



RICHMOND
YACHT CLUB

Plain Sailing

May 2014



FROM THE FLAG

By the time you read this, daylight saving will be off-line for the next six months but the Flag will still be flying over winter.

Another successful Original Wednesday Night Series has concluded – thanks to all of you who raced and contributed to its success. Please accept my apologies for the series results glitches (unbeknownst to us the software got wobbly with two abandoned races; it has now been modified).

The Winter Series racing starts in May so you have a bit of down time to get to fix the boat, get a crew and get your entries in! The Friday Night Special learn to race/sail series was fully subscribed and I believe there are a few more boat owners out there! As the aim of the FNS is to get new people into racing so that is a successful outcome. Well done to the crews and skippers.

The Destination Series has resulted in some absolutely awesome weekends on the Gulf, which really is why we live here. Some races have been poorly attended, which is a pity and we will try to rectify that. Please feel free to offer suggestions or alternatives so we can get participation up to the level this series (and the beautiful Gulf) deserves.

The Route 66 started nine years ago – Hans (*Transformer*), Kevin (*Prawn Broker*) and Peter (*Nevenka*) trail blazed as the first fleet in 2006. This year the Richmond/Onerahi collaboration hit 49 entrants – clearly next year's target is to break the 50 barrier and cement this as an iconic Gulf race. Many thanks to Lombardini and Coolstore Construction who have been consistent sponsors; this really helps in managing the event.

The Committee has made a few submissions over the past few months (life jackets, Waterfront and Council issues). The pedestrian link down Westhaven Drive is nearing completion and X Pier changes are imminent. If anyone has any related issues we urge you to make a personal submission, or to contact the Committee if you have any concerns.

We are very grateful to our sponsors CRC, New World Birkenhead, Victoria Cruising Club Trust, Events Clothing, Orams Marine Services, Harken/Fosters Ship Chandlery, Coolstore Construction, Burnsco, and Mount Gay Rum. Please take every opportunity to support them and use their products and services and tell them you are a Richmond member.

In closing, a warm welcome to Kate Herstell who will be running the club office and administration. Kate is also a yachting so is familiar with the sailing scene.

FROM THE FLAG: CONTINUED

I would like to thank the racing, social, bar and Committee volunteers for all their hard work over summer. We are looking for volunteers for the Committee (AGM coming up in June!) so please think about offering your services. We have a few members who are long serving and need a break!

John Davies
Commodore



Editor's note

Wow, thank you for all the great magazine contributions you've sent in! I love receiving all your stories: after all, this is *your* magazine.

Sending contributions is easy! Short articles are great: it only takes half a page of A4 to fill an entire page in the magazine, so a few paragraphs are ideal as it means I can squeeze more stories into the magazine.

Please do send me your photos, too: stories are wonderful but it's the pictures that really bring the magazine to life. Big file sizes and nice clear, sharp photos are best. Just email me at: magazine@richmondyc.org.nz

On a sailing note, I'm sad that another summer season of racing (and cruising) has finished... It's time to dig out the thermals for what's sure to be a great winter season.

Happy sailing,

Cornelia Luethi, Plain Sailing Editor



FX crew (Minnie the dog, Grant and Cornelia, your magazine editor) head out to welcome the Round North Island fleet back to Auckland.

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



CALENDAR & NOTICES

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

May	11	Sun	Winter Series Race 1
	25	Sun	Winter Series Race 2
June	8	Sun	Winter Series Race 3
	22	Sun	Winter Series Race 4
	27	Fri	AGM and Annual Prizegiving/Dinner
July	6	Sun	Winter Series Race 5
	12	Sat	SSANZ Triple Series - Race 1
	20	Sun	Winter Series Race 6
August	3	Sun	Winter Series Race 7
	9	Sat	SSANZ Triple Series - Race 2
	17	Sun	Winter Series Race 8
	31	Sun	Winter Series Race 9 (Final)

Welcome to our new members:

General and Family members:

Scott Elliott (Simonis Far East 18, *Far East*), Gareth Jackson (Chico 30, *Chubasco*), Andrew McDonald (Stratus 747, *Rock Lobster*).

Crew members:

Daniel Robinson, Martina Perez Casjuana.

AGM and Annual Prizegiving/Dinner

The Annual General Meeting of Richmond Yacht Club will be held on Friday 27th June 2014 at 1830 hours at the club. Presentation of club reports will be followed by the election of officers and committee for the 2014-2015 year. All members are urged to attend.

Notices of general business must be in the hands of the secretary by the 28th day prior to the meeting.

Any member who would like to offer their services as a committee member, please contact Kate in the office for a nomination form.

The AGM will be followed by dinner and the annual prizegiving. If you have raced in the Flap Martinengo, Destination Series, or Harbour races (Single-handed, His 'n' Hers races and Closing Day) you will be in the draw for a lift-out and hard stand at Orams Marine - you must be at the prizegiving to claim the prize.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: MARGARET HARVEY

Twelve races from early October to late March make up the flagship series of the club which has been running for over 40 years.

116 different boats raced this season, with between 70 and 80 each race day.

On a positive note there is nothing more spectacular than sending the fleet down the harbour under spinnaker.

This year proved one of our more challenging series. Most nights we had wind challenges of the “not enough” variety. On nights like this we are very fortunate to have the services of *Taipan*. We are indebted to them for the finishes when we need to shorten the course. Thanks Roger, Bill and crew. One night where we had a good steady breeze four divisions were abandoned because a buoy had gone AWOL. This same buoy was missing again later in the series, hampering course choice.

Our thanks also go to the tower crew, Vera, Bob, Lesley, Sue, David and Linda, the caterers Jo and Tracey and Tim in the bar. We also extend our thanks to the club sponsors, please support them.

Most of all thanks to the competitors: your participation is what makes the series a success. We look forward to seeing you all in October 2014.



Conditions were rather fresh in the last race of the series, as demonstrated by this Magic 25.



Racing throughout the series has been close - with exciting tussles on line as well as handicap.

Photos: LiveSailDie.com / LSD Media... thank you for letting us use your pics! If you're interested in local and international sailing news, videos, boat reviews or weather, check out the LSD website (<http://livesaildie.com>) and Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/livesaildie.official>).

FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIAL

About the Victoria Friday Night Special

The Victoria Friday Night Special provides an opportunity for people with little or no sailing experience to race on keel boats in summer around the buoys on the beautiful Waitemata Harbour in a supportive, low-key environment.

Each race you are allocated to a different boat, and after the race there is a social evening for participants in the RYC clubrooms with the bar open and a meal available.

Evelien van Vliet asked two crew members about their sailing experiences...



From Phil Mellar:

As someone who grew up holidaying at the beach and loves being on the water, I've often considered one day buying a cruising yacht to enjoy our fantastic coastline. I spent a lot of time sailing the family dinghy in my younger years but had only sailed aboard larger yachts a handful of times. Those times were highly enjoyable and relaxing and only fuelled my desire for more.

Being someone that likes to be prepared I really needed to learn how to sail keelers before I spent too much time looking at the "yachts for sale" section of TradeMe.

Fortunately a friend of mine is an active member of the Richmond Yacht Club and let me know about the Friday Night Special series... something that sounded ideal for someone in my situation. The ability to crew with different skippers on different yachts was invaluable. There was a full cross-section of personalities: from the casual "you can helm, I try to avoid it" to the more focussed "we're here to win, not just for fun".

I thoroughly enjoyed learning some of the basics of keeler racing and the teamwork required. It was also great to learn what was common no matter which boat I was aboard and what was unique to different boats and skippers.

I found myself looking forward to each race and other than the lack of wind on the last night they did not disappoint. And what a first-world problem that lack of wind was... sitting aboard a beautiful boat with great people, having a beer, enjoying the view but cruising backwards as the tide was stronger than the wind.

Maybe it's nearly time to start that search of TradeMe...

A VIEW FROM THE CREW

From Dagmar Bellamy:

The Friday Night Specials have been an excellent initiative and a great introduction for myself, and many others to experience sailing, on a wide variety of boats, and to meet other club members.

With the club organising the allocation of crew to boats the day before, it means there's a great balance of those new to sailing and some with more experience on board. It's also an opportunity for "newbies" to learn from different owners and team mates, as well as have the opportunity to familiarise ourselves with different yacht designs and layouts.

We meet up for each Friday race at 5.30 at the boat. We first start with a "meet and greet" (where the crew introduce themselves and share their sailing backgrounds); we have a safety briefing and go through the drill; then get the boat ready, before we head into the harbour to hoist sails and get in position for the start.

The Friday Night Specials are "no extras", i.e. no spinnakers or gennakers. This means we just focus on learning the important basics which also make it a lot easier for the owner, and potentially less stressful!

For the last race of the Specials season all crews were challenged to hoist/drop sails, to get a feel for racing conditions. A great experience for many of us!

Once back in the marina, we usually have a short debrief on the evening (often over well-earned refreshments), then it's up to the club for food and the topic of the night. These have ranged from sail folding, knot tying, sail trimming to the pre-race flags and sequence.

None of this would happen without the generosity of the boat owners who take us out, and the team at the Richmond who do all the administration, crew coordination and man the race tower.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your effort in making these events in the sailing calendar such a success and a very special way to spend a Friday evening!



The Valentine's Day edition of the Friday Night Special.

DESTINATION SERIES



The Destination Series is a great way to enjoy beautiful scenery and good company after a yacht race. Bliss!

It's been an interesting year for the Destination Series. Some races were well attended, others were not. With the odd stalwart out for repairs it's been good to see some new boats joining. A surprising number of people come along for the beach BBQ (but don't race). What has not changed is the fantastic times had, the beautiful scenery, and the camaraderie enjoyed by those that come.

Mahurangi Night Race

It was a lovely night run to Mahurangi under kite to Whangaparaoa, and then a reach into the Harbour. *Prawn Broker* took line with *Crocodile*, *Wishbone*, and *Prawn Broker* taking the podium. Marked the return of Chris on *Echelon* and (correct me if I'm wrong) first destination race for Peter and wife on *Bondi Tram* and for Tony on *Grenada*, but probably last race given *Predator* has splashed!

Kawau Night Race

Heavy weather limited the entrants but it meant that all that started ended up on the podium! *Peppermint Planet* took the gun and *Echelon* took the handicap win. *Revolution Blues* survived the singlehanded race down, with a family waiting at Sandspit. In Div D *Chain Reaction* took line and the handicap win. The weather blew over Friday night and the Island was hopping with a Jazz Festival in full swing on Saturday at Mansionhouse Bay.

Inner Gulf 1

Confusion reigned at the start with a Squadron race in full swing at the same time. Nonetheless, four boats got off and ended up on a balcony at Waiheke for

the BBQ; you never know where the destination series will take you! *Peppermint Planet* took the gun and third on handicap; new destination series boat *Apparition* won on handicap; with *Crocodile* second. Thanks, *Apparition*, for hosting the BBQ!

Waiheke Challenge 2

This race always seems to head out in a strong SW and ends in a dying breeze as you round into the Waiheke Channel. This time was no different: tight kites across the Harbour and through the Tamaki straight. The PYBC two-handed, three-legged race was rescheduled and had the same course so there was lots of company for the finishers. *Prawn Broker* took the line and handicap double, new destination series boat *Zilch* was second and *Revolution Blues* was third. *Oracle* took the solo win in the D div. After a day swimming and diving all boats and a surprising number of tag-alongs met up at the (not-so) secret spot for the beach BBQ on Rotoroa. With kids playing on the beach, adults laughing it up, and gloaming to die for, it's a wonder we don't see more boats out!

Inner Gulf 2

More of that Squadron silliness at the start (Commodore's cup? Move it along!) but Evelien got the boats off to what eventuated as one of the more interesting race results to date. Five boats finished the proper course, three chose their own course, a boat that never pulls out DNF'd and one boat finished the race even though it wasn't racing! Nonetheless, all get a shot at the prizes and glory that is the beach BBQ. And the real event on the day was the Issy Bay beach cleanup (see other article) so all was right in the end.



ROUTE 66: BY BRYON WRIGHT



49 boats floating around waiting for breeze. Photo: Sarah Michel.

How to call a start? One hour before the start of the 2014 Route 66 there was a hint of wind blowing at Westhaven. Enough to start in for sure! However, the wind was all but gone by the time one wandered up to North Head. The last thing the race officers wanted was to have the fleet anchored against an adverse tide. Call made: delay, start at Narrow Neck at 11.

A few adventurous boats decided to sail up and barely made it. Given they were the fast boats in the fleet the call was a good one. Most had a laugh to see the fastest boat on the day, *Ninja*, being towed out by the über-tender *Sumo*. I'm told they had an auxiliary motor on board so put away your red flags.

The new start time came and went with building wisps of breeze. After a short delay the race started in a lovely 5-10 knot NE that lasted till sunset and an equally pleasant NW kicked in on cue to finish the fleet. While some boats like a fresh breeze, it's hard to complain about spending a lovely day racing up the coast with a bottle of rum waiting for you - and your mates to help enjoy it.

This year there were a record number of entrants - 49 - with 25 in the open keeler division, 7 multihulls, and an impressive 17 singlehanders!

Line honours were taken by *Ninja* in 7:37:05; first mono to finish was *Lawless* at 10:36:54. First singlehander was Chris Binning on *Heaven 'n' Hell* at 12:58:46. On handicap *Lawless* took the double, with *R 'n' B* and *Urban Cowboy* to follow. Multihull honours were taken by *Pulse XTC*, followed by *Ninja* and *Voom*. *Heaven 'n' Hell* took the double win for the singlehanders, followed by Nigel Chandler on *John Barleycorn* and Glen Jeffery on *Oracle*. Last boat in was singlehander Trish Lewis on *Wishbone*.

The race and prizegiving was well supported by Lombardini Marine, Marsden Cove Marina and Coolstore Construction. Many thanks to Onerahi YC for putting on a wonderful breakfast and making the finish so memorable. We had numerous comments about how fantastic it is to finish a race and be shepherded into a lovely marina and to have a crew tie you up and hand you a bag of goodies for the effort.

ORACLE'S ROUTE 66: BY GLEN JEFFERY

We decided to get back into racing on *Oracle* this year but without the expense of Cat 3 or PHRF, as money was in short supply after finishing the build of our house. The Route 66 fits in here nicely as a coastal race at about the maximum length you could safely do solo.

So that was the challenge to make the race up to Whangarei solo (66nm). The boat is well proven with good systems onboard after racing around the North Island two-handed in 2008.

The forecast was for light northerlies: too light, in fact, and the start was delayed by 2 hours. Lucky for me as I had forgotten my contact lenses, so a quick trip home on the motorbike and back to the boat. Had an average start after being a little too far away from the line at the warning signal; never mind I like playing catch up. The breeze came in at 6kn from the north and stayed like that all afternoon. Almost had a lay through to Tiritiri, staying into the bays out of the tide. I passed quite a few boats that had tacked out earlier. I started to see what other solo boats were around: I had passed *Wild Oats* earlier but could see two Y88s ahead, so gave chase. After another few tacks getting out around Kawau, I could see the leading Y88 was *Heaven 'n' Hell*. This fired me up as I knew he won this race solo last year. I played the shifts as best as I could, looking for breeze all the time as it was mostly still around 6-8 knots on the nose. Boat speed was around 6 knots. Got around Takatu Point with breeze up to 9kn and boat speed 6.8 upwind, VMG around 5.1. As the evening came on, the breeze started to die; 25nm to go I hoped the breeze would hold to the finish. Still tacking up in Bream Bay and staying just inside the rum line as I was expecting the breeze to move around and free up the angle a bit. Shortly after my bacon and egg pie dinner, the breeze did swing around and built to around 10kn. Beam reaching to Marsden Cove making 7.8kn with 16nm to go at 2040. Still above the rum line, the breeze lightened off and I'm sure I could see *Heaven 'n' Hell's* nav lights behind me.

I figured I needed to get on the rum line to then go up the channel into Whangarei harbour, so 5nm out I bear away and hoist the small kite heading for the outer harbour mark, planning once there to drop the kite, tighten up and sail the last mile to the finish. Good in theory but *Heaven 'n' Hell* left hoisting his kite to about 2-3 miles later than me and cut in across the shallow banks and straight to the finish, eventually beating me by 4 minutes at around 2430. So after about 13 hours racing I get beaten to first in the solo race by 4 minutes.

I was 3rd on handicap and got a bottle of rum for my efforts. Thanks to RYC and Onerahi for organising this again, it's a fantastic race. Thanks also to my crew for driving up and helping deliver the boat home.

NESPRESSO YOUTH REGATTA

RYC promotes sailing at all levels, above and beyond our own events. From time to time the club supports members competing in other contests; such requests for support are considered on a case by case basis. We're pleased to have recently supported RYC member Carey Shelley. Here's a lovely thank-you letter the club received from him and his crew:

To Richmond Yacht Club

Thank you for your great support in the Nespresso Youth International Regatta held at the Royal NZ Yacht Squadron on 12-16 February 2014 in Elliott 7s. Without your help we could not have competed in this regatta.

Our team consisted of Carey Shelley (skipper from *Zilch*, the Stratus 747), Holly Hamlin (main), Logan Anderson (trimmer) and Josh Wijohn (Bowman). The latter 3 being trainees on the Elliott 7.

There were 11 teams competing: 3 from Australia, 1 from USA and 7 Kiwi teams. We had some great challenging racing throughout the regatta and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

For the first day of racing the breeze peaked at 25 knots, but thankfully eased each day throughout the week. We were the lightest crew so the dying wind conditions suited us well. The level of competition was very demanding, pushing us to perform our best. Overall we placed 7th, which we were all happy with as it was our first regatta together as a team.

We appreciate the financial support you provided and wore our supplied RYC polo shirts with pride. These mementos will remain with us as reminders of the club's generosity and commitment. We look forward to competing in future regattas together with your support.

Thank you! - From Carey Shelly, Logan Anderson, Holly Hamlin, and Josh Wijohn.



Left to right: Logan, Holly, Carey and Josh.



The Nespresso Youth International Regatta in action.

ROUND NORTH ISLAND TWO-HANDED

Father-and-son duo Gareth and Nick Wells represented RYC in the SSANZ Round North Island two-handed race in February in their Townson 32, *Wandering Star*. Cornelia Luethi interviewed Gareth to see how it went for them...

How did you prepare for the race?

Even though the boat was Cat 1 in 2004 and already had Cat 3, the preparation was still quite daunting. There was a lot of paperwork to do - and insurance was a bit of an issue, plus I had to refresh my Sea Survival Course.

What was the highlight of the race for you?

Coming into Wellington was a real highlight. You have so many expectations of what it'll be like, but we arrived in absolutely perfect conditions. There was a beautiful breeze of less than ten knots, flat sea and sun. We also had very close finishes on three legs of the race; we weren't expecting that, and we had a lot of fun racing against *Assassin*, *Cool Change* and *Duty Free*.

What was the worst part of the race?

Coming up the East Coast, from Palliser to East Cape. We were constantly on the wind the whole time, and the leg just went on. The conditions weren't extreme but uncomfortable. We were doing well in the race until we left East Cape for the Mercs; my decision to pull in to sort an overheating problem ended our chances.

How do you feel about the race with the benefit of hindsight?

I wish we'd had our electronics sorted out properly. We didn't have an SSB radio, and we couldn't tell where we were in the fleet. That made the tactics very hard.

What advice would you give to people considering this race?

I think it's important to have some experience for this kind of race. I find coastal racing harder than offshore sailing. With inshore racing, you have to worry about dangerous obstacles and currents, and the sea state is actually worse around the coast. I think it's good that SSANZ ask for experience.

***Wandering Star's* race results:**

Here's how they placed in their division:

Leg 1: 3rd on handicap. Leg 2: 3rd on

handicap. Leg 3: 2nd on handicap.

Leg 4: 7th on handicap. Overall in

division: 4th on handicap.



Gareth and Nick looking relaxed at the Wellington stopover.

BIKE RUN SAIL: BY KATALIN CSIKASZ

Bike Run Sail Adventure Fun Day

Six teams took part in the Adventure Fun Day on 22 February 2014: *Crocodile, Fast Company, Grenada, Higher Ground, Manawa and Revolution Blues.*

It was a 6am bike start to cycle the 51km from Avondale to Huia and back to Avondale again, followed by an 11km relay run to Westhaven. There the teams joined their yacht crew, and raced for 2-3 hours, and then the prizegiving was held at RYC.

The event was a massive success, as well as a lot of fun, and we collected \$459 of donations for Totara Hospice South Auckland.

Fast Company won on line and handicap, and it was like the good old days, sailing with the crew from 2005. What a day!

Huge thanks to Bryon Wright and John Davies from RYC for their extensive help, support and contribution.

There are plans to make the Bike Run Sail Adventure Fun Day a big yearly event, similar to the former Carson Challenge.

Right: There were great prizes! Thanks to the sponsorship from RYC, Hawkeye Cleaning and Liquorland. Organiser Katalin Csikasz is on the right, joined by *Fast Company* crew Natalie Sisson, Bianca Gordon and Brent Foster.



The teams assembling at 6am. It was a long but fun day, with 7 cyclists, 8 runners and 6 yachts taking part.



***Fast Company* won the day.**



INTRODUCING KATE HERSTELL...

Kate is RYC's new office administrator - do pop in and introduce yourself. You'll soon discover that Kate has no shortage of great sailing yarns! Thanks for the article and photos, Kate - ed.

From as long and she can remember, Kate was taken every weekend to the Southport Sailing Club on the West Coast of England where her parents raced GPs (a two-person sailing dinghy) and Enterprises. It was not surprising that she developed a love of boating and the ocean.

After leaving home, Kate worked at a military college in Oxfordshire where took an RYA Competent Crew course on the Solent and never looked back. Weekends were spent crewing on Contessa 32s and J24s. One summer she joined the crew of a Contessa 32 on an army exercise sailing from the Solent to Gibraltar.



Kate in Faaborg, Denmark.

Marriage then took Kate to Germany where she joined the British Kiel Yacht Club and became one of the instructors on a fleet of 12 Contessa 28s, teaching Competent Crew and Day Skipper courses to British soldiers based in Germany.

This led to the opportunity to go along as mate on one of the old classic yachts on a Tall Ships Race to Helsinki and to cross through the centre of Sweden on a Sigma 33 via the Gota Canal; entering in Gothenburg and exiting in Stockholm and then across to Finland.

With two girls, aged two and four, Kate and her husband immigrated to NZ with a view to getting into the racing scene, however those plans were thwarted when a Hartley Southseas (38ft ferro cement yacht) came along offering a fabulous family environment to get the family out on the water. She is a member of the Hartley Ferro Cement Boat Owners Association and has spent the last 13 years cruising the beautiful Hauraki Gulf as far North as Matai Bay on the Kerikeri Peninsula and as far South as Whitianga. Her favourite places are Ponui and Barrier.

ISLINGTON BAY BEACH CLEANUP

Islington Bay Beach Cleanup

The Islington Bay Beach Cleanup on April 5th was a huge success. We had a fantastic turnout, with about 50 volunteers turning up to help clean up the bay!

In addition to RYC members from more than ten yachts, we had 20 volunteers come over on the ferry (including a large turnout from the Auckland University Tramping Club), six divers from Auckland University Underwater Club, and two Watercare Harbour Cleanup Trust crew.

A fleet of dinghies from RYC took care of the harder-to-access Motutapu Island side of the bay, while the Watercare Harbour Cleanup Trust barge dropped other volunteers at different locations on the Rangitoto side.

We cleaned up about three kilometres of coastline around Islington Bay and Gardiner Gap, and also had six divers collecting underwater rubbish in the bay!

An astounding 1,750 litres of rubbish was collected altogether, including lots of bottles, cans, scraps of plastic, an enormous tractor tyre and even a kitchen sink!

Afterwards everyone enjoyed a BBQ on Islington Bay Wharf, with delicious Boerewors sausages donated by Fred's Fine Foods.

Thanks to Fullers for providing a service to and from Islington Bay for us. And enormous thanks go to the Watercare Harbour Cleanup Trust for providing rubbish bags, briefing volunteers, ferrying volunteers to and from cleanup locations around the bay, and taking away all the rubbish afterwards!

Altogether it was a fantastic day and we made a huge difference to the bay.

Thanks to everyone involved!



Hayley Ware with just a small part of the whole haul.



Everyone chilling at the BBQ afterwards - well deserved!



The Watercare barge heading home with the 1,750 litres of trash that was collected.

RYC MEMBERS AND THEIR BOATS

Tony Evans: Beale 9m *Predator*

Tony is best known for sailing his Townson 32, *Grenada*, which he's been racing with RYC since his father built her 39 years ago. However, Tony's involvement with the club goes back further than that: he started racing with RYC in trailer sailors with his father and brother when he was seven years old. (He wouldn't say how long ago that was!)

About *Predator*

Keen for a new sailing challenge, Tony bought 13 year-old *Predator* from Picton last year. "My crew Ken, Nigel and I had a great boys' trip over Cook Strait: we had perfect conditions with dolphins and albatross keeping us company," says Tony.

Predator was then trucked to Auckland in March, and the boat's first big race was the Route 66 to Whangarei. "It was a great race," says Tony. "It was really well organised, and the perfect distance. We didn't take it too seriously: we put in one tack to check out some dolphins, and another tack to check out the sunset."

"We were made very welcome at Whangarei, where we were greeted with a bottle of rum on arrival, and escorted to a free marina berth for the night. The club put on a great breakfast and prizegiving, and after that we had an easy sail home."

What's next for Tony and *Predator*?

"I intend to do the Coastal Classic this year, as well as the Richmond Winter Series. Nigel, Ken, Dave, Sarah and Amanda are great crew, and I'm looking forward to getting to learn the new boat with them."

When he's not sailing, Tony is an estimator for Fulton Hogan, and has a ten-acre block in Drury with ten sheep, 40 beehives and a Jack Russell dog called Tac.

Would you like to see your boat featured here?

Email the editor of Plain Sailing:
magazine@richmondyc.org.nz



Tony Evans and *Predator* (with the editor's dog).

BOAT SECURITY: BY TRISH BEKEN

How to keep your boat and accessories safe

John Burridge, Senior Launch Master with the Police Maritime Unit, recently gave a short talk on safety and security for boat owners at Ponsonby Cruising Club. He drew on his experience of criminal activity and recent thefts from boats to provide some observations and advice for boaties:

Observations:

- Thieves sometimes enter and leave Westhaven by dinghy so all yachts are vulnerable.
- Outboard motors from two to 15 horsepower are a key target for thieves.
- BBQs on pushpit rails, kayaks on deck and boat covers have been pinched.
- A thief who was caught and prosecuted was an ex-boat builder and knew he could find a key in the anchor or gas bottle locker of most boats.

Advice:

- The Police Maritime Unit's freephone number is 0800 102 835. Save this in your mobile and give them a call if you see anything suspicious on the water.
- When looking at a boat or outboard to buy, check that it has not been stolen – go to www.police.govt.nz, click on 'stolen/wanted' then on 'stolen boats', enter the category of boat then check through the list of stolen boats.
- Do not leave a key to your boat in your anchor or gas bottle locker.
- Put your phone number on your dinghy.
- Take photos and record serial numbers of all accessories.
- Keep your mobile on you in a ziplock bag.
- Ensure your inflatable lifejacket will work if you need it to – get it serviced regularly, keep checking the condition of the gas cylinder and blow it up using the mouthpiece to make sure it stays inflated (no leaks).



Don't leave your boat key in the anchor or gas bottle locker: it's not just convenient for you, but also for thieves.

Y PIER DEVELOPMENT

Here's the latest news from Waterfront Auckland regarding Westhaven Marina:

Westhaven pier redevelopment

The first major development in over two decades for Auckland's Westhaven Marina is set to get underway this month with the addition of a new pier.

Westhaven is internationally recognised as one of the largest marinas in the southern hemisphere, highly valued for its quality facilities and a unique proximity to the CBD and to world-class marine suppliers and service people.

As one of a number of projects in the pipeline to preserve this status, the Y Pier development will see another 66 berths added to the water space in the eastern part of the marina. Berths on the new pier will range from 14m to 20m in length in response to a growing demand to accommodate larger vessels and multi-hulls such as catamarans.

The \$4 million project to be delivered by a UK based company, Bellingham Marine, will also see the addition of a fuel jetty, improved dinghy storage and new access to the pile moorings currently located in the north of the marina.

General Manager of Marina's for Council organisation Waterfront Auckland, Tom Warren, says having had no significant increase in berth capacity since 1994, the Y Pier development is a significant step forward in the history of Westhaven.

"Westhaven Marina is a fantastic facility and has gained a well-deserved reputation worldwide as the home of boating in the South Pacific. To ensure its stays this way, we need to invest in its future. Now we've got an agency specifically charged with this responsibility, projects like the Y Pier development and others in our master planning document the Westhaven Plan will bring significant improvements to the marina's level of amenity and user experience – future proofing it for generations to come."

Design features in the new pontoon include a proven system for wave attenuation and two New Zealand firsts: a composite connection system to bind together the different parts of the pier itself and underwater lighting as the new pier becomes the eastern bookend for the marina facing the city.

Mr. Warren says the lighting was a notable addition and acknowledges that the marina is more than just a facility for boat owners but is also a visual asset for the city as a whole, and an integral part of Auckland's identity as the City of Sails.

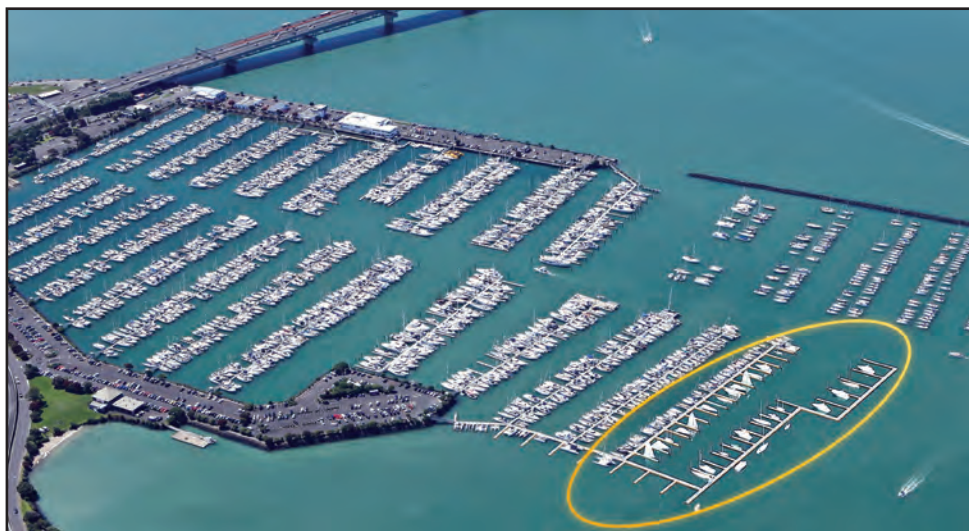
FROM WATERFRONT AUCKLAND

Dredging got underway last month, and works will commence in full shortly. It is anticipated that the bulk of work will be completed by July, ready for occupancy in spring.

Once completed the new berths are expected to be monthly rentals to ensure flexibility and accessibility for boat owners.

Further design details:

- The project consists of over 1,710 square meters of new concrete pontoons which will be manufactured out of Bellingham's plant in Otahuhu, Auckland.
- Having completed product testing in the Middle East and in New Zealand, Fibre Reinforced Polymer through rods with glass filled nylon nuts are to be used in the project. These offer a longer life span and reduced maintenance over time.
- Unique to this project was the design brief from Waterfront Auckland that required consideration for sustainable product choice. The result is one that will see the introduction of a copper infused whaler system that removes the reliance on heavy metals contained in more traditional treatment systems.



An artist's impression of the new pier at Westhaven Marina.

BITS AND BOBS: FROM THE OFFICE

RYC burgees

Been cruising, and had flag envy? You can cure that with \$20: just bring your moolah to the office, and we'll give you a lovely RYC burgee you can hoist with pride.



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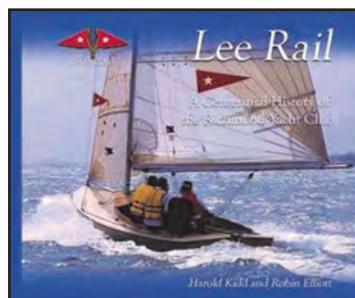
Not the flag flying type? You can still show the world that you're a Richmond Yacht Club supporter! Choose from car bumper stickers or decals for the transom of your boat - free for RYC members, just pop into the office and ask.

Racing flags

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

Lee Rail

Discover the rich centennial history of Richmond Yacht Club, as told by Harold Kidd and Robin Elliot in the book 'Lee Rail'. \$35 from the office.



Function bookings

The RYC clubrooms are a fantastic function venue, complete with top quality audio-visual systems and plenty of free car parking... ideal for hosting 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.

ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing Handbook 2013-2016

The ISAF RRS 2013-2016 handbook is available from the Richmond Yacht Club Office for \$25. Or if you like apps, the iPhone app is \$1.29, or Android \$1.27.

'Wrighty' and 'It's in the Blood'

Signed copies of these books by NZ yacht designers Alan Wright and John Lidgard are available from the RYC office - \$40 each.

Got something to sell?

Members' classifieds will be placed free upon request. Or if you'd like to promote your business, speak to a friendly Committee member about sponsorship. Getting your logo featured in every edition of this magazine is just one of the perks...



CLUB INFORMATION

Officers

President	Vera Mummery	<i>Nevenka</i>
Commodore	John Davies	<i>Crocodile</i>
Vice Commodore	Bryon Wright	<i>Revolution Blues</i>
Rear Commodore	Andrew Burr	
Treasurer	Audrey Cole	
Secretary	Margaret Harvey	<i>Knighthawk</i>
Club Manager	Tim Smedley	
Building Manager	Andrew Burr	

General Committee

Alan Abram	<i>Eyelure</i>
Mark Becroft	<i>Maggie May</i>
Fleur Cox	
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Bill Farmer	
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Jono Lind	<i>Carpe Diem</i>
Hans Swete	<i>Transformer</i>
Evelien van Vliet	
Gareth Wells	<i>Wandering Star</i>

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Magazine

This is your magazine: please do share your stories and photos!

Send your yachting yarns, nautical news and photos to Cornelia, the Editor of Plain Sailing: magazine@richmondyc.org.nz



COVER PHOTOS: Front: *Equilibrium* on a Wednesday Night Race (photo: Penny Ashley). Back: Islington Bay looking pristine the day after the Beach Cleanup (photo: Cornelia Luethi).



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