces, still recognisable even with the extra hair & my email address is now accepting non-print payments/bribes from anyone who wants to ensure their old photo won't be appearing in future issues. Meanwhile, here's a few other bits & pieces that took my fancy.

Cheers, Alison  
Comms Co-ordinator

*I am not one of those who in expressing opinions confine themselves to facts. - Mark Twain*

## A few notable events from the club's past

**1969** - 590 members, Senior membership fee \$8, Juniors \$2, Ladies \$1

**1975** - Senior membership \$25, Family \$30, Ladies still \$1. Kokotahi launched

**1976** - 18ft Swirley World at EBYMBC, prior to Andrew Fagan's offshore travels

**1979** - Seniors \$35, Neil Currie made master of Kokotahi (altogether, "...& we still can't get rid of him!")

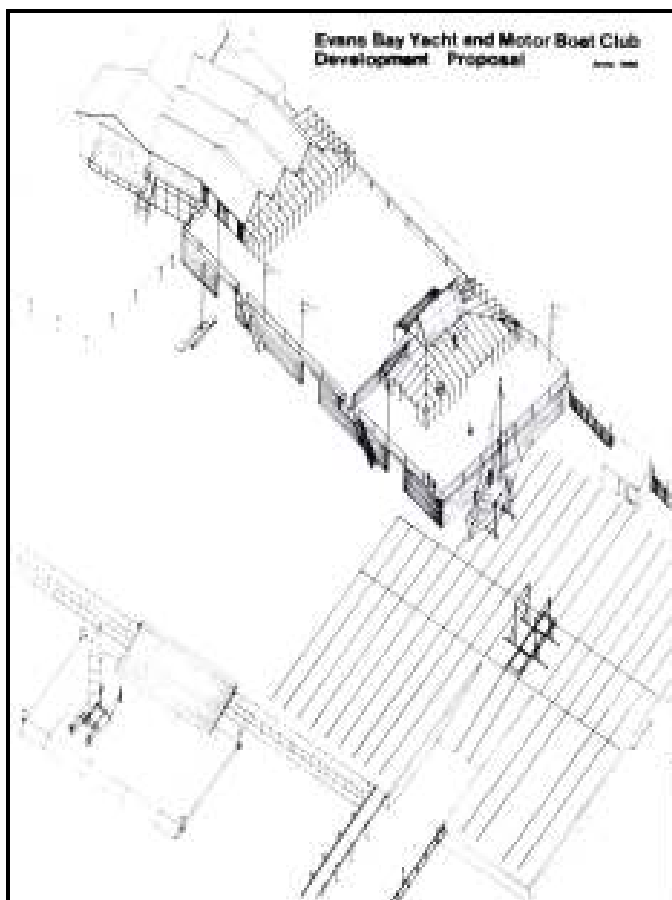
**1984** - Pints 90 cents, cigarettes \$1.60.

**1985** - Apple II computer purchased for \$1950 to provide membership listing, labels, racing programmes and possibly an accounting package. Noel Swanton kindly wrote & maintained the programmes.

**1986** - Senior \$68, 40% of Pania purchased (can't find when we got the other 60%.)

**1989** - Membership around 800!

**1992** - "Pub Charity" purchased. Accounting package finally purchased for new club IBM computer.



**Catamaran Championships 2006 Muratai**

Didn't we have a louverley time the week we went to Muratai..... Only just across the harbour but I confess I normally only sail there when it is East-West Dash time.

The Championships consist of the A Class Catamaran Nationals and the Paper Tiger Catamaran Nationals. This year we had entries from 11 A classes and 44 Paper Tigers. Evans Bay Yacht & Motor Boat Club was well represented with Mike Norton with his A Class, and a platoon (well – 7) of Paper Tigers. Peter Robins on Skytrain and Glenn Syman on Unplugged both did very well in the fresh breeze. They scored equal points of 21 by the end of the contest, two behind the leader (Mark Bell on Totally Wired – Howick). Pete was second on a count back and so Glenn was third overall.

Other Evans Bay members added to the fleet – Shirlene Vautier on Mustang Sally, Remy Thomassen on Double Dutch, Jane Thomassen on Pompuss, Jennifer Loader on Swell and Lynley Manning on One Fish – Two Fish. Robyn Sivewright with Daemon entered but had to withdraw due to work commitments. However, she managed to find time to design a great logo for the regatta – thank you Robyn.

We were lucky enough to be accompanied by our very own support network. Evans Bay agreed to assist with the regatta in allowing the use of Pania and Kokotahi. And of course where you find the boats you find the people. Thank you to Gibbo and his team (including Neil Verry) on Pania. And Pugwash on Kokotahi – ably assisted by Rodger Wilson. Always nice to have the home comforts when we are at an away regatta! The team did a fantastic job in getting all of the programmed races in, in trying conditions.

The first race day was blown out (I have heard that can happen on Wellington Harbour some times). The next day was 12-18 knots for most of the day, 3 races, southerly with a bit of rain. Day Three was a pretty windy one – we only got one race in – and it was a cracker. NW 25-ish knots. Last day – still a few races to get in and sailing instructions say no warning signal after 2.00pm. No problem, says Gibbo – you lot can just rise and shine a little earlier – start time was brought forward. Once again southerly 17-ish knots. 3 races in and that was the contest.

The contest was not without its adventures though. Shirlene managed to break her mast in two. She managed to get another one rigged and upright for the next day's racing - well done. Hers was one of four broken during the contest, and at least two more have broken since with suspected related fatigue. There were spectacular capsizes, pitchpoles and bow plugs. If these sound like things you would buy at a hardware store – you are incorrect – they are actually different ways that catamaran sailors entertain/scare themselves, and their boats when it gets breezy.

The top ten placing competitors become the 'Kiwi team' for the Internationals that will be held in Melbourne over Easter this year. We also send a 'B' team from the next placing ten competitors – this team is called the 'Tuis'. Evans Bay will be again well represented with Peter Robins and Glenn Syman in the NZ Team. Lynley Manning is in Team Tui for the contest. Darren Kingi has agreed to be the Team Manager after a sterling job at the last Internationals in Howick in 2004 when the New Zealand Team won the regatta.

Lynley Manning  
PT 2800 One fish – two fish

## Sounds Weekend

Hi everyone, due to popular demand we are once again organising a Sounds weekend. This is also open to the general club membership as well as people who have done the learn-to-sail course. Any friends and family are also welcome.

This is an opportunity to cruise the Marlborough Sounds and enjoy some extra boating, it is not a full-on Sailing weekend and there will be time available for walks, visit to scenic reserves etc. The weekend is suitable for non-sailing friends and partners

We will be hiring Yachts based at Waikawa Marina. The boats come fully equipped with cooking facilities, showers, toilets etc & typically sleep between 6 to 8 people.

The format of the weekend is, for those who can take Friday off work, travel to Picton, provision the boats while the Skippers carry out the safety checks, go for a sail and be moored up in a bay by nightfall, (the charter boats cannot be used at night). For those who cannot get the day off work we will have a Water Taxi meet the InterIslander that arrives in Picton at 9.15pm to take you to the boats.

**Cost:** \$200.00, covers Boat hire, Fuel, Food, but excludes travel to Picton and Insurance Bond. This event is scheduled for the weekend of the **19-21<sup>st</sup> of May**. Please be quick with your deposit as we have limited spaces available.

Cheers, Remy (970-1926 or email [thomassen@paradise.net.nz](mailto:thomassen@paradise.net.nz))

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## Spirit of Adventure

The Spirit of Adventure is having three sailings in May in Wellington.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 1pm - 4.30pm.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 8.30am - 12pm & 1pm - 4.30pm.

Adults \$40; children \$30 & family (2A & 2c) \$120. Tea & Coffee complimentary.  
Ship departs Queens Wharf. Bookings essential - 0800 472-454

There are also adult coastals: Napier/Gisborne 27-28 May \$290 & Napier/Wellington 22-24 Nov \$420. Website - [www.spiritofadventure.org.nz](http://www.spiritofadventure.org.nz)

### Debt Recovery Costs

The Management Committee has agreed that, from 1 March 2005, all new outstanding debts will incur interest and any associated debt recovery costs. Interest will be charged at the rate of 19% per annum.

**Attention Slipway users: Straight from the (Mike Usher) Horse's mouth, there are NO increases to slipway charges imminent. As you were.**

## Events Report

Arrangements for the Rock and Roll evening are progressing well. I have been speaking with Dick Willard, who as most of our members know is into dancing in a big way. Dick has given me a number of options at varying costs. It is my intention to keep costs down as any event has to be well supported by members for it to be a success. It is planned to have a fun learning session at the start of the evening just to get things "rolling". The meal at about 9.30pm to 10.00 pm. and during this period have a Rock & Roll demonstration by gun dancers.

The date has yet to be confirmed and I am working hard to ensure it does not clash with any rugby matches. As mentioned above cost is very important as Events have to be cost neutral. Dependant on numbers I would like to keep the cost of tickets to no more than \$25.00 per head.

John Seggie

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## "YACHTING MUST HELP ITSELF"

By Zoe Hawkins ([www.crew.org.nz](http://www.crew.org.nz)) - posted June 05



**Des Brennan is the new chief executive of Yachting New Zealand. Installed in the role in February 2005, he has so far been a name without a face for those of us in the keelboat/multi-hull brigade.**

I was lucky enough to spend an hour with Des finding out about what Yachting NZ have planned for us, and learning about how he thinks we can make this sport greater.

One of my first impressions was that this man does not mince words. He also has a strong commercial background, and his real-world approach is going to be a great asset for our sport.

Des started his career as an industrial chemist. He progressed through the ranks of the international cosmetics business with Max Factor UK, and worked within New Zealand's dairy industry before taking on the senior marketing role with TVNZ as it entered competition with TV3 approximately fifteen years ago. Since then has been involved with Fletcher Wood Panels and Montana Wines.

His sailing CV is a little less illustrious. Thanks to a sailing course he does know a mainsheet from a jib sheet, and has always felt an affinity with the sea but has never been a competitive sailor. His distance from the sport, however, is possibly an asset, and his experience on the sponsorship management side of yachting is extensive.

Des was working with TVNZ at the time that Grant Dalton was campaigning for the Endeavour, and when Michael Fay pledged his first \$35 million to America's Cup sailing. He was closely involved with implementing the campaign sponsorships and he vividly recalls the disappointment of San Diego in 1992 when New Zealand in the final, failed to win the Louis Vuitton Cup, and the excitement several months later when Peter Blake arrived on the scene and the 'family of five' commercial sponsorship was created to make one further attempt on the America's Cup in 1995 – 'bringing the cup home'.

"Yachting is the only sport I would have applied to be CEO of," says Des. "I can't explain why I like it but there is something about the people you meet," he explains, naming the likes of Barbara Kendall, Leslie Egnot, Grant Dalton and Sir Peter Blake. "If I can contribute to this then it's a good thing to do."

## **About Yachting NZ**

Yachting New Zealand currently employs eight people, including its full time coaches. Between those eight people they oversee many aspects of yachting, including the country's club structure, safety, boat registration, coaching, race management, resource management, rules and safety, and of course, high performance and youth sailing.

Yachting New Zealand has recently appointed two new staff members in the area of youth and high performance sailing/Olympic sailing. Des says that these appointments, which are funded by SPARC (Sport & Recreation NZ), will provide a huge benefit to yachting because youth sailing is the breeding ground for sailing icons, and sailing icons attract new participants to the sport.

## **About funding for yachting**

Des is aware that many sailors not competing in the youth or high performance arena are sceptical about where their Yachting NZ levies go, but he says that he is very clear in his mind that we do get return on our investment.

"There is a major misconception that we are only interested in Olympic sailing," he explains. "We are very aware that without a sound base, Olympic success is at best improbable. No funds from levies are applied to our high performance/Olympic programmes. These are funded by SPARC from the public purse."

Every senior member of every Yachting New Zealand affiliated yacht club in the country pays a levy of \$20 (SEM). In 2005 Yachting New Zealand will collect \$300,000 from this source. A further \$550,000 comes from other sources, including SPARC, to cover off participation, recreational sailing and club services. This is separate from SPARC's investment in high performance/Olympic sailing.

SPARC and other external funders also provide funding for other development activities such as talent development programmes, training camps, coaching clinics, and assistance with events and youth team logistics.

In 2006, the organisation plans to almost double its funding, excluding the budget for high performance sailing.

"The question is why do SPARC spend any money at all? Firstly they are committed to making our nation active, and secondly they are investing in sports that matter to New Zealanders." Olympic medals are what attracts attention for our sport, providing the desired return on investment.

"You have to look at the difference the Ever-Swindells have made to rowing. That's the benefit that sport gets from public funding. We can only register on the public's Richter scale at the Olympics, the Worlds get very little media interest."

"What Yachting New Zealand can do for our sport is to provide Olympic success, and my view is that we need to work out how we can refresh that greatness." The benefit, Des says, filters down to the yacht clubs, as Olympic success stimulates participation in the sport.

He calls it the 'Barbara Kendall effect', as following Barbara's Olympic success, more women took up boardsailing. "We have to create stars and heroes of the young. It is crucial, because SPARC's funding represents a public investment in our sport, and we have to be fully accountable for that funding."

(...continued over)

## **YNZ and the keelboat fraternity**

While the benefit of Yachting NZ's efforts are often not very visible, Des says most members belong to clubs and sail keelboats, and it is important to help make people aware of what the organisation is involved in. This year a National Programmes Director was appointed to oversee the 30,000 club members nationwide and to drive participation. Yachting NZ has also reactivated its National Boat Register, which is online and fully searchable.

Another one of the organisation's 'invisible' benefits is the role that it takes on as environmental guardian for sailors. For example, there is a plan to put a massive marine farm into Tasman Bay, which will be several kilometres long and present a considerable hazard to cruising sailors. Similarly, in the Coromandel there was an illegal farm in a bay that was regarded as a safe haven in storm conditions. Yachting NZ bought forward a case to have it removed, and its operation was curtailed. Yachting NZ also works with environmental policy makers, as many issues in relation to boat ownership – such as boat washing – can impact on the environment, and at one stage small boat owners looked to get the same treatment as commercial shipping operators when it came to washing their boats.

Major issues for New Zealand yacht clubs, according to the 2003 Club Survey, in order of priority, are:

- Decreasing memberships, attracting new members and aging memberships
- Junior/Youth memberships, attracting and retaining juniors in clubs and developing junior programmes in clubs and clear pathways/directions through classes for junior and youth sailors
- Volunteer safety/liability issues, OSH/Risk Management and MSA regulations
- Environmental issues (ie Mussel farming, dredging)
- Declining lack of volunteers and skilled Race Officials etc
- Costs of participation in the sport
- Updating/maintaining facilities and equipment in clubs

## **About retaining young sailors**

Des believes that retention of sailors through the age groups is a bigger problem than participation itself. "Loosing talent is a huge problem for all sports, there is enormous drop off," he says. "The pressure arises from the 24x7 economy, and the attractiveness of new forms of recreation and entertainment."

Yachting NZ plans to appoint six regional development officers, deployed through the country, who will be able to support local organisations within their activities, and getting people in place to support regional activities is one of the organisation's important goals.

## **Yachting has to help itself**

"The cancellation of the National Keelboat Lottery was disappointing," says Des. "Brett Bakewell-White has a huge commitment to the sport, and he has put an enormous amount of energy into this. Both YNZ and Brett have attempted to generate publicity for the project but without much success. "Yachting has to help itself a bit more. Sometimes we don't see the wood for the trees. If somebody is trying to help yachting a lot we should say 'how can we help you?'"

Des believes that clubs can play a more pivotal role in the sport's success, simply by being proactive about communication. "We don't have a database of members. We need the Clubs to pass on information to their members," he says. "This does not always happen, and people complain about communications'.

## **The marine industry needs to help yachting**

Des is disappointed by the marine industry's hesitancy to re-invest in the sport. "There was hardly any yachting industry funding in NZL32," he recalls. "It was put together by commercial sponsors – TVNZ,

Steinlager, ENZA, Toyota and Lotto and with minimal government support. We have got considerable competency in building boats in New Zealand. Since we demonstrated that we could win an America's Cup and round the world races, that has spurred an amazing amount of development in the marine industry."

"I think the industry got a lot out of the America's Cup, but there is a need to put something back. Some probably are, but in relation to what went in, the amount is very small." Realising things like winning Olympic medals is good for the sport. "It's a virtuous circle," says Des, who says he is more than happy to sit down and have a discussion about working with the marine industry to stimulate growth in that area.

## What's ahead for Yachting NZ?

In September Yachting NZ plan to move to a new office in Westhaven, at the old the West End Rowing Club, where it will sit along side the MIA (Marine Industries Association)

"The location will put us in a sailing mindset," says Des. "Our organisation has a great commitment to all types of sailing, and being alongside the industry and amongst yachts will be fantastic for YNZ."



### **Easter - April 15-17th**

**North Island Trailer Yacht Champs,  
hosted by Lake Taupo Yacht Club**

**Entries close April 8<sup>th</sup>, Cost \$60**

**For NOR & entry form, go to  
[www.ltyc.org.nz](http://www.ltyc.org.nz), click on Regattas, scroll  
down & click on NZ Trailer Sailor North  
Island Champs, then click on NOR.**

**Contact Rear Commodore Peter Roberts  
for further details -  
[iandproberts@clear.net.nz](mailto:iandproberts@clear.net.nz) or (07) 377-8544**

***Note: Champion of Champions date is  
TBA, first we need to catch up on races  
so we can actually complete some series  
to have champions of...***

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