

PLAIN SAILING

J U N E 2 0 2 4



RICHMOND
YACHT CLUB



FROM THE FLAG

BY CHRIS CRONE
RYC COMMODORE



Winter is well and truly with us, and of course that means winter racing!

We've had varied conditions so far - tranquil blue skies as well as blustery grey ones! - but no matter the weather, there has been great racing among the 40-odd boats hitting the water.

Off the water, things have also been busy at the Club. We held our 120th AGM in late June, where I had the honour of being elected Commodore for one more year. I want to say huge thank-you to two committee members stepping down: Liz and Keith, and give a warm welcome to two new committee members, Russell and Damon. Also a huge thank-you to all Club members who attended the AGM.

Along with the AGM was the annual Prizegiving and it was tremendous to see such a good turnout for that. Hearty congratulations to Peppermint Planet, recipient of the Noel Cole Trophy and Club Champion for the 2023-24 season, as well as joint winner of the Centennial Cup with Road

Runner.

Although the next quarter will be relatively quiet on the racing front, there will be a lot of work behind the scenes to prepare for the new season: dates negotiated with other clubs, documents written up, checked and rechecked, handbooks and calendars confirmed. Thank you to all of our volunteers who carry out this good work.

On the topic of volunteers: we hold an annual volunteers' dinner to thank everyone who contributes their time and efforts - this year's will be held a little later than in past years, in September, between the final race of the Winter Series and the first of the new season (Spring Regatta). We'll be sending out Save-The-Dates soon!

If you're interested in knowing what you can do to help the club, email me or catch me at prizegiving, or chat to any committee member.

I look forward to seeing you on the water, or up at the Club! ►



THIS ISSUE

**BY CHRIS CRONE,
VERY GRATEFUL EDITOR**

Welcome to the June 2024 issue of Plain Sailing.

In this issue, we get a rundown on this year's AGM and the big winners from the 2023-24 prizegiving held at the Club.

Barry then gives a newbie's perspective on single-handed sailing in

the RYC Single-handed Series and Jeremy summarises the results from our Friday Night Special survey. Tony tells us about what's going on in his shed, before Metbob tells us about the cyclone season ended April.

I'm thrilled to announce that Deryn Williams will be taking over as Editor for the September issue onwards.

The best way you can welcome her to the gig is by submitting articles! Tell us about your winter maintenance projects, send us race reports: even just a write-up of a Winter Series race with a few photos. Please submit to magazine@richmondyc.org.nz ►

COMMITTEE REPORT - WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

BY MIKE MATTHEWS, REAR COMMODORE

Your Club Committee is dedicated to making RYC the best friendly yacht club for cruising and racing.

To run a yacht club there is lots to do – but as the saying goes, many hands make light work, and we have a great active involved committee supported very ably by our part-time administrator.

I joined the committee mid-2023 and stepped into the role of Rear Commodore, having been a member since 2017 (this time round) as I decided it was time to follow in the steps of the many before me to help continue our great 100+ year legacy. Following Jacky Bush's (Vice Commodore) report last year here are just a few bits (and not everything!) of what your committee's been up to in the last 9 months!

Sailing & Racing

- Full sailing calendar with more than 1,000 boat days in RYC sailing events.
- Starting to survey participants to see where we can improve any and all of our events.

The Club

- Successful working bees to enhance the weatherproofing of the clubrooms.
- Plan in place to recarpet the clubrooms.
- Excellent post-race club room attendance for prizegiving functions.
- Ongoing third-party hiring of the club, though mainly in day time.

Membership and Other Clubs

- Ongoing club promotion to grow club membership in this competitive sailing club space.
- Meetings with YNZ ranging from racing safety requirements to supporting club policies.
- Regular meetings with neighbouring club's flag officers to share common concerns.

Sponsorship

We retain our fantastic sponsors, so please continue to support them when you can (they're listed on the back page). As a new initiative, we are planning a Sponsors' Day regatta (yes, with a cup) as thanks to our sponsors so watch out for it.

Admin, Finance and Legal

- June '24 our Treasurer reported the club remains in a sound financial position.
- Feb '24 saw club Administrator Kerry on maternity leave (welcome Eliza!) and Sharon has stepped in admirably.
- 21st century decision to drop plastic membership cards as just one cost-out initiative.
- The club constitution needs to be updated to meet changes in the law – yes not very exciting but still very necessary and to be completed through 2025.

Yes, being a committee member does take some time, but your efforts are rewarded by seeing the successes and camaraderie in the club, so if you want to find out more please feel free to reach out to me or any committee member. ►

WELCOME



New Members

Andy Benton

General

Indis, Sunfast 3300

Bob Cook

General

Houdini, Magic 25

Sandra Lee Bees

Associate

New Crew Members

Alice Davidson

Brenna Hadley

Sharron Meadows



UPCOMING CALENDAR & EVENTS

July 2024

3 rd	Pot Luck Lunch
7 th	Winter Series Race 5
21 st	Winter Series Race 6
26 th	Quiz Night

September 2024

1 st	Winter Series Race 9 (Final, Motuihe Race)
4 th	Pot Luck Lunch
21 st	Spring Regatta

August 2024

4 th	Winter Series Race 7
7 th	Pot Luck Lunch
18 th	Winter Series Race 8
30 th	Club Social, TBC

.. More dates for 2024-25 season to be confirmed soon!



AGM 2024

The 120th Annual General Meeting of the Richmond Yacht Club was held on Friday 21st June.

Reports from the Commodore, Secretary and Treasurer were presented to the club members in attendance.

The officers and committee for the 2024-25 season were voted upon. The committee welcomes Damon Paling (Oro Rosa) and Russell Hawken.

Two committee members are stepping down for 2024-25: Liz Henderson and

Keith Bekker. Both were applauded for their contributions to the committee and club.

Keith was awarded the Blake Memorial Shield for his outstanding dedication as Club Captain / Building Manager.

Presentations were made to Rodney and Kate Janes, Chris Crone, Andrew Burr, Trish Beken and Margaret Harvey.

Reports and minutes are available from:

<https://richmondyc.org.nz/general-meetings/>

Sincere thanks to outgoing Club Secretary Liz Henderson and incoming Club Secretary John Marshall for their time and efforts on the AGM's organisation. ■

PRIZEGIVING

At the conclusion of the AGM, a delicious dinner was served, and shortly thereafter the prizegiving for the 2023-24 season got underway.

As is tradition, members of the committee had gathered the previous night to polish the silverware, ready for Commodore Chris Crone and Vice Commodore Jacky Bush to give out.

Congratulations to all winners!

Details will be published in the upcoming 2024-25 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 2023-24, 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.

The winner, with fifteen points, was two points clear of three other boats tied for second.

Congratulations to Peppermint Planet!



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.

This year it was won jointly by Road Runner and Peppermint Planet - congratulations to two deserving winners.



Maurice Livingstone Cup

The Cup is awarded to club members who "go the extra mile" for the club. 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 Roger Crabtree (pictured) and Bill Maloney on Taipan.

Roger and Bill go the extra mile for the club, quite literally. There are very few Richmond races where they are not on the water looking out for us - we are all hugely grateful for their contribution to the club and our ability to run safe, fair racing.



COOLSTORE CONSTRUCTION SINGLE-HANDED SERIES: A NEWBIE'S VIEW

BY BARRY OGILVIE, BROOKLANDS



My starting was a bit timid and the race track is an unforgiving place to learn how things work on your boat. But what a sensational feeling when it all comes together and you see a "1" on your scorecard!

I bought Brooklands, a Roper 9000, with the intention of racing single-handed. I built a haul-out trailer and with the support of the team at Brooklands Boat Club I am able to race the boat "dry" from Clevedon.

Delivery trips almost got the better of me early on in the series when a couple of howling, hail-filled westerlies made for a miserable trip up to Westhaven, but the perseverance gene kicked in and I used these sessions to learn more



about how to manage the boat in these conditions.

I didn't know at the time how handy these sessions would be, as some of our races were in pretty challenging conditions – the race on 13 April had a top wind speed of 40.4 kts and an average of 23.6. The shot below is us in the Rangi channel. John on Crocodile has just slipped through about 100 metres to leeward and the rest of the fleet aren't too far off in the distance. Not that you'd know!

Not all the races were this brutal and the race out of Gulf Harbour in early October was a glamour downwind start for the fleet, albeit in pretty flukey conditions which resulted in me pinching a win from The Entertainer on handicap. That was certainly a boost for the campaign!

What I have learned so far is that sailing single-handed seems to rely on 3 things: People, Processes and Perseverance.

The people at the Brooklands Club help me load the boat for each race day and my partner Chris looks after the provisioning and gets me out the door on time and in good shape. The other competitors are hugely supportive of new arrivals with all

sorts of insights before, during and after the races.

Processes make or break you in this single-handed stuff. My boat was originally set up for a crew of at least five and the systems were set up to accommodate that many hands on board. I learnt about how inappropriate my systems were pretty early on in the series when I got called on the start line by a starboard boat only to find that I can't reach the autopilot and hold the jib sheets without getting spreadeagled across the traveller.

Once bitten as they say!

Rumour has it that it takes ten thousand hours to master a skill. Whilst I have that in spades in terms of crewed sailing, I am still a newbie to this single-handed stuff. This last year has been a pretty steep learning curve. But persevere I will,




as it is great fun being out there with like-minded individuals, pushing our boats and ourselves into new challenges and basking in those moments when all goes according to plan.

The view for me (for most of the season) was of the stern of most boats in the fleet but there were obvious signs of improvement so I will be back out there again for the season starting in spring. If you've got a boat and a sense of adventure come and join us! ■

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NEW

VICTORIA FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIAL SURVEY RESULTS 2023-24

BY JEREMY COPE, FRIDAY NIGHT
SPECIAL COORDINATOR

RVC ran another successful Friday Night Special over the 2023-24 summer, thanks to our generous sponsors Victoria Cruising Club.

Thanks to all those that took the time to complete the feedback survey, the results are very positive and there are lots of good suggestions and ideas for us to consider.

We had a few challenges during the series and were forced to cancel three races. Of course we'd rather be on the water than in front of a whiteboard, however we can't control the weather or the sewage! Also, adding additional races is not as easy due to a busy sailing calendar and several clubs using the same stretch of water. However we did manage to fit another race in at the end of the season so six races out of eight sailed in the end.

We had 41 FNS participants and a 68% response to the feedback survey which is pretty good.

The findings are:

Where did you find out about the FNS?

- 32% word of mouth through friends
- 25% repeat participants
- 18% used Google

Did you enjoy the sailing?

- 89% rated this highly

Did the FNS series meet your

expectations?

- 93% agreed it did

Did you enjoy the presentations?

- 57% said great
- 39% sometimes

What would you prefer happens on evenings where the racing is cancelled?

- 46% would rather have the night off
- 36% like the presentations at the club

Do you think the FNS was good value for the money?

- 80% rate it great or good value

Did the FNS series meet your expectations?

- 54% rated it 5 saying it exceeded their expectations
- 9% rated it a 4

Will you recommend FNS to others?

- Overwhelming 92% said yes

What are you planning to do now?

- 36% are planning to do another FNS
- 29% have a crew position
- 11% are looking for a crew position
- 2 people stated they've bought a boat!

So overall a really good, positive response. One area for us to work on are the presentations, keeping them on topic and shorter was a popular suggestion and enticing people to the club when we're not sailing - free beer maybe? Not sure how I'll get that past the committee.

Thanks again for the feedback and suggestions and we are always looking for volunteers to help with the FNS so if you would like to personally help make this a better experience then please get in touch with the club or myself. ■

THE YACHTIE'S SHED

BY TONY EVANS, PREDATOR

Most of us love anything that floats and a few have a project on the go.

Just recently I was very fortunate to acquire this super cool 12-foot trimaran dinghy from a skilled craftsman, Dave, who also has a home-built aeroplane in his garage. The main hull is a cedar plug, for a female mould and a similar plug for the two outriggers.

The main hull is easily turned into the real deal, with the addition of a deck and cockpit. The outrigger floats will see me upping my game with some new fibreglassing skills. Luckily there's a few talented Richmond members to help out.

The model in the photos was built by Dave, to an Alan Wright design. Alan has a long association with RYC and is a brilliant designer. At 93 years old now, he can still produce some super smart ideas to go boating.

A 4hp outboard should be sufficient to have this flying across the ocean, with a chilly bin and fishing rods of course.

As with most sheds, the other projects have been pushed into the corner or winched into the loft space, to make room for my new favorite. Gotta say the concept is exciting: summer is not far away.

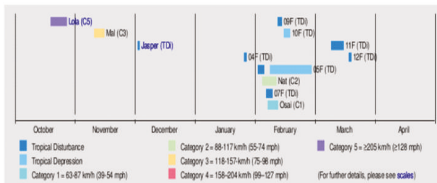
Any other shed stories out there? Your Plain Sailing editor would love an article. ■



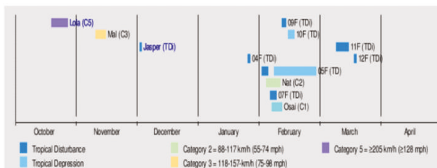
THE 2023-24 CYCLONE SEASON

BY BOB "METBOB" MCDAVITT

This time-map shows the cyclones that affected the Australian and South Pacific regions during the cyclone season that started on 1 November 2023 and ended on 30 April 2024.



Australia



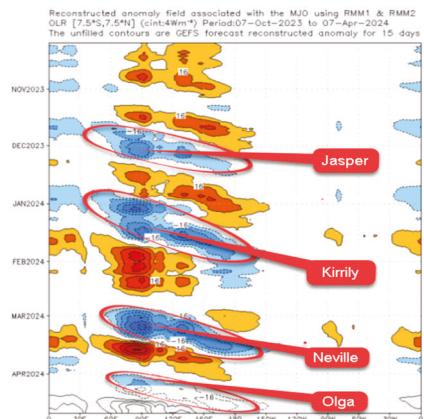
South Pacific

Vanuatu had a hard time in 2023 with three severe storms: Judy and Kevin in March, then Lola in October. Then in November Mal brought some minor damage to Fiji.

During this cyclone season, none bothered New Zealand (unlike last season). The main damaging cyclones this season were around Australia. This was an El Niño year, and such years are sometimes "below par" for tropical cyclones in NZ.

It is interesting to compare these cyclone clusters and damaging cyclones with the passing MJO

(Madden Julian Oscillation) pulses, shown here as blue zones in the OLR (outgoing longwave radiation) anomalies, from: www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/MJO/mjoupdate.pdf



Basically, the denser the tropical clouds, the lesser is the satellite measured OLR. We had four MJO pulses in the past cyclone season.

When a MJO pulse arrives in our part of the world, there is a higher tendency for tropical cyclones to be triggered. It is just a tendency - it doesn't always work - and cyclones can form without the MJO - but it is a useful indicator, as shown in the MJOs we had this season and the main cyclones that affected Australia. ■



spring regatta

SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2024

RUNNING IN CONJUNCTION WITH RAYC GOLD CUP SERIES

CONTACT EITHER CLUB FOR MORE DETAILS.

FOR BOATS RACING IN THE SPRING REGATTA
ENTER ONLINE VIA RICHMONDYC.ORG.NZ

FOR BOATS RACING IN THE GOLD CUP
ENTER ONLINE VIA WWW.RAYC.CO.NZ







Officers

PRESIDENT **Hans Swete** - Transformer

COMMODORE **Chris Crone**

VICE COMMODORE **Jacky Bush**

REAR COMMODORE **Mike Matthews** - About Time

TREASURER **Steve Morriss** - Belle

SECRETARY **John Marshall** - Dream Machine

BUILDING MANAGER **David Cashmore** - Georgia Rae

SPONSORSHIP **Jacky Bush** sponsorship@richmondyc.org.nz

General Committee

Andy Bevan - Atamai

Damon Paling - Oro Rosa

Jeremy Cope - Time Out

Richard Limbrick - Cool Change

Russell Hawken

Tony Evans - Predator

Gregory Thwaite

Office Hours

ADMINISTRATOR **Sharon Hill**

Tues - Fri. 10am - 2pm

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Magazine

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