

Commodore's Report 2023

Mr President, Flag officers, Committee and Club Members.

Good evening. Welcome to Richmond Yacht Club and thank you for taking the time to attend our annual general meeting for 2023.

It is my pleasure to present the Commodores Report for 2023, this being the 119th AGM of the Richmond Yacht club.

Just when we thought we were through the disruptions associated with COVID 2023 has brought weather patterns which have had a huge impact on many. This did have an impact on our summer racing with both the Haystack Race and the Night Race to Mahurangi being cancelled and the Night Race to Kawau experiencing much lower numbers of competitors. The weather was beautiful, however, for the 'Route 66' with the breeze filling in later in the evening.

Westhaven upgrades and impacts

During the last year Panuku have continued with the upgrade of the piers in front of Richmond Clubrooms and the Ponsonby Cruising Club. Unfortunately this has seen these berths extended to twelve metres which has seen many of our club members move over to the other side of the marina. Contractors are currently working on establishing a new car park on the recently extended seawall at the eastern end of the marina. This has seen an increase in heavy traffic along the seawall although the finished car park will be welcomed by marina users. On the horizon in the next year or two is the planned seawall project. This will see the outside line of the seawall lifted by one metre in height. This work will have a significant impact on all clubs and marina users. Part of this plan is to extend the existing footpath to three metres in width by changing the current angle parking to 'nose to tail' parking. Overall this will see the loss of a third of these car parks.

Rent review

Panuku had signalled a rent review in 2022 however the committee sought its own advice on this matter, along with the other seawall yacht clubs, and an agreement for our rent, going forward has been reached with Panuku although we are still waiting for their confirmation of this in writing. Our rental agreements are for a period of five years.

The committee has also reached a reviewed rental agreement with Lomocean. This came into effect from 1 June.

Membership

Our club membership remains steady with the numbers of yachts taking part in our events slowly building back to pre-COVID numbers. Many crews are now returning to the club after racing which has had a positive impact on our bar and food sales.

The SB20 has been racing in our Wednesday Night and Winter Racing which overtime will give new, and junior, members the opportunity to extend their sailing skills to include helming and the

use of gennakers. The viability of this initiative will be reviewed at the end of our current winter series.

Committee

The committee has continued to serve our club diligently throughout the year. As a club we are very fortunate to have such a skilled and dedicated group who are prepared to commit their time and expertise to the successful operation of the club. This group contributes far wider than just committee functions and whether it be at working bees, racing events, social events or in the kitchen or bar you will see them busy making our club the successful organisation it is.

I'd also like to recognise the contribution of our Vice and Rear Commodores during this year with our regular 'flags' meetings certainly sharing the administrative load. Chris, our Vice Commodore, who is well known as our editor and publisher of our Plain Sailing magazine and Jackie, our Rear Commodore, who does an amazing job in communicating with and building our club sponsorships.

Thank you also to Liz, our committee secretary, to Steve, our treasurer, and to Keith our clubrooms manager for the significant contribution that they make to our club.

Volunteers

We are a club that is almost totally dependent on the contributions of volunteers. This gives a strong sense of belonging and active involvement. Thank you to all of you who have contributed during the year. We also have 'behind the scene volunteers' who have contributed significantly to the core purpose of our club, yacht racing! To Margaret, Andrew and Trish, our race committee, and to Roger and Bill, and the crew of the Taipan and our start tower crews thank you from all of us for the work you do in the organisation and management of our racing events.

Sponsorship

Richmond Yacht Club continues to be supported by a very generous group of business partners, many of whom have been loyal over a long period. CRC, New World-Victoria Park, Sailutions, Burnsko, Excel, Victoria Cruising Club, Harken Fosters, Safety at Sea, Ropeye, Coastguard Boating Education, Yachtshare, Coolstore Construction, Mount Gay, Marine Deals, Musto, Floating Dock Services, Mariner Insurance, Panuku Developments and PedictWind.com are companies who generously support our club. In turn I would encourage you to support them.

Club Administration

Kate has been the public face of the Richmond Yacht Club for the last ten years with her cumulative knowledge of all aspects of our club's operation and the positive relationships she has developed with fellow club members being invaluable to our club. Her resignation from the position of club administrator leaves a big gap for all of us. Kate always went the 'extra mile' to help when needed and the fantastic photos that she has regularly pasted on-line after each race are enjoyed by all competitors. On behalf of all I would like to extend my thanks to Kate for her

commitment to her role and wish her all of the very best in the future. Kate tells me that she intends to continue in her role as senior photographer and Taipan crew.

The future

Looking ahead, our club is in good heart. Racing is strong with good numbers involved in our Wednesday Night and Winter series racing and lots of members and their crews returning to the club afterwards for the prizegivings. Membership is steady and our sponsors are loyal. We are primarily a volunteer club though and are dependent on the contributions that members make throughout the year. Changes at Westhaven will provide opportunity to build our membership and whilst our club focus is primarily on sailing there is a growing number of marina users who own launches who would benefit from being club members. The challenge will be in getting those owners to see the advantages that club membership brings.

I have enjoyed the two years that I have been Commodore and have appreciated the support that I have received from so many during this time.

Thank you to all who have served, and who no doubt will continue to serve, the Richmond Yacht Club.

Richard Limbrick
Commodore