



RICHMOND
YACHT CLUB

Plain Sailing

August 2015



FROM THE FLAG

Richmond began as an informal gathering of sailors at the Donald family boatshed in Cox's Bay in 1903 (see the article on page 17 for more). By the late 1930s the Richmond Yacht Club committee foresaw that the sailing scene in Auckland was going to forever change as a result of boating developments at Saint Mary's Bay related to the Harbour Bridge construction. By 1940, Richmond had established itself as one of the original occupants of what we now refer to as the Westhaven Marina seawall and RYC has been at the heart of the sailing scene in Auckland ever since. The building our 1940s members helped design and construct is the same we use today - 2015 is Richmond's 75th Anniversary at Westhaven!



To mark this significant milestone we will be celebrating throughout the year. Plans are developing, but be sure to set aside November 14th in your calendar for what we intend to be a party to remember. And for the more senior members: we are seeking photos and stories related to our club history to tell a story on our clubhouse walls.

While your calendar is out, mark September 19th - our 2015-16 season starts with the Spring Regatta, a classic race around Waiheke (and once one of the premier one-day regattas in Auckland!).



I am pleased that the 2015 committee is at capacity and loaded with a great mix of old and new blood. We have retained all of our 2014 members (even John!) and added 6 more. Thanks to Sin Grujicic, Sarah Michel, Douglas Campbell, Gordon Dyer, Christel Townley, and Jordan Vaughn for stepping up.

In recognition of the need to strategically approach challenges we have formed a new subcommittee. The goal of the 'Seawall' committee is to establish a strategic response to the challenges related to Richmond's future at Westhaven. Thus far we have had a few general members step up, including Josh Bargrove, Gordon Dyer, Sarah Michel, Tony McAlwee and Mike Harvey, but would appreciate enquiries from other keen members. It is true that in any

club the majority of work is done by a minority of members; however, in this case we would like the seaway committee to represent more than the vision of the current committee. Contact me for more information.

Thanks as always to our sponsors - CRC and New World Victoria Park and Birkenhead, Lidgards and the Victoria Cruising Club are our majors, and without whom we would not be able to offer the best prizes for the local racing scene. When you use the sponsors' services be sure to let them know where you're from and that their sponsorship is valued by RYC.

Bryon Wright, Commodore

EDITOR'S WELCOME

This issue of Plain Sailing has something for everyone: winter racing yarns; cruising tales from warmer climates; prizegiving glory; a touch of history; and also a quiz for general knowledge buffs.

It's great to have so many of your photos and stories in the magazine - please keep sending them in. You can email your words and pictures to: magazine@richmondyc.org.nz

Cornelia Luethi, Plain Sailing Editor

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

General and Family members

Kevin and Brigitte Lidgard (Kessell 37, *Hornblower*)

Frank Jasper (Elliott 1060, *Carpe Diem*)

Associate Members

Peter Hall

Crew Members

Nigel Goodchild

Sarah Leighton

New members are very welcome!

See the club's website or office for details.



CALENDAR & NOTICES

For the most up-to-date event information, contact the RYC office.

August	2	Sun	Winter Series Race 7
	8	Sat	SSANZ 100
	16	Sun	Winter Series Race 8
	28	Fri	Social Event: <i>Ngataki</i> or Island Cruising
	30	Sun	Winter Series Race 9 (final)
September	5	Sat	SSANZ 50
	19	Sat	Spring Regatta (Gold Cup Race 1)
	25	Fri	Social Event: Cruising Tiritiri Matangi
	30	Wed	Wednesday Night Series Race 1
October	14	Wed	Wednesday Night Series Race 2
	16	Fri	Victoria Friday Night Special Race 1
	28	Wed	Wednesday Night Series Race 3
November	1	Sun	Single Handed Race
	7	Sat	Gulf 1 Round Rangi Combined Clubs
	11	Wed	Wednesday Night Series Race 4
	13	Fri	Victoria Friday Night Special Race 2
	20	Fri	Gulf 2 Waiheke 1
	25	Wed	Wednesday Night Series Race 5
	27	Fri	Victoria Friday Night Special Race 3



**A blustery Winter
Series race.
Photo: Kate Herstell.**

AGM & PRIZEGIVING: EVELIEN VAN VLIET

The Annual General Meeting of Richmond Yacht Club was held on Friday 26 June 2015, followed by dinner and the annual prizegiving.

This year at the AGM saw the changing of the guard (or flag officers in this case). Our long-standing president Vera Mummery will continue into her 50th year, which is a great achievement and we value her input and insight into the history of the club and its current operation in today's environment. We congratulate the new flag bearers, Bryon Wright as Commodore, Andrew Burr as Vice Commodore and Tony Evans as Rear Commodore. We also welcome new committee members Doug Campbell, Christel Townley, Sinisa Grujicic, Sarah Michel, Gordon Dyer and Jordan Vaughn.

With many issues that will impact the club and waterfront area, it was agreed to put together a Members' Seawall Sub-Committee to look at the future of the club from a strategic perspective. What does the club stand for and how we want to be seen over the next 10 years? This is important so that we can be proactive in the way we respond to certain issues, hopefully be proactive rather than reactive to some of these issues. What can the club do to stay current, maintain members and be present on the seawall over the next decade?

If you are interested in being part of this Sub-Committee headed by John Davies (past-Commodore), please contact Kate at the office.

The dinner was sensational and was a chance to catch up with old friends. And the prizegiving is a way for us to celebrate our members and winners of our sailing season. This is not only for the prize winners, but a social event on our calendar: it's a good opportunity to reminisce and share stories.



The prizegiving dinner is a great opportunity to catch up with sailing friends.

There are trophies and awards, not only for series prizes, but the Centennial Cup for participation in club races, Alan Wright Trophy for club member who has shown determination and the Maurice Livingstone Cup for the member who goes the extra mile with club burgee.

Congratulations to our prizewinners! There's a full list of winners over the page.

If you didn't win a trophy this year, you can see which races and series attract silverware, and you can plan accordingly for next season!

2014-15 PRIZEGIVING RESULTS

Gulf Series

C Division

Harold Porter Cup	Round Rangitoto race	Race 1	<i>Transformer</i>
Classic Cup	Waiheke Challenge I	Race 2	<i>Prawn Broker</i>
Len Hill Trophy	Sir Peter Blake Memorial	Race 3	<i>Crocodile</i>
Dominion Paints Trophy	Mahurangi Night Race	Race 4	<i>Peppermint Planet</i>
Holdsworth Memorial Cup	Kawau Night Race	Race 5	<i>Revolution Blues</i>
Waiwera Cup	Te Kouma Race	Race 6	<i>Knighthawk</i>
William Harrison Memorial	Waiheke Challenge II	Race 7	<i>Predator</i>
Regatta Cup	Haystack Race	Race 8	<i>Transformer</i>
Bellve Cup First Series Points			<i>Predator</i>

D Division

Bill McCook Cup	Round Rangitoto race	Race 1	<i>Manxman</i>
Ivo Cup	Kawau Night Race	Race 5	<i>Crazy Legs</i>
RYC Sails and Covers Trophy	Waiheke Challenge II	Race 7	<i>Manxman</i>
RYC Trophy	First Series Points		<i>Manxman</i>

Harbour Races

Singlehanded Trophy	Singlehanded Race	C Div	<i>The Bondi Tram</i>
Singlehanded Trophy	Singlehanded Race	D Div	<i>Rock Lobster</i>
Jack Pringle Trophy	His N Hers II	C Div	<i>Oracle</i>
Sayers Cup	His N Hers II	D Div	<i>Kristina</i>
Flap Martinengo Memorial Trophy		Div A	<i>Anarchy</i>
Flap Martinengo Memorial Trophy		Div C	<i>Sigma II</i>
Flap Martinengo Memorial Trophy		Div E	<i>Hornblower</i>
Noel Muir Memorial Cup	Spring Regatta	A Div	<i>Transformer</i>
Lou Cooks Cup	Spring Regatta	Gold Cup Div	<i>Outrageous Fortune</i>
Smith Trophy	Route 66	Fully Crewed Div	<i>Truxton</i>
SSANZ Cup	Route 66	Singlehanded Div	<i>That Girl</i>
Singlehanded Trophy	Hauraki Singlehanded Series	PHRF	<i>Revolution Blues</i>
Barry Griffiths Cup	Hauraki Singlehanded	Gen Handicap	<i>Revolution Blues</i>

Special Prizes

Centennial Cup

Donated by the Donald family on the occasion of the club's centenary celebration in 2003, the committee allocates this cup for participation in club races.

This year's winner: *Predator*

Alan Wright Trophy plus the Coastal Cup

This is awarded to the club member who has shown some determination. This year's winner: the Coastal Classic Team, made up of: *Prawn Broker*, *Peppermint Planet*, *Equilibrium*, *Spearhead*

Club Champion: Noel Cole Trophy

The Noel Cole Trophy is awarded to the club member as skipper obtaining the best handicap points score for eight races listed in the club race calendar: no more than four races can count from any one series. Series included are: Winter Series, Gulf Series, Wednesday Night Series, Spring Regatta, Flap Marteningo Memorial and Harbour races.

This year's winner: *Rock Lobster*



Club Champion Andrew Macdonald of *Rock Lobster* with the Noel Cole trophy.



Rodney from *Peppermint Planet*, Margaret from *Knighthawk*, and Glen from *Oracle* receiving their trophies from Bryon, the new RYC Commodore.

More photos of the prizegiving are on the RYC Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/RichmondYachtClub>

(You don't need a Facebook account - just visit the link and you'll see the pics.)

WINTER SERIES: BY TONY EVANS

We are half way through the Winter Series and really enjoying our Sunday outings on the water. A good sized fleet this year of around 40 yachts is pleasing to see.

With varying conditions of balmy drifters to full-on blows, it sure has been a good test for the crews. We've had lots of reefing practice, seen a few spectacular spinnaker wipe outs... and had a few ourselves \$\$@!!

It's great to have a few new zippy yachts in the mix this year, with the likes of *RnB* and *Titanium* showing some good pace around the track.

The after-race dos at the clubhouse have been lovely, with beaut spot prizes and a good number of crews coming up to share the day's stories. So come on back to the club and see if you can score a handy Lidgards voucher or a bottle of Mount Gay!

Remember, the last race on 30th August has an early start at 9:30am-ish, with a longer harbour course. Stock up on the Mount Gay, stack the rail with your sailing buddies, and have fun!



***Transformer* in a Winter Series race.**

Photo: Sarah Michel.



Winter Series racing. Photo: Kate Herstell.

Thank you to our sponsors and especially John Davies, who has given up his own on-the-water winter racing to run the start tower for our club.

The *Predator* crew is already talking up summer's arrival – epic Wednesday racing, weekends away, swimming, icy cold beers... not long now, can't wait!

SUMMER RACING PREVIEW

2015-16 Victoria Friday Night Special

One of the great things about the Auckland climate is that our winters are wonderfully short. So while it's cold right now, summer is just around the corner... which means summer sailing!

The Victoria Friday Night Special starts on 16 October. This is the ideal way for those new to sailing - or those who want to crew on all sorts of different points - to clock up a few sea miles, and have fun doing so.

The Friday Night Special has earned a great reputation and is increasingly popular each year, with new people signing up, as well as repeat crew members wanting to re-join.

If you'd like to crew in the Victoria Friday Night Special, contact the office now to book your place. The series will be advertised externally soon, and the spots fill up quickly, so confirm your place now with Kate in the RYC office.

Wednesday Night Series 2015-16

30 September is the date to put in your diary for the first Wednesday Night Series race.



**Summer racing is a-coming! Put the dates in your diary now:
30 September is the first Wednesday Night Race, and 16 October is the first
Friday Night Special. Photo: Cornelia Luethi.**

FLAP MARTINENGO

Richmond Yacht Club ran the Flap Martinengo memorial race on 12 June 2015. Flap Martinengo was the father of current-day RYC member, Toni Wood, who participated in this year's memorial race. Here's what Toni says...

Thank you, Richmond Yacht Club, for still staging my father's memorial race. 28 years after his passing it is wonderful to reminisce and talk over old stories with old friends.

These days we own *Special Lady* in Gulf Harbour, so when Lyn (used to be Kessell) asked us out on *Activator* we jumped at the chance. It was great to have a ride on *Activator*, even though it was gusting 40 knots. *Activator* handled the conditions really well, it the fastest rounding I have ever done.



Toni Wood enjoying her father's memorial race on *Activator*. Photo: Paul Stubbs for Doyle Sails.

About Flap...

Basically, Dad won almost everything; I have the stats to prove it. *Namu* punched way above her weight often beating the Squaddy A Division. And this was back in the days where the feel of a yacht and positioning on the racetrack was not aided by electronics, and the success wasn't measured by the size of the bank account.

In his earlier years, he owned a Mullet boat called *Tamariki*. In one series, he got the gun for every race in the 27-race series. He has his name on the Lipton cup 3 times, I think. Dad also had a lot to do with the early Wednesday Night Racing.

There was very serious competition between Dad and Beau Birdsall (*Rhubarb*), Jim Young (*Notre Dame*), Darcy Whiting (*Tequila*) and Jan Kessell (*Hornblower*). Gin was always the wager.

Dad was the Custodian of Westhaven for 21 years. He had a lot of pressure as there was a certain amount of bribery involved in getting berths and people would bring gin to him under the table but he would get annoyed and he would give the bottles back. He worked hard and claimed the responsibility brought on his heart attacks; it was an all-hours job as 2 people used to run the whole marina and also haul all the boats.

Dad enjoyed being there because of his friends and overseas sailors - they

BY TONI WOOD (NÉE MARTINENGO)

used to be able to stay at Westhaven in those days. On the weekends after races it was very social. People would rather come over to the custodian's place to drink and talk - it was a great place for me to grow up as a kid.

Of course anytime he lost to Jim Young, Beau Birdsall or D'Arcy Whiting, a crowd would come over to laugh and gloat.

About Namu

Flap Martinengo was the original owner of Namu, a boat designed by Jim Young in 1968.

"In the hands of Martinengo, Namu was an immediate success - so much so that he commonly beat boats up to 10 feet longer. Following this success, Jim Young received many orders for other boats which he decided to market overseas as the NZ37. All told 30 boats were built." - Bill Endean, in the book 'Classic New Zealand Yachts'.

How did Flap get his name?

"Flap's real name was Olaf Philip Martinengo and he was of Italian descent, his grandfather was full Italian and he talked of a Count Martinengo which may have been him. He got his nickname (he was called Flingo at school) when he was riding three-up with his mates on a bicycle down Symonds Street when the forks broke and they all fell off, Flingo flying out with his arms outstretched further than the rest; so they named him Flap after that." - Jim Young, in an article from the November 1986 issue of 'Sea Spray' magazine.



This is the view most competitors got of *Namu*; her transom! Inset: Flap Martinengo. Photo: from the book 'Lee Rail' by Harold Kidd and Robin Elliott.



Anarchy racing (and winning their division) in the 2015 Flap Martinengo Memorial Race. Photo: Paul Stubbs for Doyle Sails.

RYC MEMBERS AND THEIR BOATS

Heather and Nick Gaites: 34' Don Senior Reacher, *Maestro*

Nick and Heather's yacht adventure started with a Christmas present in 2011 that rekindled Nick's passion for sailing. He had raced since age 14 in the Isle of Mann, crewing on a Sigma 33 offshore one design.

In 2012, Nick put his name out there on the crew.org.nz website and became part of the winning *Fineline* team for the Wednesday Night Series. He then encouraged Heather to have a go, starting on the Victoria Friday Night Special, then a Penny Whiting course. That's when Nick pounced to purchase the 2013 Christmas present - *Maestro*.



Heather and Nick Gaites, with Joshua (9), Isaac (5) and Finloe (3) who sail on *Maestro*, a 34' Don Senior Reacher.

Having read to try to never take a 2-year old on a yacht, the first job was to fully 'fence' the boat, and ensure Nick could sail it by himself with as little help from Heather, as her primary job is to stop Finloe from trying to swim with the fish.

Isaac loves helping pulling in the halyards and sheets, but they are still yet to convince Joshua that the boat will not sink!

In any spare time he has, Nick is building a Jollyboat sailing dinghy that he hopes to race, and Heather is the current Treasurer of RYC.



Last Christmas they just had some great family sailing times enjoying it!

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR PRIZE!

All season you have endured the bitter cold and frosty winds of Richmond winter racing, hoping to achieve yachting glory. Some days there are moments of triumph and on others only memories of missed opportunities.

Depending on the day you either trudge or skip your way to the club to await the results to be formally cast upon you. To smooth the way regardless of the day, we have sponsors who either provide some consolation or an added bonus to your day's efforts.

Lidgard Sails, a consistent supporter of the club, provides vouchers to be used on your sail needs.

So we asked the boys at Lidgard's how do we make the most of the prizes provided?

Lewis says, "Racing takes a toll on your boat and its sails: when racing you're likely to push it harder than you would at any other time. As a result things break, sails stretch, and, in the worst case, rip."

So using a voucher for repairs is obvious: if it's broke; fix it.

"Just because a sail is in one piece doesn't mean it's performing. The shape of the sail is critical and it will move during the life of the sail. To keep sails competitive, they need a tune up, and we're more than happy to go sailing with anyone who has a query about their sail's shape," says Lewis.

So if you have a voucher get the boys on board to give you a hand when your short and ask if they can check out your sails, with a quick nip and tuck it may be the difference that pushes you up the leader board.

If it's been particularly hard season, or you have a big race like the Coastal Classic coming up and you feel the need to reward yourself with some new sails, then you can always put your vouchers towards good use there also. There are some amazing new products available that perform in ways you wouldn't believe which are worth enquiring about if simply out of curiosity.

If all else fails and you simply want to look snazzy, then ask the boys about customised crew shirts or softshell jackets. They'll design some for your boat and crew so you look unique amongst a crowd.

Lidgard Sails, they're good buggers, making great sails.



GREEK HOLIDAY

Gordon Dyer (*Apparition*) and his partner, Sarah Townsend, recently enjoyed a yacht charter in Greece...

Having previously worked 3 years in Greece on charter flotilla and skippered bareboats back in the 1980s, I had a fair idea what to expect.

We chose the Cyclades Islands in the central Aegean, other than being one of the more remote areas of Greece, unusual architecture and barren landscapes, I had seen them when passing through on yacht deliveries.



Ancient Kastro.

When I once stopped over in Mykonos as a young bloke, I had been totally impressed on a cab ride when the driver stopped his taxi; paused the fare; popped into a bar and came out with a fresh Pina Colada with all the trimmings, placed it into his custom cocktail glass holder (car cup holders had not been invented back then) before continuing. (They still have a similar approach to their economy today.) I knew back then I had to investigate the islands further someday.

We chose mid-June, which is just out of high season and avoids the higher costs and bulk tourists. It also avoids the ridiculously high temperatures and the Meltemi wind from the north, which can blow 30+ knots - day and night - for a week plus at a time.

We chartered a 2001 model Beneteau 393 - expecting a bus - and it was a bus. To get some work room in the aft cabins, all these charter boats have a very high cockpit, noticeably high above the tipping point... like a bus I guess... but had everything we needed in a floating caravan, including an in-mast roll-up main,

plus a very healthy 4-cylinder Yanmar for those occasions when the wind was lacking or forward of 50 degrees.

This was one of the smaller boats available in this area because of the strong breeze in peak season. (Other less windy parts of Greece have 9-10m charter yachts in plentiful supply.)

After a couple of nights 'hoteling it' on a volcanic crater cliff in Santorini, we picked up *Argo* from a Greek owned and operated company called Cyclades Sailing based in Syros in the central Aegean... rather than do considerable extra distance with a pick up and return to Athens.



The 'bus' parked at Skhinousa.

We did not have a pre-planned route as there were so many options, but over the next 2 weeks we went via Naxos, Skhinousa, Amorgos, Ios, Anti-Paros, Sifnos, and a few other remote stops before returning back to base in Syros.

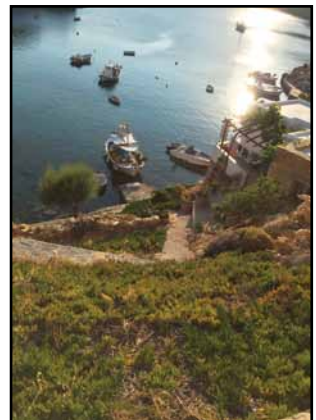
We mostly avoided larger towns (except for a few occasions of Sarah trying to kick start their economy), going for more the smaller deserted anchorages or 2 taverna kind of villages. (*Continued over the page...*)



There were lots of these on the headlands.



Preparing squid outside the taverna.



Sifnos.

GREEK HOLIDAY - *continued*

Surprisingly the RYC burgee was recognised in Amorgos by a wayward squadron member, “Guppy”, who dropped by for a beer.

All up a pretty perfect cruise: friendly locals; toasty weather; stunningly-clear, deep water; no tides; interesting scenery with a small church or a ruin-ette on most significant headlands or mountain tops; goats, donkeys, dolphins and roosters; picturesque villages; stunning vistas and an abundance of well-priced restaurants; exotic shopping for those inclined that way; and lots of natural and man-made harbours to park up in.



Sarah and Gordon.

On finishing the charter, we flew to Athens on a Saturday 27th June and did a bus tour around the city and a bit of a wander-around. We arrived back in Syntagma Square as the police were beginning to kit up in their riot gear and caught a cab to the airport and flew out (give me the islands any day over Athens).

The proverbial hit the fan that night and the banks were closed on Monday. My heart goes out to the ordinary Greeks who did not have a hand in bringing on the current situation, but are about to go through some seriously turbulent times before they get sorted again. However, I am looking forward to going back before long.



HOW RICHMOND YACHT CLUB BEGAN...

Colin Clare had the article below in his possession, but he does not know who the author is. Do you know who may have written this? Drop us a line if so - ed.

Richmond Yacht Club came about through the vision of Jim Donald, who was my grandfather. This is how it happened, as told by my uncles and mother...

Jim's father was Alexander Donald and his mother Martha Donald. Alexander's property was between Cox's Creek, Richmond Road and Queen Street, which is now named Regina Street. This is where he had "Donald's Fellmongery and Tannery". Jim, along with his brothers, worked with their father in this business.



Jim Donald.

Alexander, being a family man, had a dinghy built for his sons. While out sailing this dinghy, the thought came to Jim Donald to start a yacht club.

In the first race he came first and also last, as he was the only boat in it. Over the years, along with other mates, it became a reality and a name was required.

Jim's father, Alexander, was involved in the Borough politics, where he was elected in 1887 to represent Richmond Ward. He went on to serve as Grey Lynn's major from 1903 until amalgamation with the Auckland City in 1914.



The first RYC club house: Jim Donald's shed at Rawene Ave.

Photo: 'Lee Rail: A Centennial History of the Richmond Yacht Club 1903-2003' by Harold Kidd and Robin Elliott.

Thus Jim's mother called herself 'Martha Donald of Richmond', and his father was Mayor of Richmond. This brought about the decision to name the yacht club as 'Richmond'.

Jim Donald was a member of Auckland City Council, and in his office had much to do with facilities such as Auckland Zoo, West End Tennis Club and the starting up of Westhaven Marina. Jim died in 1941.



BITS AND BOBS: FROM THE OFFICE

RYC burgees: RYC burgees for your boat are just \$20 from the office.

Free RYC stickers: Car bumper stickers or decals for the transom of your boat are free for RYC members, just pop into the office and ask.

Racing flags: Division flags of all colours are available from the RYC office - free for members.

Function bookings: RYC clubrooms are a wonderful function venue, complete with top quality audio-visual systems and plenty of free car parking... ideal for seminars, corporate training events, weddings and other celebrations. Best of all, the million dollar views come for free! Ask for more info at the office.

Thanks to all of our great sponsors that help us put on our racing!



Are you organising an event?

Richmond Yacht Club offers great venue hire with spectacular views of the Harbour and Bridge.

The club is ideal for weddings, parties and 21sts, and it's also the perfect venue for seminars, corporate training events and off site meetings.

Included in the venue hire:

- Use of tables and chairs
- Dance floor
- DVD player
- Wireless microphone system
- White board, projector and screens
- Plenty of free parking for your guests.

The perfect backdrop for your event, day or night...



Hint: As a member of RYC, you are entitled to a significant discount!

More info can be found on the website or by calling the office (**09 376 4332**).

BEAN ROCK QUIZ

Bean Rock lighthouse is a familiar landmark racing and cruising on the harbour - but how much do you really know about it?

Test your general knowledge here - and impress any overseas visitors with your local knowledge!

Q: When was the lighthouse lamp officially lit for the first time?

A: 24 July 1871.

Q: How many other wooden cottage lighthouses are there in New Zealand?

A: None - Bean Rock is the only remaining wooden cottage lighthouse in the country. (And one of only a few remaining worldwide.)

Q: How did the name Bean Rock come about?

A: The rock is named after a Royal Navy officer, Lieutenant PCD Bean, who helped to survey and chart the Waitemata Harbour on HMS Herald in the 1940s.

Q: Who designed the lighthouse?

A: The early design is associated with James Balfour, a marine engineer, but he drowned before his plans were completed. The eventual design work was undertaken by James Stewart, who incorporated many of James Balfour's design features.

Q: How much did it cost to build Bean Rock lighthouse?

A: £3,000 (that's British Pounds - we didn't have the NZ dollar back then) - by building contractor William Cameron and his crew. It was a difficult and dangerous work site, but fortunately there were mishaps.

Q: In which year was the lighthouse automated?

A: Bean Rock lighthouse was automated in 1912. Until then, it was inhabited by lighthouse keepers and their families.

Q: What were the living quarters like in the lighthouse?

A: There are 4 small rooms and a narrow hexagonal verandah. The interior had a living room with a table and 4 chairs, a sofa, and adjoining was a small kitchen with a coal stove, and pantry shelves, and a small bench with a sink. The toilet was off one corner, but there was no bathroom. The rest of the house was the bedroom off the opposite end of the living room. Beside the bed on the wall was a small glass window that acted like a periscope, enabling a person to see from his bed if the light was burning all right.

Q: How is the lighthouse beacon powered these day?

A: Bean Rock lighthouse now runs on solar power; it was converted in the mid 1990s, and also synchronised with an automatic foghorn.

Q: What is Maori name for Bean Rock?

A: The rock upon which the lighthouse stands is Te Toka a Kapetaua. Legend says that it is associated with the Waiohau and Ngati Paoa ancestor, Kapetaua, who was marooned on the rock by his brother-in-law, Taramokomoko.

Q: Is the lighthouse open to visitors?

A: No, as it is a working lighthouse, it's not open to the public.

Q: What colour light is on Bean Rock, and how often does it flash?

A: There is a red flashing light with a period of 8 seconds (and a range of 11 miles).

Q: In which year was the nowcasting station originally installed on Bean Rock?

A: Auckland Coastguard and the New Zealand Meteorological Service commissioned the design and installation of the nowcasting system. It was installed in December 1992 at Bean Rock (together with Tiri Tiri Matangi and Passage Rock).



For more details about Bean Rock - including some great descriptions of the renovation work it's had - see this article on the Lighthouse Digest website: <http://www.lighthousedigest.com/digest/StoryPage.cfm?StoryKey=1230>

BOOKS: BY CORNELIA LUETHI

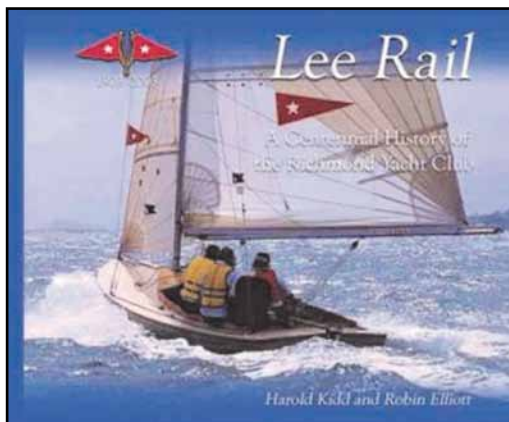
It's Richmond Yacht Club's 75th anniversary at Westhaven - though the club itself has around for far longer than that: the beginnings date back to 1903. (That's 112 years all up.)

I've been racing with RYC for 12 years; what's always drawn me to the club is that the racing is fun and friendly, and it's put together by a team that work really hard to make it a good experience for everyone. That ethos is nothing new at RYC; it's been around since the club's beginnings.

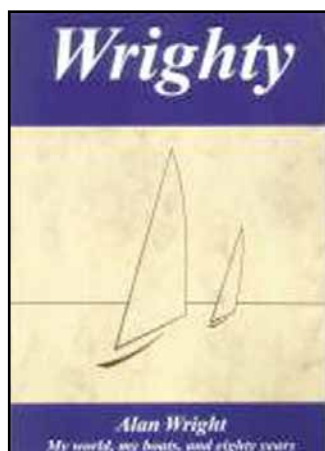
If you like a good sailing yarn, then get yourself a copy of 'Lee Rail: A Centennial History of the Richmond Yacht Club 1903 - 2003'.

It's \$30 from the RYC office, and it's packed with stories from the people involved with the club, as well as photos and write-ups of key boats and classes over the years.

Get yourself a copy - it's great reading material, especially for these cold, dark, winter evenings!



And there's more...



There are signed copies of books from well-known NZ yacht designer Alan Wright at the RYC office. Books are \$40 each; stocks are limited.



If you're not into reading history books, there's always the option to read this... copies are \$25 from the RYC office (or download the iPhone and Android app).

CLUB INFORMATION

Officers

President	Vera Mummery	<i>Nevenka</i>
Commodore	Bryon Wright	<i>Revolution Blues</i>
Vice Commodore	Andrew Burr	
Rear Commodore	Tony Evans	<i>Grenada and Predator</i>
Treasurer	Heather Gaites	<i>Maestro</i>
Secretary	Evelien van Vliet	<i>Morning Star</i>
Club Manager	Tim Smedley	
Building Manager	Andrew Burr	

General Committee

John Davies	<i>Crocodile</i>
Doug Campbell	<i>Yotasaurus</i>
Christel Townley	
Sinisa Grujicic	<i>Wild</i>
Fleur Cox	
Tim Smedley	
Peter Locke	<i>The Bondi Tram</i>
Mark Becroft	<i>Maggie May</i>
Andrew Hall	<i>Unitec II</i>
Sarah Michel	
Gordon Dyer	<i>Apparition</i>
Jordan Vaughn	<i>Pukeko</i>

Office Hours

Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 3pm

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COVER PHOTOS: Front: *Anarchy* in the Flap Martinengo Memorial Race (photo: Paul Stubbs for Doyle Sails). Back: Winter Series Racing (photo: Kate Herstell).



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