

# PLAIN SAILING

NOVEMBER 2022



RICHMOND  
YACHT CLUB



# FROM THE FLAG

BY RICHARD LIMBRICK  
RYC COMMODORE



**By the time you read this edition of Plain Sailing, the Coastal Classic will be but another memory and the dream of those ideal conditions will live for another year.**

I'm told that in 2023 the conditions will be perfect! Congratulations to all of our club skippers who prepared their boats and finished the race and to their crews who braved the long night on the rail! I know, personally, that it takes a huge commitment to get a boat ready for these types of events.

This season's programme has gotten away to a flying start with good fleets participating in our Wednesday Night Series and our Friday Night Specials still proving popular as a way of building sailing skills and knowledge. Our first singlehanded series race weekend attracted all of the hardcore singlehanders along with a couple of new skippers.

During this winter two of our regular Ross 930 participants have undertaken significant upgrades to their boats. Good boats can be made better! I look forward to seeing them back racing soon. A third is currently undergoing an upgrade and we now have another competitive Young 88

in the club.

Our new event, the 3x3 Summer Blast, is something to look out for. Only three crew required with a soft warm-up on Friday night with a 'no extras' rum race. The club will be open on the Sunday after racing for the prizegiving. As this is the first year for this event, our committee wanted to get as many boats participating as possible. In order to facilitate this, the committee has decided that entry for 2022-2023 Richmond Yacht Club Sail Pass holders will be free! Entries are now open.

This summer we are also looking forward to getting our cruising series underway so I look forward to catching up with you all on the beaches as we get the opportunity to enjoy a warm summer of sailing.

This will be the last edition of Plain Sailing for 2022, a magazine which is still popular with our members. Thank you to all who have contributed with your articles and stories, and to Chris for the fantastic job he does in bringing our magazine together for you, our members.

Sail safe. ▶



# THIS ISSUE

BY CHRIS CRONE  
EDITOR

## Welcome to the November 2022 issue of Plain Sailing.

In this issue, we have reports from Murray on this year's Spring Regatta and Richard on the first two races in the Singlehanded Series. Andy tells us about his recent family cruise around the Hauraki Gulf and the Quiz Mistress reports on the famous Richmond Quiz

held in August. Metbob explains El Niño and La Niña, then Steve tells us about the coming Cruising Event: the Sir Peter Blake Memorial, BBQ and beach cleanup at Motuihe. Get your family and friends together and have a great weekend keeping our harbour beautiful!

The next issue is in February: please bash out an article about your summer sailing and send it to [magazine@richmondyc.org.nz](mailto:magazine@richmondyc.org.nz) ▶

## THE 3 X 3 SUMMER BLAST, 9-11 DEC

**Keen for a new challenge? How about the 3 x 3 Summer Blast: 3 days, 3 races, 3 crew, sponsored by Burnsko.**

On Friday night, a "no extras" harbour race. On Saturday, a race round Rangitoto. On Sunday, a harbour race flying whatever extras take your fancy, followed by prizegiving and banter at the club. Free for Sail Pass holders and very reasonable for everyone else, check out the details at [richmondyc.org.nz](http://richmondyc.org.nz) → Sailing → Racing → 3 x 3 Summer Blast and get your crew together! ■

THE ALL NEW  
**3 x 3**  
**SUMMER**  
**Blast**  
9-11 DECEMBER 2022  
**3** DAYS RACES CREW  
PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY  
**BURNSCO**

# WELCOME



## New Members

### Alan Geddes

General  
Shirae, Young 88

### Christian Driscoll

General  
Fundy Lass, Bavaria 37 Cruiser

### Neil Watkins

General  
Expectation, Farr 38

### Richard Blakey

General  
Urban Escape, Beneteau First 31.7

### Stephen Morison

General  
Wasabi, Sayer 12

## New Crew Members

Adrienne Furness

Ben Plummer

Brigitte Landry

Bruno Landry

Carolyn Watts

Ella Fischer

Fiona Van Rooyen

Gregory Martell

Huw Hielkema

Jake Scherberg

James Fyfe

Jeandre Smalberger

Jo Mills

Jody McMillan

Jonathan Allan

Joshua Bradshaw

Laura Budd

Lucas Kengmana

Matt Algie

Peter Maxwell

Phillipa Hatton

Russell Pickering

Shawn Plummer

Stacey Ayre

Tom Hielkema



# UPCOMING CALENDAR & EVENTS

## Nov 2022

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Pot Luck Lunch
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Night Series Race 3
- 6<sup>th</sup> Singlehanded Series Race 4 (BBYC)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Friday Night Special Race 3
- 16<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Night Series Race 4
- 19<sup>th</sup> Westhaven Triple Race 1 (Round Rangitoto, PCC)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Friday Night Special Race 4
- 30<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Night Series Race 5

## Dec 2022

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Cruising Event: Sir Peter Blake Memorial & Singlehanded Series Race 5
- 7<sup>th</sup> Pot Luck Lunch
- 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> **3x3 Summer Blast!**  
**3 days, 3 races, 3 crew**
- 14<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Night Series Race 6

## Jan 2023

- 20<sup>th</sup> Friday Night Special Race 5
- 25<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Night Series Race 7
- 27<sup>th</sup> Cruising Event: Mahurangi Night Race & Singlehanded Series Race 6
- 30<sup>th</sup> Auckland Anniversary Day Regatta

## Feb 2023

- 1<sup>st</sup> Pot Luck Lunch
- 8<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Night Series Race 8
- 10<sup>th</sup> Cruising Event: Kawau Night Race & Westhaven Triple Series & Singlehanded Series Race 7
- 17<sup>th</sup> Friday Night Special Race 6
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Night Series Race 9

### ... and save the dates!

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 for Route 66

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March 2023 for Gulf Triangle,  
now with two-handed division!



# SPRING REGATTA

BY MURRAY KELWAY, SHIBUMI

## Reflections on Saturday's race. Great fun!

We were in C div which took us virtually straight out to Gannet Rock and around Waiheke.

The run out was no easy picnic. The MRX 2000 crew thought taking Rangitoto to starboard after passing Northern Leading was the quicker way to go.

A realignment of their compass had them soon back on track.

We found we had to work hard to keep in the pressure. Trying to read it with the glare on the water to port or was there greater pressure to leeward. With 4 crew onboard we found we automatically defaulted to a double watch system which saw helm and trim positions changing on a regular basis to keep the concentration high on the run to Gannet.

The lay/beat though Waiheke Channel was no forerunner for what we faced

around the corner at Passage Rock.

The joggle of Tamaki Strait with a short sharp chop was hard work in a Ross 780. We found we were forever changing gears between going for height when we could and footing off to get the boat moving again after being stopped dead from slamming into every fourth/fifth wave. It was hard case seeing bigger boats to windward with their greater water line length and weight sailing by without issue as if on a Sunday cruise. So pleased to reach Browns Island Beacon with the boat still in one piece although our bodies were broken.

Congratulations to those who sailed singlehanded, particularly Sister Moonshine Y88 in C div – great effort. Unfortunately, your crew didn't update you that the committee boat crew had set the finish line on their starboard side, well done on unwinding yourself to cross the line at 18:36.

The Spring Regatta has great memories for us. One race we lost the spin halyard during a hoist in the middle of the Rangitoto Channel. I





climbed the mast to retrieve it... Just like we tell the kids - Stay with the Boat! The boat capsized as I rode the mast all the way to the water. Another crew member jumped off (thinking to stop it sinking) the cockpit stayed dry, and the boat righted itself once I had let the mast go. We both climbed onboard and continued the race.

Our gratitude to the RYC race management and committee boat crew for this year's Spring Regatta. Already looking forward to next year's one!! ▶

*Thanks also to Spring Regatta sponsors Musto and Marine Deals!*



# RYC SINGLE-HANDED SERIES

BY RICHARD LIMBRICK,  
COOL CHANGE



**It was great to have a competitive fleet line up for the first two races of the Richmond Yacht Club's Coolstore Construction Singlehanded Series.**

This is the seventh season that our club has hosted this series and it's great to see so many of our returning competitors optimising their boats for this type of racing.

The first two races of our series are



always hosted by the Ponsonby Cruising Club with Chains, Ropes and Anchors together with Armare Ropes being sponsors for the weekend. And what amazing sponsors they are, providing all competitors with an overnight marina berth at Gulf Harbour and hosting a delicious dinner at the Gulf Harbour Yacht Club plus some amazingly generous prizes for the successful skippers at the end of each race day. I'm sure we will all enjoy





our new Armare halyards and sheets. As usual Grant from the “Pons” is a generous and enthusiastic supporter of this series.

Race Day on Saturday promised a quiet ‘on the wind’ start, the course being to Orapapa Island passing A Buoy to port, rounding Orapapa Island and Navy Buoys to port, finishing off Gulf Harbour. The start was clean, although some skippers were challenged by the use of a flag to notify the course number. Good to have a list of all of those flags somewhere.

Although the breeze was steady down the channel, the incoming tide added a challenge. Once around Rangī Light the breeze lightened and big gains and losses were made as the fleet headed towards the first turning mark - rounding Orapapa Island to port, with Katana (Nigel), Niksen (Logan) and The Entertainer (Pete) setting a brisk pace at the head of the fleet. It was a fairly tight reach across to Navy Buoy however the broader angles to Gulf Harbour did see the first of the ‘extras’ being deployed. Handicap results saw Katana take out the double for Race 1. Congratulations to Katana (1<sup>st</sup>), Penury (2<sup>nd</sup>) and The Entertainer (3<sup>rd</sup>) on their results.

After a great evening of camaraderie and good humour, the fleet gathered again off Gulf Harbour for the start of Race 2. The course was to Salt Works Buoy, then to Illiomama Buoy then to

the finish at Resolution. The breeze was steady with some good gusts. Big sails and careful planning were the order for leg 1. Some chose spinnakers, some gennakers and some Code 0s. Once again Katana, Niksen and the Entertainer sprang into the lead. Entertainer gave a truly magnificent performance on what a gennaker can do when it’s allowed to think for itself and the Penury also provided special moments with his spinnaker antics. All when closing into a very tight turning space around Saltworks. For me the code 0 provided all of the challenge I was looking for and the Cool Change rounded the mark in fourth place on the water.

The leg to Illiomomona proved quite challenging as the breeze eased a little and the direction became more variable. At this point the Penury and Flashwave closed in on the Cool Change and rounded slightly ahead. The race was really on for the finish. Most of the time the Code 0 worked well on this leg and the Cool Change regained the fourth spot on line. Once again Katana, Niksen and Entertainer set the pace at the front of the fleet. Handicap honours went to Cool Change (1), Penury (2) and Entertainer (3).

All in all a fantastic start to the series and we’re particularly indebted to Coolstore Construction for their continued support of this event. Roll on Race 3 on 30<sup>th</sup> October. ▶

# SUMMER'S HERE !?



The 2022-23 RYC Wednesday Night Series kicked off on 5th October, thanks to our fantastic sponsors CRC, New World Victoria Park and Sailutions.

Despite being a chilly and grey evening, it was a thoroughly enjoyable race - here are a few photos from the night. 



MARSDEN COVE  
MARINA

**ROUTE 66**



**COASTAL  
YACHT RACE**

**FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

**66NM FROM AUCKLAND TO WHANGAREI HEADS**

MARSDEN  COVE MARINA

— WHANGAREI HARBOUR —



# SPRING/SUMMER CRUISING SHAKEDOWN

BY ANDY BEVAN, ATAMAI

**Following what has felt like more than just a tiresome winter and its inclement weather for the occasional racing, the long-awaited inaugural weekend for a cruising 'shakedown' came and went as quickly as the sea breezes.**

An alternative to slogging the sea miles to Russell in the Coastal Classic this year, Labour Weekend 2022 was earmarked in the calendar for being the first opportunity to slip lines to head out cruising Atamai with the family; a time to blow out the operational cobwebs for the season and holidays ahead.

The plan was simple: depart the dock 3pm on the Friday afternoon - timed to be well clear of the Ipiriri Fleet and allowing for the majority of a day's remote working to keep the Skipper honest. True to the words of Robert Burns: *"The best laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft a-gley."*, the demands of clients, colleagues, and the volumes of lists of yacht prep still stood in the way of this well-orchestrated departure. Arriving at the marina 4pm and still tasked with final cruising boat conversions, general provisioning and the unpacking of stores, it became very apparent we'd be holidaying on the dock that night. Exactly that. Four hours and a couple of beers later we were ready to settle in for the night ahead of making way early in the morning. A few fronts blew through from the East and the forecasted gusts struck in the



early hours making the vacation hold-up pleasantly less regrettable.

By Saturday morning, the weather was perfect... for the cruisers. A fickle 5kt (True) E/SE breeze on the nose as we motored up the Harbour, destination: Te Wharau Bay, Waiheke. Despite an early departure, it still felt like we received the memo late as we joined the rest of the marine traffic of holidaying lemmings all claiming their Springtime nautical retreat. With some mechanical upgrades and a glossy new belly underneath, we made gun to the bay under motor, only to be surrounded with like-minded mariners as the afternoon progressed. Great minds...aye?

A lovely anchorage, with plenty of depth and mud for good holding, it was a perfect selection with forecasted Northerly breezes. It really didn't take long to slip back into boat and beach life before heading round the corner to Takutairaroa Bay, Motuihe as a slightly strengthening wind shift to the SW

was pending on Sunday afternoon. Within minutes of unfurling the genoa on a starboard tack leaving Te Wharau, the sail backed as the wind made a complete 180 approaching the Sergeant Channel. It didn't take long to locate our (relative) shelter for the night in front of Ocean Beach and immediately after dropping the pick we observed all of our uninvited neighbours from Te Wharau had also flocked there too.

After an uneventful night finally disturbed by the alarm that is a 3-year-old, it was time to hoist the RIB back on the foredeck early morning and get underway for Westhaven before the Sou-westerly angered up for the day. Pleasantly berthed by 10am; packed-up, washed down and vacated well before Midday on the Labour Day, there was still plenty of time to enjoy the day off work; reflecting on the brief, albeit pleasant yachting holiday, any new learnings with cruising, but more importantly to dream of the many good times ahead yachting in our backyard. ►



# QUIZ NIGHT 2022

BY THE QUIZ MISTRESS

## Following a lovely curry dinner, the quiz started with a display of flags and some of their meanings.

This led the quizzers into Round One entitled “Flag it” which challenged the teams to determine which flag belonged to which nation. The Quiz Mistress was in a benevolent mood, offering the answers, and a few extra to make it interesting.

Antipods were the only team to get a perfect score, with M&M's only one point behind.

Now teams were warmed up, it was into categories from which teams had opted to double any points earned on their pre-selected round from Kiwiana, Geography, Food and Drink, Scary Stuff, Pot Luck, or Nauti and Nice.

Three teams decided to play their jokers in Round 2, 'Pot Luck', being MPSFPTS, Quizzy McQuiz Face, and The Predators. M&Ms and Peppermint Planet opted for Food and Drink, whilst Antipods chose Geography, and Jimmy chose Nauti & Nice. No team chose Kiwiana nor Scary Stuff.

Drinks break was used for serving the delicious chocolate brownie dessert and ice cream, as well as liquid refreshments.

There was lots of laughter as teams worked to determine answers to a myriad of questions such as:

Q. What does the Dunning-Kruger effect lead to over-estimating?

A. Your own ability

Q. What was/is stored in a fiasco?

A. Wine

Q. What was the name of the ship that took Gilligan and passengers on a 3-hour tour?

A. S.S. Minnow

... and to hear how the term “grog” came into use.

Once again with the invaluable assistance of Sue, score sheets were collected, swiftly marked, and recorded on the score board that Leo had drawn up earlier.

This year's winners were:

1<sup>st</sup>: The Predators

2<sup>nd</sup>: Antipods

3<sup>rd</sup>: Peppermint Planet

This year the sourcing of prizes was undertaken by the Committee which was most appreciated.

A big thanks to the Committee members who arranged the catering, and to Mark who not only ensured it was laid out, but also prepared take-home boxes, and manned the bar.

Many people also helped to tidy up at the end of the night, thank you all.. ►



# EL NIÑO AND LA NIÑA

BY BOB "METBOB" MCDAVITT



## The locals in Peru are keen observers of ups and downs in their food stocks over the years.

They like to gather anchovies that can be easily collected just offshore thanks to the strong upwellings of nutritious water in the Humboldt current. Around Christmas in most years a current brings in warmer seas from the north and a bounty of extra food, and Peruvian fish gatherers call this event "El Niño" naming it after the birth of the Christ child.

The first published reference of this was in 1891 by Senor Dr Luis Carranza, as the then-President of the Lima Geographical Society. So, what about the origin of the term "La Niña"? Well, the locals in Peru didn't have a term for a non-bounty period and when the term "El Niño" was adopted to describe a warm event over the eastern equatorial Pacific, various terms were used to describe its opposite. One was "Anti El-Niño", but that can be translated as Antichrist and was only used once or twice.

So it was that George Philander of Princeton introduced the term "La Niña" (Girl) for the "cold event". But some wanted to use "El Viejo" (old man).

## La Niña or not?

El Niño and La Niña are opposite ends of the swing of an identifiable tropical influence on our seasonal weather.

The La Niña, caused by cooler than normal sea surface temperatures

along the equatorial eastern Pacific, shifts the subtropical ridge away from the equator and strengthens the trade winds.

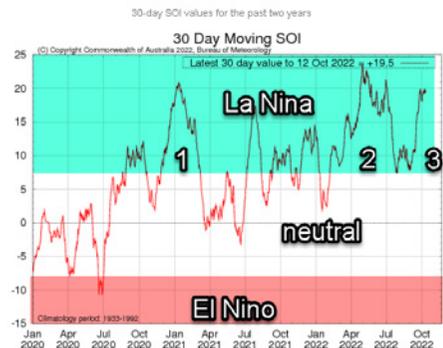
The El Niño, with warmer than normal seas, draws the subtropical ridge closer to the equator, weakening the trade winds.

Their comings and goings can last several months, maybe years, and so their status can be used to help forecast the weather for the coming season.

## The Isobars

ENSO=El Niño/Southern Oscillation. The main parameter we watch from the atmosphere is the Southern Oscillation Index SOI (30 day running mean) as it sums up the whole weather pattern across the South Pacific into one number, based on the number of isobars between Tahiti and Darwin, The SOI is the normalised Tahiti minus Darwin barometer reading.

LA Niña EVENTS: We had La Niña #1 Dec '20 - Mar '21, #2 from Feb - Jul '22 and now starting #3.

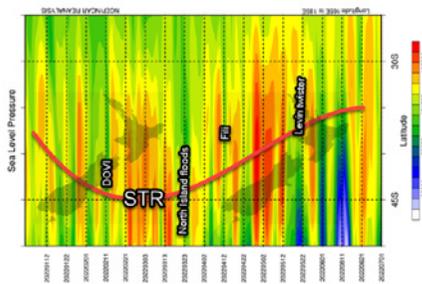


## Hmm.... Another La Niña summer???

But wait...The ocean is telling us we may be neutral by December....

Niño3.4 is the parameter mostly

used from the ocean for watching ENSO and recently this has been hovering on the threshold.



Other factors now considered are the sub-surface temperature, the height of the sea, cloudiness, and the trade winds. The combination of several parameters and models are then summarised into a plume of forecasts for Niño3.4 for the months ahead. This shows us having a La Niña now, and it is TRENDING TOWARDS NORMAL FOR THE COMING SUMMER.....but there may still be marine heat waves, more about what that may bring in my next edition. 🏹

## SIR PETER BLAKE MEMORIAL RACE AND BEACH CLEAN-UP

BY STEVE MORRISS, BELLE

**This is a call-out to our sailing community to help clean up one of our island gems in our sailing playground.**

Sea pollution is an ongoing problem. Auckland rubbish makes its way into the Hauraki Gulf through the stormwater system and ends up washed up on the shores of Motuihe Island.

We've been in contact with The Motuihe Project, a group of volunteers that have done some fantastic restoration work over the years to replenish the island with reintroduced native flora and fauna, and Sea Cleaners, a non-profit

organisation dedicated to removing rubbish from our marine environment.

The Sir Peter Blake Memorial Race takes place on Saturday 3rd December - followed by a BBQ/Prizegiving and overnight anchorage at Motuihe (great anchorages on both sides of the island, depending on wind direction). Camping is also available and can be booked online with DOC.

Let's spend a few hours on Sunday morning to rid the island beaches of the Auckland rubbish so that the island is ready for summer.

Location details will be posted closer to the time on [richmondyc.org.nz](http://richmondyc.org.nz) → Sailing → Racing → Cruising Events ■





# ~ Cruising Events ~

Don't cruise alone this summer! Our weekend cruising series is the perfect mix of friendly and competitive racing with social gatherings in beautiful bays throughout the gulf.

Non-RYC boats are welcome. We are a friendly bunch and love our cruising as much as our racing. Simply meeting us at the destination is also welcomed.

Bring your friends, the more the merrier.

## COMING UP!

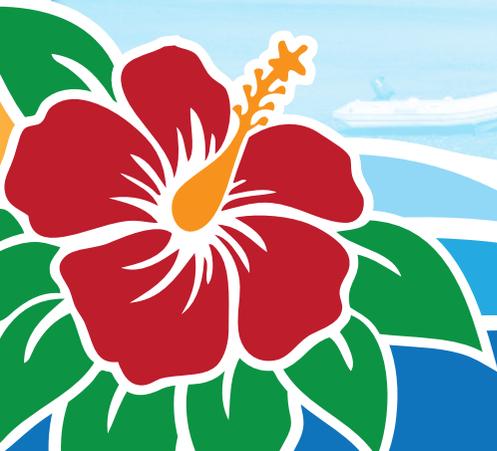
### ~ Sir Peter Blake Memorial & Beach Cleanup~

Saturday 3rd December 2022

Race start at 10:00 (optional!) to Motuihe  
Mid-afternoon beach BBQ and prizegiving

Sunday 4th December 2022

BBQ breakfast at 8:00  
Sea Cleaners briefing at 9:00 then beach cleanup



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## Officers

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PRESIDENT **Hans Swete** - Transformer  
COMMODORE **Richard Limbrick** - Cool Change  
VICE COMMODORE **Chris Crone** - Taitua  
REAR COMMODORE **Jacky Bush**  
TREASURER **Steve Morriss** - Belle  
SECRETARY **Liz Henderson**  
CLUB MANAGER **Mark Becroft** - Maggie May  
BUILDING MANAGER **Keith Bekker** - Manawa  
SPONSORSHIP **Jacky Bush**



## General Committee

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**Andy Bevan** - Atamai  
**David Cashmore** - Georgia Rae  
**Jeremy Cope** - Time Out  
**Tony Evans** - Predator  
**John Marshall** - Dream Machine  
**Gregory Thwaite**

## Office Hours

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ADMINISTRATOR **Kate Herstell**

Winter: Tues - Fri. 10am - 3pm

Summer: Tues - Fri. 10am - 4pm

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## Magazine

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We would like to hear your stories and feedback! To submit news, stories or photos email us at: [magazine@richmondyc.org.nz](mailto:magazine@richmondyc.org.nz)



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