

PLAIN SAILING

J U L Y 2 0 2 5



RICHMOND
YACHT CLUB



FROM THE FLAG

BY JACKY BUSH
RYC COMMODORE

It is both an honour and a pleasure to write my first 'From the Flag' message, following my election as RYC Commodore at the AGM on 27th June.

I take on this role mindful of the strong legacy built by previous Commodores; their contributions remind me that progress at the club is powered by passionate people committed to sailing and to our Club. Special thanks and acknowledgement must go to my immediate predecessor Chris Crone, who did an amazing job as Commodore, and has set the bar high. I am, of course, not the first female Commodore at RYC and I'm proud to continue the legacy of the women who

have held this role before me. Check out the names on the Honours Board at the top of the clubhouse stairs.

Thank you to all members who attended the AGM. It was wonderful to see such engagement and support. At the AGM we welcomed the 2025-26 committee - a nice mix of familiar and fresh faces. A special welcome to Allan Geddes, who's dived straight into the Rear Commodore role. To help you match faces to names, a committee photo will be shared soon. The committee works on behalf of all members, so please don't hesitate to share your ideas, feedback, or hopes

for what this season might hold. We're here to listen and to make RYC the best it can be.

The AGM also marked an important milestone with the passing of our revised constitution - an essential update to align with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. We also explored the idea of establishing an endowment fund to help safeguard the club's future - more on that in this issue.

Membership renewals are on their way, so keep an eye out for yours. If you know someone ready to experience the camaraderie and thrill of yacht racing - well, you know where to send them!

Looking forward to a season of great sailing. See you out on the water and around the clubhouse for those post race debriefs. 🚤



THIS ISSUE

BY DERYN WILLIAMS
EDITOR

Welcome to the June 2025 issue of Plain Sailing.

This issue is all about celebrating the achievements and hard work of the Richmond Yacht Club members.

Inside you will find a summary of the AGM and prize-giving, and an update on the winter series, along with who is in the running for the next Club Champion.

We see a changing of the guard with new club officers, and we welcome new members to the club, with a special shout-out to Jo and Mel (pictured on

the next page) who have helped Trish win an impressive haul of trophies this year!

Damon encourages us all to give single-handed sailing a go, and for those long winter months, Jeremy gives us an excuse to buy more gadgets for sailboat DIY.

Please submit articles to
magazine@richmondyc.org.nz ►





Wahoo!

It's quiz night!

Join us for a night of fun and wide-ranging questions!

Friday 29th August 2025

bar open 1730 | dinner 1800 | quiz 1900

\$35 for dinner (Mexican!), dessert and quiz!

Get your teams of 6 together now!

UPCOMING CALENDAR & EVENTS

July 2025

2 nd	Pot Luck Lunch
6 th	Winter Series Race 5
20 th	Winter Series Race 6

August 2025

3 rd	Winter Series Race 7 (Flap Martinengo Memorial)
6 th	Pot Luck Lunch
17 th	Winter Series Race 8 (Motuihe Race)
29 th	RYC Quiz Night
31 st	Winter Series Race 9 (final)

September 2025

3 rd	Pot Luck Lunch
20 th	Spring Regatta

October 2025

1 st	Pot Luck Lunch
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Look out for new season events and races starting in October:

- *Wednesday Night Series*
- *Victoria Friday Night Series*
- *Single-handed Series*

WELCOME



New Members

Dave and Sue Rivington
Associate Family
Technique (Zephyr)

New Crew Members

Jo Barr
Melanie Adriaansen
Michael McKenzie
Lilly Witcomb
Nicolas Aubin



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 121st Annual General Meeting of the Richmond Yacht Club was held on Friday 27th June 2025.

This year, the Commodore and Secretary reports were combined into one, which was presented to the 45 club members in attendance by the Commodore.

The next topic on the agenda was the proposed new constitution, to meet the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. The motion to adopt the constitution was passed unanimously, which will allow the club to be re-registered under the new Act before the deadline of April 2026.

Next, the Rear Commodore gave the members some background to the proposal to establish an endowment fund to provide for a new or refurbished clubhouse in future (a discussion document and a legal opinion had been circulated prior to the AGM). Lively discussion ensued and many questions from the floor were put to the officers. At the conclusion of the discussion, members voted favourably for the committee to proceed to create a formal draft proposal.

The Treasurer then presented the 2025 Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet. Members had different opinions on whether club subscriptions should be

increased for the 2025-26 year but it was eventually decided that subs would remain at the same levels as 2024-25.

The Officers and Committee for the 2025-26 season were then voted upon. The committee welcomes Allan Geddes as Rear Commodore, joining Jacky Bush (Commodore) and Mike Matthews (Vice Commodore) as flag officers; as well as new general committee members Cameron Le Sueur and Karen Aw Yong.

Presentations were made by the outgoing Commodore to Andrew Burr, Trish Beken and Margaret Harvey for their superb work as race officers, to Rodney Janes for his and Kate's efforts on the club handbook and to Roger Crabtree for his service aboard Taipan. The committee also wishes to thank Club photographer Kate Herstell and Plain Sailing editor Deryn Williams who were unable to attend.

Mike Matthews was awarded the Blake Memorial Shield for his superb work on the committee this year. A presentation was also made to outgoing Commodore Chris Crone. ■

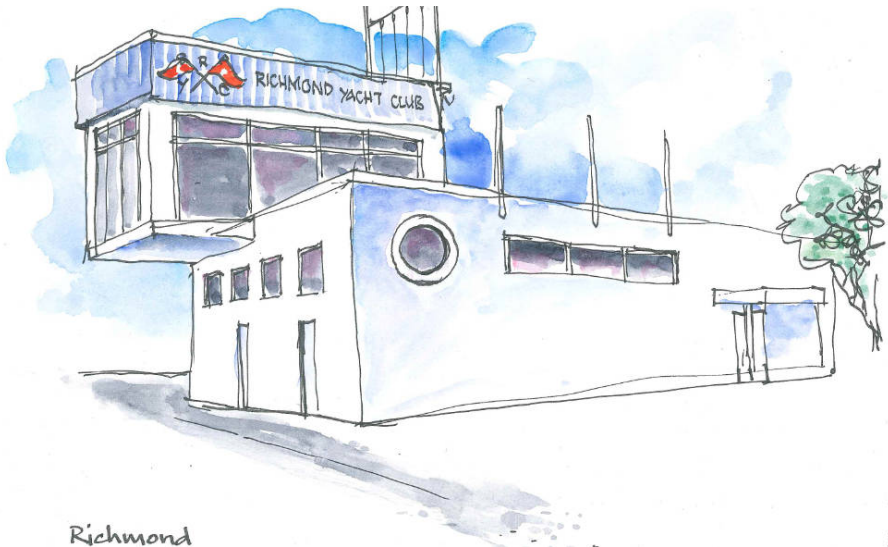


For reports and minutes, see <https://richmondyc.org.nz/general-meetings/>

RYC PROPERTY ENDOWMENT FUND

At the recently held 2025 AGM, one item tabled was a discussion paper which proposed the establishment of the RYC Property Endowment Fund.

So while the discussion paper was tabled and accepted at the AGM, it was just that - a discussion paper. The next steps are that we refine the document and associated processes in the committee and then communicate this to the club membership for formal acceptance and adoption.



This discussion paper outlined the thinking and rationale behind the establishment of a fund and of how it might work. While it was presented and discussed at the AGM, there were members who were not aware of what was being set forward, and this planted the thought that we need to give the matter a bit more of a spotlight and publicity.

You can find a copy of both the Discussion document as well as solicitor Donald Webster's opinion of what is the best legal structure for such a vehicle on the website (go to *The Club* > *General Meetings*).

So please do read the discussion paper as it is about securing the long-term future of RYC and If you have any questions or comments please feel free to raise them with any of the committee or club officers and we will ensure they are aired and discussed. ■



PRIZE GIVING 2025



The AGM finished shortly before 8pm and the delicious prizegiving dinner commenced.

As attendees tucked into their desserts, new Commodore Jacky Bush began the 2024-25 season prizegiving, assisted by new Vice Commodore Mike Matthews. The silverware was sparkling thanks to the efforts of committee members the previous evening.

Congratulations to all winners - details will be published in the upcoming club handbook.

Club Champion: Noel Cole Trophy

The trophy was first presented in 1947 by the club's longtime patron and benefactor, Sir Noel Cole. For 2024-25, the Noel Cole trophy was awarded to the skipper obtaining the best handicap points score for nine races listed in the club race calendar, according to conditions listed in the Handbook.



Congratulations to Club Champion for 2024-25, Graeme Lucas of Chain Reaction.

Centennial Cup

The Cup is awarded to the club member who takes part in the most races over a year, running from the Winter Series through to the last summer race.

Congratulations to Mike Matthews of About Time.



Maurice Livingstone Cup

The Cup is awarded to club members who "go the extra mile". It was presented to the club by the Livingstone family in memory of Maurice, who was lost overboard in a Spring Regatta in the 1980s.

This year, the committee awarded the Cup to Peter Locke of The Entertainer, for his superb results in the 493nm SSANZ Northern Triangle 2025.



Honorable mentions to other members who competed: Carpe Diem, Indis and Penury.

Alan Wright Trophy

The Trophy is awarded to club members who have shown exceptional determination. This year, it was awarded jointly to Marcel Vroege of Apparition, and Andrew Benton of Indis, for their persistence in completing the notoriously on-the-nose 2024 Coastal Classic.



Honorable mentions to other members who saw it through: Katana and Carpe Diem.

CLUB CHAMPION

BY RODNEY JANES

Who will be the next Club Champion?

Last month at the RYC annual prizegiving we crowned a new club champion - congratulations to skipper Graeme Lucas and his Elliott 1050, Chain Reaction.

Chain Reaction won the 24-25 Wednesday Night Series, finished third in the 2024 Winter Series and produced 3 solid results from the Spring Regatta, 3x3 Summer Blast and Closing Day Regatta. She consistently performed to a high standard and edged out her closest rivals, Katana, on a nail-biting Closing Day.

The 2025 Winter Series is now half done and the Club Champion standings are being dominated by the Division C boats.

The top No Extras boat currently is Resonance (7), however, any boats in this division will need to fly a spinnaker in the Wednesday Series and throughout the summer to stand any chance of lifting the Noel Cole Trophy next June.

With 5 races remaining in the Winter Series it's not too late to accumulate some top results - remembering that 3 points is the best possible Winter score - and put yourself in a strong position heading into the Spring Regatta, Wednesday Series and beyond...

You can find out more about Club Champion from the RYC website or handbook.

RANK	BOAT NAME	POINTS
1	Crocodile	5
2	Time Out	7
3	Belle	9
4	Chico Too	9
5	Cool Change	10
6	Katana	11
7	Chain Reaction	11
8	Carpe Diem	11
9	Sigma II	13
10	Prism	14
11	Apparition	15
12	Flojo	16

SPINNAKER TEST SAIL

BY MELANIE ADRIAANSEN

Gone with the wind: A spinnaker test sail

After the Richmond AGM, I happened to be at the bar at the same time as Trish Beken, when Mike said to her, "Trish, we haven't managed to find a new home for your spinnakers yet, I don't know what you want to do with them?"

"I'll have them!" I interjected without even thinking. They both turned to look at me.

"Well, it might work," Trish said.

My 27.5-foot Marauder was a similar size to her 30-foot Chico Too and the spinnakers had been slightly too small for her boat. I felt elated at the opportunity that had presented itself. How fortuitous! My social drinking habit was finally paying off.

Back in March, I had managed to rip our spinnaker during the Auckland Harbour Classic. As a new boat owner, I am still learning to helm whilst flying a spinnaker and it hadn't gone so well during the race. The spinnaker that came with our Marauder had been old

and fragile, and when an unsuspecting swirl of wind hit us, the sail got wrapped around the forestay. We spent a significant portion of the race trying to get it down but it didn't end well. Unfortunately, having recently spent all my savings on purchasing the boat, I couldn't afford a new spinnaker just yet... and I was left sailing the 'No Extras' division for the foreseeable future.



That night, after some more discussion at the bar, and plenty of 'thank yous' to Trish, we lugged the two new-to-me spinnakers out to the car. The next day at home I compared the measurements of the sails - the new spinnakers had the same 5.9m foot as my old one but were 40cm extra on the luff. Would that work? There was only one way to find out, so I waited patiently for a no-



Richmond Winter Series

5 DIVISIONS ~ 9 RACES

FIRST RACE ~ SUNDAY MAY 11TH

THEN EVERY SECOND SUNDAY

LAST RACE ~ SUNDAY AUG 31ST



wind day to give them a practice fly.

Last weekend provided the opportunity I had been waiting for. With less than 5 knots of predicted wind, and my trusty bow-person, Jo (also a new Richmond crew member) and friend Anastasia keen to join me for the adventure, we headed out off Rangitoto to give the spinnakers a go. Feeling excited, and ready for the first hoist, the moment of truth was upon us. Ready, set, go! Anastasia and Jo high-speed pulled on the halyard, the spinnaker raised up out of the bag, but... there was a twist in the spinnaker. And as quickly as we had hoisted it, we had to drop it down the hatch, ready for round two. How anticlimactic.

The second spinnaker provided us with better luck. After another quick hoist it filled with wind, bulging out its bright red and yellow colours ahead of us. What an exhilarating feeling! It worked! And there I was, helming under a massive sail. Another seafaring lesson



proudly tucked under my belt. After a gentle tootle around the bay, we dropped the sails and headed back to the marina, feeling accomplished. Turns out that an extra 40cm on the luff works a charm – at least in light winds.

A special thanks to Trish for passing on the spinnakers to me, and for all her support and advice on flying them right. ■

VICTORIA PARK NEW WORLD

Still part of the crew!



Many of you will have heard the news, or seen the results of, the devastating fire at New World Victoria Park. Our thoughts are with the team as they work through the aftermath of the fire. As a long-standing and valued sponsor of RYC, we've been pleased to assist them by offering use of our club facilities, as and when needed. We truly appreciate their continued support of our Club, and are delighted to share that they have confirmed their sponsorship for the 2025/26 racing season. In return, we know that our members will be ready to show their support — shopping lists in hand — when those doors swing open again! ■



SINGLE-HANDED SERIES SUMMARY

BY DAMON PALING
ORO ROSA

Sailing Solo, Sailing Strong

As the final sails were doused and logbooks closed on the 2024/25 Richmond Yacht Club Single-Handed Series, it's time to pause, reflect, and celebrate another outstanding season of solo sailing. This year's series was a true test of seamanship, stamina, and strategy, with ten races offering an unforgettable mix of conditions, challenges, and camaraderie.

At the top of the leader board stood Pete on Entertainer – a well-deserved champion whose consistency, a timely turn of speed, and calmness under pressure proved unbeatable! Close behind was Damon on Oro Rosa and Tony on Monotone, rounding out the podium in a series that demanded mental toughness as much as technical skill.

A series for sailors, by sailors

This year's series was nothing short of epic. The race calendar included harbour circuits, island courses, and night races, with wind conditions ranging from soft zephyrs to hearty blows. It was a masterclass in adaptability. Whether racing around fixed buoys or navigating longer island passages, each race forced skippers to dig deep – and often consult their sail trim, nav plan, and inner monologue simultaneously.

A heartfelt thank you to Richard Limbrick who again stepped up as the chief organiser. His attention to detail, fairness, and enthusiasm kept everything on course. We also thank our race officers whose tireless efforts

made the series safe and seamless. We're equally grateful for the generous support of Coolstore Construction, our sponsors – your backing brings meaning, momentum, and reward to every nautical mile we cover solo.

Club collaboration and course variety

This year also saw increased collaboration with other yacht clubs, expanding the spirit and reach of the series. Joint efforts with Pine Harbour and Devonport Yacht Clubs provided exciting new race formats and strengthened the community of single-handers across Auckland.

Every course this season brought something fresh and unforgettable. The opening Gulf Harbour weekend set the tone with white caps, gusty conditions, and early-season reefs – a baptism by spray that shook off any winter rust. Later in the series, the return leg from the Kawau night race offered a stark contrast: calm seas, barely a whisper of wind at times, and slow, deliberate miles, where patience became the most important sail in the locker.

Between these extremes lay a full spectrum of challenges – crowded start lines, long tactical upwind grinds, lively spinnaker runs, and those hushed, solitary night passages that test more than just the chart plotter – they reach into the core of why we sail alone. It's this unpredictability and range that keep the series fresh, the sailors sharp, and the dockside storytelling rich and heartfelt long after the boats are berthed.

Why go it alone?

There's something deeply philosophical about single-handed sailing. It demands presence, self-reliance, and humility. As the pages of Andrew Evans' excellent book *Single-Handed Sailing: Thoughts, Tips, Techniques and Tactics* remind us, solo

sailing is as much about mastering oneself as mastering the vessel. Evans, who sails a 30-footer aptly named Foolish Muse, captures the joy and fears of sailing alone – a sentiment echoed by many in this year's fleet.

Single-handed sailing teaches the sailor to embrace silence, to trust instinct, and to dance with the boat rather than command it. In the absence of crew banter, you learn to converse with yourself, with every sail change requiring thoughtful preparation and a determined effort. If you're new to the concept or curious about what drives people to race alone, talk to other skippers and watch YouTube. This is a world where preparation meets personal growth – and the rewards, while not always visible, are profound.

Looking ahead to the 2025/26 season

Next season promises to build on this momentum. The 2025/26 Richmond Single-Handed Series will once again feature ten races, split evenly across pre- and post-New Year. Look out for new courses, some creative twists on classic routes, and even a warm-up casual harbour race with no extras, perfect for those easing into the season or new to the single-handed format.

A pre-season briefing night will be held, bringing together newcomers and veterans alike. It's a chance for 'old hands' to share tips – from reefing systems to fatigue management – and for everyone to connect over a shared passion for sailing solo. But make no mistake, this is more than a competition. The Richmond single-handed series is rooted in a collegial and social spirit, where knowledge is shared, and newcomers are welcomed with encouragement.

An open invitation

To all club members – whether cruising skippers, Wednesday night racers, or weekend warriors – we extend an open invitation to give single-handed sailing



a go. Start with a short course. Try a light-wind day. You'll quickly discover why so many of us return race after race, year after year. You don't need a purpose-built rig or autopilot wizardry to get started. What you do need is curiosity and courage – the rest comes with time, experience, and the occasional broach.

In closing, congratulations again to our podium finishers – Pete, Damon, and Tony – and to every sailor who took to the water this season. We look forward to seeing both new faces and familiar sails next season, as the Richmond Yacht Club Single-Handed Series continues its proud tradition of challenging and celebrating those who choose to go it alone.

Fair winds and following seas – and see you on the start line! ■

SAILBOATS & DIY

BY JEREMY COPE
TIME OUT

Sailboats and DIY - the perfect match.

We all love sailing, otherwise we wouldn't be reading this publication, right? But unless you're the owner of an old sailboat you're missing out on the joys of DIY.

The sailboat is the perfect environment for DIY. It's challenging, frustrating and time-consuming, but very rewarding when you fix something or create something new with your own hands. DIY on a sailboat lets you mess about with many different materials, including woodwork, fiberglass, carbon, stainless steel, painting, glues, fillers and epoxies. You learn new skills and broaden your knowledge on engines, electrical, computers, rope splicing, sails and deck fittings etc, etc. DIY is fairly easy to do these days with free advice on the internet and from fellow boaties who love to share their knowledge and explain the details of their latest achievements.

Another benefit of all this DIY is that

you need the right tool for the job and this, my friends, is your golden opportunity to do some research then get down to the hardware store to purchase that shiny new gadget. There's nothing quite like the excitement of opening the box and admiring your new brushless orbital sander or small drill set, edge router, planer or multi-tool, all cordless, of course.

You might also need calipers, a pump for extracting oil from the engine, a label maker for marking your electrical cables, a multi-meter for measuring current and a small gas-powered heat gun for heat-shrink connectors. A good socket set is a must and a hacksaw with 10 blades, of course. If you're like me and are getting into splicing Dyneema then you'll need some fids and a D-Splicer. If you haven't got a drill press, a sewing machine or a vice on your boat, don't despair, Richmond has these and other tools available for members' use in the workshop.

Unfortunately unless you're a professional boat builder or a rigger there are some jobs you should probably leave to the experts. The last thing you want is the mast coming down when you're out with your family. Not a good look! However for most jobs you should do like the kid on the TV ad

who said 'Do it yourself, mate!'

As the Water Rat said to the Mole: "Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats." - Wind in the Willows by A.A Milne. ■





Officers

PRESIDENT **Hans Swete** - Transformer

COMMODORE **Jacky Bush**

VICE COMMODORE **Mike Matthews** - About Time

REAR COMMODORE **Allan Geddes** - Q2

TREASURER **Steve Morriss** - Belle

SECRETARY **John Marshall** - Dream Machine

BUILDING MANAGER **David Cashmore** - Georgia Rae

SPONSORSHIP **Russell Hawken** sponsorship@richmondyc.org.nz

General Committee

Andy Bevan - Atamai

Cameron Le Sueur

Damon Paling - Oro Rosa

Gregory Thwaite

Jeremy Cope - Time Out

Karen Aw Yong

Keeley Sander - Perchance

Richard Limbrick - Cool Change

Russell Hawken

Tony Evans - Predator

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