



Richmond Yacht Club Commodore's AGM Report 2026

Mr President, fellow Officers, Committee and Club Members, welcome to the 122nd Annual General Meeting of the Richmond Yacht Club. Thank you all for attending.

As in previous years this Commodore's report provides a roundup of the Club's activities during the year 2025-26, and covers, in no particular order, the following:

- Racing and Sailing
- Membership
- Building Operations
 - Level 2 Tenancy
- Club and Bar Hire
- Sponsorship
- Promotions and Communications
- RYC Property Endowment Fund
- Seawall Working Group
- Health and Safety
- The Committee
- Volunteers
- Administration
- Looking Ahead
- In Summary

Racing and Sailing

The reason we are here!

The 2025-26 season rolled out in the familiar format that we are all used to.

The Marine Deals and SeamTech Spring Regatta sailed the full course for all divisions with 37 entries. Quickly followed by the CRC, New World, Sailutions Wednesday Series with a total of 62 series entries. Unfortunately, 2 races were abandoned in a row, one for too much wind and the next for too little.

The 10 race Single handed series started with the RYC Single handed and Short handed race followed by the new 4 Island Race challenge. We chose to abandon the closing day regatta SH division due to the postponement of this race thanks to the cyclone that wasn't.

This was the second year we ran the Burnsco 3x3 Summer Blast in the Pursuit race format, skippers seem to enjoy the different challenges of the pursuit race.

The Cruising races were changed to Passage Races and Cruising Rallies giving skippers who wanted to race and those who wanted to cruise options.



The Marsden Cove Marina Route 66 and Excel Gulf Triangle were run in very light conditions. OYC were able to move the R66 finish line to a more convenient position which I think skippers appreciated. It was great to see most skippers stuck at it and made the finish line. The Gulf Triangle suffered from the same light conditions over the weekend and short courses were raced.

The Cyclone that wasn't was the cause for us to postpone the Closing day regatta to the following weekend, it was better to postpone the race than to run a short course under the threat of a cyclone.

The CRC, New World, Burnsco winter series has started with good numbers turning out.

It is heartening to see the support our racing events have and the sailing Committee are always looking to run engaging and interesting races for skippers and crew.

Membership

Our membership numbers remain steady, stubbornly sitting just below the 300 mark. Naturally, we're keen to see that number grow. We believe that continuing to deliver a reliable and well-run sailing programme helps attract skippers and crew not only to sail with us but also to become RYC members.

Membership type	2026
General	49
General Family	60
Associate	19
Associate Family	23
Veteran	24
Veteran Family	8
Crew	91
Life and Honorary members	23
Total Members	297

The Committee recognises that there's always more we can do. The Committee welcomes ideas from members on how we might further strengthen engagement and attract new faces to the Club.

Building Operations

This past year has been one of consolidation and vital reinvestment regarding the Club's property assets. Through the hard work of our Committee and members, we have successfully navigated several property challenges and significantly upgraded our facilities.



Infrastructure and Compliance

Early in the year, the General Committee was tasked with securing full electrical compliance to satisfy our insurance requirements. This mandated a comprehensive inspection and certification of the club's electrical systems by a registered electrician. I am pleased to report that this work was completed successfully, and our insurance coverage has been fully secured.

Upper Floor (Level 2) Renovation

Late last year, the Committee was advised that Lomocean Marine would be ceasing their tenancy of the club's upper floor. They officially moved out in October. This marked the end of an era, as they had been incredibly reliable and trustworthy tenants over a very long period (25 years).

Because the area required minimal maintenance during their long-term tenancy, the Committee decided that a significant upgrade was necessary to attract a premium new tenant. The ongoing refurbishment includes:

- Upgraded lighting and modernized electrical fixtures.
- A fully updated security and alarm system.
- New carpeting throughout the space.
- New kitchen and fittings.
- A complete interior repaint and redecoration.

This project is now nearing completion and will position the space beautifully for future leasing.

The Power of our Volunteers

We have been incredibly fortunate to undertake this major renovation using almost entirely volunteer club labour. We are deeply indebted to those dedicated members who have turned up week after week, lending their time and skills to all aspects of this upgrade.

In addition to the upstairs renovation, several working bees were held throughout the year to handle general maintenance around the property. We are immensely grateful to have so many skilled, willing volunteers whose efforts allow us to maintain, preserve, and enjoy what is undeniably an aging building. Thank you all for your continued dedication to keeping our club shipshape.

Level 2 Tenancy

The loss of income from the Level 2 tenancy has had a noticeable impact on our finances. Having said that, having no tenant has awarded us the opportunity to hold this year's AGM in the space.

We have been working with four agents since October, in order to secure a suitable tenant.

Although we own the club building, we are on land that we rent from Auckland Council. The lease agreement that we have with the Council states ... "Permitted use - Boating clubhouse and yacht club and related and ancillary uses". We are having regular conversations with the council with regard to this, as it significantly limits our rental opportunities.



The Committee will be focusing on obtaining a new tenant as well as identifying, and where possible, progressing other opportunities to generate income from this beautiful space.

Club and Bar Hire

Utilising the club as a community resource is important both for the Westhaven precinct but also provides for additional revenue for RYC. Our focus continues to be on day hires and evening hires with less 'party' characteristics, and there is a steady stream of enquiries and bookings – with both regular hirers and ongoing one-off bookings.

Changes this year have included a new bar till and eftpos system, which was a very necessary addition after we retired our old system after decades of faithful service. Supporting the new till we have a team of on call bar managers and casual bar staff. One other change was forced on us by the fire at New World Victoria Park, so we transferred our account to New World Birkenhead, but have kept the relationship and connection with New World Victoria Park. We were pleased that we were able to provide support to New World Victoria Park (a long-term sponsor) through providing them free use of the club as a meeting room base while they navigated the many challenges that resulted from the fire.

2026 and 2027 will see new changes in club liquor licensing rules announced in late 2025.

The gradual increase in all product costs means that our bar prices will be raised to reflect this extra cost and protect our margins.

To support our efforts in securing ongoing hire and use of the club, I encourage all members to spread the word to friends, work colleagues and business associates, about the great space that RYC has with a fantastic view of the harbour. Feedback is always consistent that it is a great location with lots of parking.

Sponsorship

Richmond Yacht Club has a 'family' of Sponsors whose contributions enable the club to provide events with prizes for both skippers and crews. We are the envy of other clubs in this respect, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

We enjoy a core of loyal sponsors: CRC, Burnsco, New World Victoria Park (despite their current situation), Sailutions, the Victoria Cruising Club Trust (Friday Night Special) and Harken Fosters. Our 'signature' race "Route 66" attracts many sponsors with Mt Gay, Burnsco, Safety at Sea, Sailutions, with Ropeye providing line prizes and Predict Wind, Floating Dock, Mariner Insurance all providing spot prizes. Other series and events are supported by Coolstore Construction, Excel Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Coastguard Boating Education, Yachtshare, Marine Deals and SeamTech. Our Sponsors have their names on the now updated noticeboards on the west side of the Clubhouse.

As has been the case for the past few years, our sponsors were consistent over the year with minimal change. This enabled the club to continue to host sailing events and to provide prizes at the many post race events. The majority of sponsors provide vouchers for goods and products from their stores and inventories. A few provide cash which is used to cover event costs and to provide prizes for specific events/series.



This year several new organisations discussed sponsorship opportunities with us, with the result that: Great Escape Sailing provided a substantial sailing course to a lucky member of our Victoria Friday night Series; Propspeed are providing a 'kit' to a skipper in our Winter Series; SeamTech will extend their sponsorship to cover the 50th anniversary Spring Regatta; and Sawmill Breweries are providing products for crew spot prizes across our Winter Series and will also do so for next season. It is good to have new organisations approach us and be so generous.

We could not run the programmes that we do without such loyal and generous sponsors. They are a very valuable part of our club and I and the Committee encourage you to support them so that they continue (and extend) their partnerships with us. And - please keep a weather eye out for new sponsors - we can always add to the family (currently 20)!

Promotions and Communications

Richmond Yacht Club continues to maintain a strong and growing communications, promotions, and member engagement programme that supports our members, promotes club activities, recognises our sponsors, and strengthens connections within both the club and the wider sailing community. Through social media, member communications, publications, signage, and special events, the club continues to showcase the welcoming and active culture that makes Richmond Yacht Club unique.

Richmond Yacht Club currently maintains two primary social media channels which are used to communicate with members, engage with the wider sailing community, promote club activities, and acknowledge our valued sponsors.

Over the past year, our social media content was viewed more than 306,000 times across Facebook (249,000 views) and Instagram (57,000 views). Importantly, more than half of these views came from people who do not currently follow our pages, demonstrating Richmond Yacht Club's ability to reach audiences beyond our membership and raise awareness of both the club and the sport of sailing.

A particular focus this year has been growing our online and social media presence including expanding our reach through collaboration with other sailing events and organisations. Since July 2025 Instagram engagement and follower numbers have increased by more than 100%. These efforts have contributed to significant audience growth and engagement. As at June 2026, Richmond Yacht Club's social media channels included Facebook (2,144 followers), Instagram (408 followers). In addition, our Richmond Crew Finder Facebook page continues to provide an important service connecting sailors and crews throughout the region and currently has 1470 followers.

Richmond Yacht Club maintains a strong and consistent communications programme that keeps members informed, connected, and engaged throughout the year. A cornerstone of this programme is Plain Sailing, our quarterly club publication. Filled with stories from races, cruising events, club activities, and member achievements, it provides a lasting record of the season while fostering a strong sense of community and connection amongst members.

Our weekly member email updates continue to be an important communication channel, keeping members informed about upcoming racing, cruising activities, social events, and



developments within the wider sailing community. These communications also provide valuable opportunities to recognise and support our sponsors throughout the year.

The year also saw a number of successful member engagement initiatives, including the SailGP USA Team presentation, SailGP racing viewing events, club social activities, including the annual quiz night and opportunities for members to connect both on and off the water.

All this continues to play a vital role in promoting Richmond Yacht Club and fostering the strong sense of community that our members value.

RYC Property Endowment Fund

At the Special General Meeting, held on 17th November 2025, members approved the establishment of the RYC Property Endowment Fund as was presented at the 2025 AGM. At today's AGM we will be receiving nominations for and voting on the election of Property Endowment Fund guardians.

Seawall Working Group

Last year the Committee asked for volunteers to be part of a group working to work with the other seawall clubs to ensure a sustainable future of all Westhaven seawall based clubs. This was in response to Auckland council's requirement to raise the level of the ground the clubs currently occupy to undertake necessary infrastructure work as well as provide protection from rising sea levels. In order for this work to be completed all existing buildings and infrastructure need to be removed. All clubs have set up their own working groups to represent their clubs individual interests. The RYC group is led by Allan Geddes (Rear Commodore) with the other members being Russell Hawken, Gregory Thwaite and John Davies.

The discussions are in the very early stages and will include investigating options for the possible relocation of the Clubs within the Westhaven Marina.

The initial timeline for this project to be completed was 15 to 20 years however there is a desire for this to be bought forward. RYC members will be briefed as and when more information is available.

Health and Safety

Our behaviour — and that of others — on the water matters greatly to the Club. It's not only essential for the safety of all skippers and crew, but also for protecting other water users and upholding the Club's strong reputation for seamanship.

This year we experienced a few incidents resulting in vessel damage, including one Man Overboard. For the club to deliver its duty of care, it's important that all incidents are promptly reported to the Race Officers, a Committee member, or the office.

Members also raised concerns about the actions of ferries during a couple of races late last year. These concerns were formally raised with the relevant company, leading to a meeting between their CEO, Operations Manager, and the RYC Flags. The company investigated the matter by reviewing CCTV footage and took appropriate action, including issuing a Safety Alert to all their Masters.



Although these were isolated events, reporting them is crucial. It allows us to address issues quickly and maintain the safety of everyone on the water.

The Committee

I would like to thank and acknowledge the Committee, they have continued to serve our club diligently throughout the year. As a club we are extremely 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 behind the bar you will see them busy making our club the successful organisation it is.

Aside from the Flags and Officers there are others that take on additional responsibilities and I'd like to acknowledge the following Committee members for doing this;

- John and Cam - Route 66 planning
- Jeremy - FNS coordination
- Keeley - promotions
- David and Richard - Building operations
- Russell - sponsorship

Thank you also to John, our Committee secretary, to Steve, our treasurer, and to my fellow Flags Mike and Allan 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. Volunteering is the absolute bedrock of the Richmond Yacht Club culture. The achievements described in this report would not have been possible without the dedication of our army of volunteers who generously give their time to support the club, be it race management and support, article contributors, photographers, event organisers, bar duties or working bees .

Thank you to all who have contributed during the year. Whilst the Club thanks our volunteers for their efforts with a volunteers dinner. I would like to pass on my special special thanks to the following non-Committee volunteers;

- Race officers - Andrew, Margaret, and Trish
- Regular Tower crew - Stuart, Stuart, Nicola, and Mark, as well as John, Lilly and Mel who worked in the tower whilst they were unable to sail
- Roger and Bill - Taipan
- Kate - out on Taipan taking photos
- Britney who recently took up the social media mantle including being our instagram content creator
- Deryn the Editor of Plain Sailing
- Chris ongoing contribution in producing promotional materials.
- Rodney and Kate for their work on producing the handbook.

Administration

Kerry continues to run the office with efficiency and care. She provides a genuine personal connection with many of our members and offers invaluable support to Committee members



across the board. Members and visitors to the club are always met with a friendly smile, and Kerry never hesitates to offer extra help and ensure things run smoothly.

Looking Ahead

As for the year ahead, as well as maintaining an excellent, reliable, varied and exciting sailing programme, we will ...

- Focus on getting a tenant for the Level 2 space, as well as, investigation of alternative options in which we can achieve an income from that space.
- Continue to work with our neighbouring yacht clubs on future proofing not only the individual clubs identities but sailing at Westhaven.
- Continue to keep members connected through Plain Sailing, weekly updates, signage, and events—while expanding our social media reach, especially among younger and new sailors.
 - Plain sailing is available on the website and the link is included in the relevant newsletter. We are therefore reducing the number of hard copies being sent out. If members wish to continue receiving a hard copy we ask that they to let Kerry in the office know.
- Identifying and delivering new and engaging experiences that add value to membership, encourage participation, and strengthen connections within our sailing community. Building on the success of events such as SailGP viewing, guest speaker evenings, and social activities, we will continue to explore opportunities that bring members together both on and off the water.

In Summary

It's been another good year for the club, with plenty of racing, a little bit of cruising, some social events, and lots of prizegivings. The main challenge being the loss of rental income from Level 2.

Through the ongoing efforts of our volunteers and members, Richmond Yacht Club will continue to offer an excellent sailing programme, promote the club, support our sponsors, attract new participants, and foster the welcoming and inclusive culture that makes our club such a special place and a great club to be part of.

A huge amount of planning and effort happens behind the scenes to make it all possible. If you have some time to spare—whether a little or a lot—there are plenty of ways to get involved. We'd love to hear from you, so please reach out to any of the Committee members.

Jacky Bush
Commodore 2025-26