

PLAIN SAILING

NOVEMBER 2023



RICHMOND
YACHT CLUB



FROM THE FLAG

BY CHRIS CRONE
RYC COMMODORE



Last year, our summer racing was interrupted by the wind and rain from above.

However, this summer, the problems kicked off from below ground, with the Parnell sewer collapse preventing us from running our first Wednesday and Friday races.

However, thanks to the fantastic work of our volunteers, we were able to begin racing with modified courses - and now we're (almost) back to normal - hopefully for the rest of the season!

Our Victoria Friday Night Special series started in October, and I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new crew members who have come onboard for the FNS. We hope you'll all enjoy your time on the water

as much as we do! Thanks to all skippers who take part, too. It's your generosity that allows us to run such a fantastic series.

It was a shame to hear that the SailGP event planned for March 2024 will no longer be held in Auckland - it would have been fantastic to see the fleet rounding very close to the clubhouse! Let's cross our fingers for future years.

In the meantime, we have a superb season of sailing ahead for all members. I encourage all members to peruse the handbook and pick an event that they haven't taken part in before - whether it be cruising, or the 3x3, you're bound to have a great time.

See you on the water or at the club! ▶



THIS ISSUE

BY <YOUR NAME HERE>, EDITOR

Welcome to the November 2023 issue of Plain Sailing.

In this issue Rodney reports on the Spring Regatta, and Richard on the opening weekend of the Single-Handed Series. Annah tells us about her delivery from Fiji to NZ, our friends at Coastguard Boating Education give us a rundown on getting ready for summer, then we learn about the distinctly unfriendly exotic caulerpa that has become a pest throughout the Hauraki Gulf. To finish, Rodney gives us a rundown on the Noel Cole Trophy and who's looking good so far this season.

Are you creative and keen to help the club?

I need a club member (or spouse/

teenager/uncle) to take over the reins of Plain Sailing for me for 7 issues until mid-2025.

It doesn't take up a great deal of time: perhaps a solid day every 3 months. It's immensely gratifying, will scratch your creative itch, and you get to know a whole lot of your fellow club members.

I currently use the Adobe suite to edit it, but I'm happy to help you find software that works for you, and convert the files for you too. An editor before me used MS Publisher, but there are all sorts of freeware options.

Please get in touch:

commodore@richmondyc.org.nz ►

 Adobe



AUCKLAND BOATIES HAVE SPOKEN UP!

Thank you to everyone who gave feedback to the Ōrākei Local Board in the recent survey on the carpark at Okahu Bay. Your voice has helped create space for The Landing!

The Ōrākei Local Board voted 7:0 on Thursday 16 November to retain the hardstand in a reduced capacity.

The details are still TBD, but we've saved the infrastructure!

Thank you to everyone who had their say in the public consultations. ►



WELCOME



New Members

Lim Kang

General
Prism, Stewart 34

Dave Hay

Veteran
Right Angle, Lotus 10.6

Andy Philpott

Veteran
Catalyst, Cavalier 32

Agnes Maat and Pier Aldershof

Associate Family

New Crew Members

Eunice Arauz

Alex Arutiunov

Ella Ashford-Beck

Gemma Ashford-Beck

Monika Baumann

Rachel Beckett

Andrew Benson

Ronny Blanco Serracin

Nigel Bubb

Tom Carter

Jeremy Cathcart

Niels Chlupka

Andre Cowie

Calum Davidson

Nina DeLu

James Fyfe

Grason Gaskin

Matt Green

Stephen Griffiths

Zane Hamilton

Joel Harvey

David Hay

Gary Henderson

Greer Houston

Sarah Huynh

Karolien Janssens

Ben Jeffares

Mark Johnson

Andres Jovel

Cameron Le Sueur

Stephen Logan

Bryce Long

Rishav Narayan

Alexandra Neumann

Andre Neumann

Sue O'Callaghan

Anne Owens

Nick Pimenov

Mervyn Ram

Lance Ramos

Rebecca Sanford

Sue Smith

Christine Sy

Marcos Juan Uberti

Nelly von Puttkamer

Emily Vriens

Grant Wood

UPCOMING CALENDAR & EVENTS

November 2023

- 1st Pot Luck Lunch
- 1st Wednesday Night Series Race 3
- 10th Friday Night Special Race 3
- 12th Single-Handed Series (SHS) Race 4 (BBYC)
- 15th Wednesday Night Series Race 4
- 24th Friday Night Special Race 4
- 29th Wednesday Night Series Race 5

December 2023

- 2nd Cruising Event - Sir Peter Blake Memorial & SHS Race 5
- 6th Pot Luck Lunch
- 8th-10th 3x3 Summer Blast!
- 13th Wednesday Night Series Race 6
- 15th Friday Night Special Race 5

January 2024

- 3rd Pot Luck Lunch
- 19th Friday Night Special Race 6
- 24th Wednesday Night Series Race 7
- 26th Mahurangi Night Race & SHS Race 6
- 29th Auckland Anniversary Regatta

... and save the dates!

1st March 2024 for Route 66

1st-3rd March 2024 for Gulf Triangle,
now with two-handed division!



SPRING REGATTA

BY RODNEY JANES,
PEPPERMINT PLANET

Each and every year, the Spring Regatta marks the official beginning of the summer programme and being spring the breeze is normally up - the 2023 edition did not disappoint.

So much so that the race committee made the wise decision to not only shorten the course but also to mandate the wearing of lifejackets for all sailors.

The wind blew a stiff northerly - 20 gusting 25 knots on the start line, rising to 30 gusting 40 by midday. With torrential rain forecast at sunset the question on everyone's lips... 'will we get back to Westhaven dry?'

0915 and we set forth, upwind, from a lumpy Orakei start line. Multihulls, Gold Cup monohulls and Spring Regatta long haul reaching to Passage Rock

and back, followed by short haul, no extras and 26 footers rounding Motuihe Island.

This was going to be a drag race to Passage Rock and a good start would be vital if one was to do well. On time, at the committee boat end, Peppermint Planet chose the safety of starboard alongside Alegre and Kaizen. 2 minutes later, flick over to port and the fleet was heading east.

Those boats who reefed their mainsails appeared to suffer and the results confirmed this. Sassinate and Indis both managed to fly giptops and the additional surfing saw them make big gains.

The sole multihull entry, Attitude, finished in a fraction under 2.5 hours.

4 minutes behind, Sassinate completed the course a minute faster than Attitude and comfortably took the line & handicap double. Sunfast 3300, Indis, 20 minutes adrift was second with Kaizen third.

In the SR long haul Flojo took line honours but gave away precious



time at the start and could only manage second on handicap. A solid performance from Peppermint Planet for 1st with Kaimai Express 3rd.

Short haul was a tight battle around Motuihe with Young 88 Time Out, securing a one minute victory over Belle 2nd and Flashwave 3rd. Flashwave took line honours just 17 seconds ahead of Oro Rosa with Time Out a further 24 seconds back - must have been quite the spectacle for the patrol boat.

Atamai took line honours in the no-extras division but the race was dominated by the modified Ross 930 Scarlet Fever - just 85 seconds behind but well ahead on handicap.

The small boat results were Reliant, line honours and Sanna 1st handicap.

The race was fast, fun and mercifully dry - everybody safely back in the marina well ahead of the rain. Many thanks to the team on Taipan for sitting out there in the chop for 5 hours: your dedication to providing quality events is always appreciated. Thanks also to the skippers and crew who chose to venture out in the wild weather. Looking forward to an action-packed summer programme. ■



SINGLE-HANDED SERIES RACES 1 & 2

BY RICHARD BLAKEY,
URBAN ESCAPE



The 2023-24 Coolstore Single-Handed Series got underway on the weekend of 7-8 October, with two races hosted by the Ponsonby Cruising Club.

The first race on the Saturday was to a finish just off Gulf Harbour Marina, where the 11 yachts of the fleet would be berthed for the evening, and the skippers fed and watered by the Gulf Harbour Yacht Club. With other local races being cancelled as a result of Auckland's wastewater problem, the decision was made to move the usual Westhaven start out to the Rangitoto Channel, where the fleet got underway in a swift incoming tide under grey skies. A light northerly at the start was a good way for the skippers to get

back into the sway of solo sailing, with the course taking us to Cable Buoy off Takapuna, and then a hitch out to A-Buoy followed by an upwind leg to Navy Buoy before a quick reach along the Whangaparaoa Peninsula to Gulf Harbour.

The 'extras' fleet started ten minutes after Yardarm (in the no-extras division) and it wasn't long before Pipi, Indis, Katana and Oro Rosa stretched out, with this group heading towards the right-hand side of the course after A-Buoy, while the following group of The Entertainer, Penury and Urban Escape worked the left.

While it was upwind all the way, it was quite pleasant sailing, although the breeze started to build steadily reminding one that morning's Metservice forecast that suggested the possibility of 20-30 knots and the potential need to shorten sail. However, it never went over 18-20 knots before backing off to a steadyish 15.

Despite good progress up to Tiri Channel, Navy Buoy seemed to take a long time to reach as the remnants of the incoming tide made themselves



felt. The leg to the finish was a little too tight for extras (other than for those with Code O's) so it was a relatively relaxing sail to Gulf Harbour, with Indis leading the way, followed closely by Pipi and Katana. Indis took handicap honours, just ahead of Penury in second with Urban Escape third.

A number of us enjoyed a few drinks aboard Steve Newcombe's new and spacious Pogo 36 Pipi which importantly also sports a large fridge and facility for ice-cubes, before heading to the Gulf Harbour Yacht Club, with our evening there coinciding with the Club's season open-day dinner. Sunday morning saw the skippers reconvene at Ripples Café for some fortifying coffee and hash-browns, and given the light breeze forecast this also involved some hasty re-writing, and shortening, of the day's course options.

The fleet re-gathered for the 10.40am start off Frenchman's Cap near Gulf Harbour, with a very light northerly to send the fleet on a spinnaker run towards A-Buoy. Good progress was made by those towards the east, although there were holes and traps all across the inner Gulf, with The Entertainer sailing a close line along the East Coast Bays with a Code O, sniffing out the forecast westerly change.

A soft and tentative version of this new breeze duly arrived to send The Entertainer on a direct and relatively quick line to A-Buoy, and towards likely line and handicap honours. Alas, this was not to be as the wind died and saw Katana, which had sailed a course a little further to the left, just hold onto the light westerly breeze and sail through for a narrow line honours win (the race being shortened to finish at A-Buoy), with The Entertainer just a minute behind in second. After Pipi and Brooklands snuck through for



third and fourth, the breeze dropped further resulting in a big gap to the following boats. Brooklands made good use of a masthead spinnaker and was able to slip along quite nicely in the light airs and took out first place on handicap, with The Entertainer second and Katana third.

Despite the challenges of the situation in the Waitematā Harbour and the fickleness of the breeze on Sunday, it was a very enjoyable and successful weekend. Katana currently leads the series, just one point ahead of Penury and Urban Escape. Yardarm leads in the no-extras. The series is made up of nine races (five to count), however other RYC members are welcome to join in for individual races, and the no-extras division might be a good place to start for those thinking about giving it a go. ■

DENARAU TO AUCKLAND

BY ANNAH MCMILLAN,
KAZMIC

On the 10th of October this year I set off for my fifth blue water crossing on a Jeanneau 51.

I got the gig through a friend who normally does the trip with the skipper who spends half the year in Fiji with his wife and friends. This was his 4th time coming back down. The skipper and his wife's preparation of the boat, along with his knowledge, skills and attitude all contributed to the great comfort and safety for all on board. I had no doubt in his abilities.

The boat worked perfectly, we had fine weather all the way and it was all very civil with four adults on board. The only drama was brought on by myself as I chose not to take Sealegs. It had been so long since I've felt real seasickness and was wondering if I was immune. Day 1 was the roughest out of all with 3-metre swell plus cross winds on top creating more mess. Three reefs in the mast-furled mainsail and a tiny bit of stay-sail. I am the first to admit my foolishness. A lesson learned.

I was fine again (thanks Sealegs) by the end of Day 2 and we were motorsailing with full main and genoa. We caught a Mahimahi on Day 3 which we enjoyed as sashimi for days to come.

Day 4 we were still motorsailing through the high. Skipper had a clear plan and we stuck to it - to arrive by Monday the 16th - therefore he didn't let the boat go slower than 6 knots. Also that day, we were politely ordered to shower in the very roomy land-style



shower up in the master heads. A first for me!

By Day 6, the wind had swung around

so we were on a broad reach. Skipper had fun poling out the genoa then later pulling out the Code Zero for a blast so that was nice. Skipper spotted land in the evening then a debate ensued between me and a crewmate about whether not a cloud was another bit of land. She was certain yes and I said no. That night we approached Cape Brett then my watch required extra attention as we came down the coast inside the Hen and Chicken islands.

On Monday at 0700 somewhere around Leigh, the most ginormous pod of dolphins came to hang out for a good while. Always a privilege. Then without doubt, the skipper had us tied up at the customs dock in Westhaven by 1300. Oh and did I mention we had

Starlink on board the whole time? We all had our phones on low data mode and didn't do any streaming. Spontaneously talking to my mum via Messenger was bizarre, especially as it was a night watch when everything feels particularly far away.

This was my most safe, calm, reliable, no-worries crossing, no doubt due to the careful planning of the Skipper and his wife. They are extremely knowledgeable, hard-working and conscientious, and create a safe and comfortable experience for anyone coming on board their boat. I know not all sailing expeditions go half as smoothly and for this I am grateful. Who knows what the next one might bring! ■

GETTING YOUR BOAT READY FOR SUMMER

BY COASTGUARD BOATING EDUCATION



Summertime is the perfect opportunity to explore the stunning waterways of New Zealand, soak in the sunshine, and carve out time for some much-needed relaxation on your boat.

Before you head out onto the water, however, it's essential to prepare your vessel and ensure that it's in good condition for the journey ahead. Whether you're a seasoned boating enthusiast or a first-timer, these tips will help you get the most out of your boating experience, while keeping safety at the forefront of your mind. In this checklist, we'll take you through the necessary steps to getting your boat ready for summer.

1. Check Your Fuel Tanks

Before you set sail, take some time to check your fuel tanks. If your boat has been sitting idle for a while, it's essential to replace any old fuel with clean, fresh fuel and check all the hose connections. This will prevent any issues that could arise due to contaminated or stale fuel, ensuring your vessel runs smoothly and safely.

2. Charge Those Batteries

No one wants to be stranded out on the water with a dead battery. Before setting out, make sure that your batteries are charged and in good condition. Check the terminals to ensure that they are clean, and all the connections are tight. This will help prevent any issues with electrical systems on your boat.

3. Turn The Motor Over

Your boat's engine is the heart of your vessel. It's important to perform regular maintenance to avoid any engine issues. So give your engine(s) a start to check and ensure that there are no blockages

and everything works correctly. If your boat has been on dry land for a while, it's worth checking the oil, water, fuel and air filters and the belts before you go or even think about getting a service before the season starts. If you would like to know more about engines then try taking one of our Engine Maintenance courses for inboard and outboards.

4. Check Your Local Marine Weather

Stay up to date with local marine weather forecasts before you go out on the water. It's quick and easy with the Coastguard app. You can download this app for free from Google Play and the App Store. This will enable you to stay informed of any changes or potential hazards before you head out onto the water. Don't forget, our Coastguard Radio team is also available 24/7 for up to date information.

5. Give Your Safety Equipment a Once-Over

Safety should always come first, especially when it comes to boating. Before you head out, make sure your boat has all of the necessary safety equipment. This includes life jackets, a fire extinguisher, flares, a first-aid kit, a compass, and a whistle. Make sure that all of these items are in good condition and haven't expired.

Ensure that your lifejackets are in good condition, well maintained, and the correct size - especially if you're taking family and friends with you. Make sure you go through a thorough check of your inflatable lifejackets to ensure they are inflating and the gas canister is in good condition and not gone rusty. It's also a good idea to check that your foam jackets are not showing any signs of wear and tear especially on the crotch straps!

6. Two Forms of Communication

For safe sailing, ensure that you have two forms of communication available on board - this might include your mobile phone and/or emergency beacon, and a VHF radio, which is on board and operational. Ensure you know how to use the equipment, can access the correct

channels, and that they're charged and working well and don't forget to take a waterproof cover for your phone and it's no use if it goes in the water!. You can also complete a radio check with us from home by calling Coastguard Radio on your local Coastguard VHF channel.

7. Rules of the Road

Just like driving a car, there are rules of the road for boating. Make sure you know and understand them before you set sail. This includes knowing who has the right of way, understanding navigation lights, and being aware of speed limits. Our Day Skipper course offers a great way to brush up on rules and regulations.

8. Bailer and Fire Extinguishers

It's important to have a plan in case of an emergency. Make sure that you have the necessary equipment on board, such as a bailer, bilge pumps and a fire extinguisher. Check that they are functioning properly and easily accessible in case of an emergency.

9. Coastguard Membership

If you haven't got one already, make sure your Coastguard Membership is up to date. For only \$130 you've got peace of mind getting your pride and joy back out there with free on-water assistance for when things don't quite go to plan.

10. Be Kind at The Boat Ramp

We all want to get out onto the water and enjoy ourselves, but remember to be patient and kind at the boat ramp. Everyone will likely be a little rusty reversing their boats into the water, so take your time, be kind, and always put safety first.

By following this checklist, you can ensure that your boat is ready for the season. Remember, safety should always come first, so make sure you have all of the necessary equipment and knowledge. Now, it's time to enjoy the sea, have fun, and create new memories that will last a lifetime.

Happy Boating! ■

CRC

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Promotion period: 01/10/2023 to 31/12/2023



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Promotion period 01/10/2023 to 31/12/2023. Entries close 08/01/2024. Visit cra.co.nz for full terms and conditions
and which SKUs are applicable. One prize of NZD\$2000 will be gifted in the form of a Prezzy card.



www.crc.co.nz



HELP STOP EXOTIC CAULERPA



Exotic caulerpa seaweeds have been found in waters at Great Barrier Island (Aotea), Great Mercury Island (Ahuahū), Te Rāwhiti Inlet in the Bay of Islands, Kawau Island, and Waiheke Island in the Hauraki Gulf.

These exotic caulerpa can spread rapidly, forming vast, dense underwater fields. They compete with other species, including our own native caulerpa species, for space and upset the balance of local ecosystems. This presents a risk to recreational, cultural, and commercial marine activities.

What can yachties do to help?

Report sightings

Keep an eye out for exotic caulerpa species and report suspected sightings to Biosecurity NZ. Take a photo, if possible, and note the location. Then either:



- Freephone 0800 80 99 66
- Or complete the online form at report.mpi.govt.nz

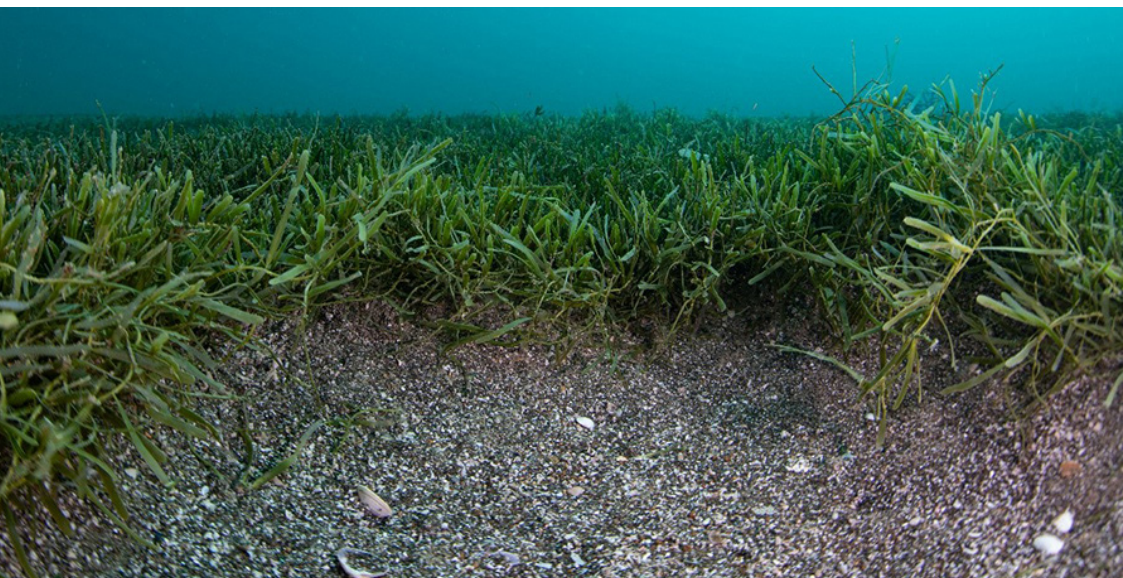
Keep your boat and gear clean

Exotic caulerpa can be easily spread as small pieces on vessels and marine equipment.

- Before moving locations, check your **anchor, anchor chain, and gear** for any seaweed. Remove it and return it to the area it came from.
- If you're already back at shore, remove it, and put it in the rubbish. Do not put it back in the sea.

Avoid known areas of caulerpa

See the map opposite. There is no boating or fishing in these areas, backed up a legal Controlled Area Notice (CAN). ■





RACE TO THE NOEL COLE TROPHY

BY RODNEY JANES,
PEPPERMINT PLANET

Every June at the annual prizegiving, Richmond Yacht Club crowns a new club champion and presents them with the Noel Cole trophy.

The race to the Noel Cole trophy is a year-long points competition conducted over 31 races. It is designed to find Richmond's best boat, skipper & crew. Of course there are many who could win the title with a strong campaign and perhaps a touch of luck along the way.

Low points scores are calculated from a boat's 9 best results: 3 each from the Winter Series, Wednesday Series and a selection of 11 weekend races. Discard the rest.

Winter and Wednesdays are fully crewed series but the weekend races are a little different. They offer an enormous variety in terms of race length and crew size options. Let's take a look...

Of the 11 weekend races there are 5 fully crewed, 3 three-handed, 3 two-handed and 7 single-handed options.

Of the 11 weekend races, 4 are greater than 50 nautical miles in length, 3 are greater than 25nm and 3 remain inside the harbour. At least one race will finish after dark and 4 races will finish at destinations outside of Auckland - Mahurangi, Rakino, Marsden Cove & Aotea/Great Barrier Island.

If you want to make the most of your yacht and your summer, socialise with fellow club members and visit a variety of destinations then entering these

weekend races is a must.

It's never too late to start your campaign - so long as you recorded 3 scores in the 2023 Winter Series - we still have 10 Wednesdays and 10 weekend races to go.

Who knows, we may be crowning you club champion next June.

With the Winter Series over, the Spring Regatta done 'n' dusted and two Wednesdays completed let's have a look at the current top ten boats in our Race to the Noel Cole trophy.

1	Flashwave	16
2	Cool Change	18
3	Apparition	19
4	Time Out	20
5	Manawa	20
6	Peppermint Planet	22
7	Belle	23
8	Chain Reaction	11*
9	Katana	12*
10	Crocodile	14.5*

As at 14 November 2023

** Did not sail in the Spring Regatta therefore total is for 5 races only.*

The above points table was compiled by the author and these numbers are not officially verified by RYC.

More information regarding the eligibility criteria for winning the Noel Cole trophy can be found on page 12 of the RYC handbook. ■





3 x 3

SUMMER

Blast

8-10
DECEMBER
2023

3 DAYS
RACES
CREW

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



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General Committee

Andy Bevan - Atamai

David Cashmore - Georgia Rae

Jeremy Cope - Time Out

Tony Evans - Predator

John Marshall - Dream Machine

Gregory Thwaite

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Magazine

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