

PLAIN SAILING

SEPTEMBER 2026



RICHMOND
YACHT CLUB



FROM THE FLAG

BY JACKY BUSH
RYC COMMODORE



As we pause between seasons and look ahead to 2026-27, I want to thank our RYC Committee, Skippers, Crew, and Volunteers for making 2025-26 such a great year.

It was good to see so many of you at this year's AGM. The meeting is a valuable chance to look back on the past year and to ask the Clubs' Flags and Officers any questions, or offer any suggestions for the year ahead. You'll find a summary of the AGM in this issue of Plain Sailing, full reports and notes are available on the RYC website (The Club > General Meetings).

At the AGM, we also elected the RYC Property Endowment Fund Guardians. Work is now underway to launch and implement this important initiative. More information on the Fund can be

found on the website.

The 2026-27 handbook is on its way to all members (who have paid their subs), so keep an eye on your mailbox. A big thank you to everyone involved in preparing this essential guide.

Just a quick note — please double-check the Wednesday night race dates, as the 2027 dates were updated after printing.

Your Committee is here for all members, so if you've got ideas, feedback, or hopes for the season ahead, we'd love to hear them. Let's make the coming year another great one on and off the water.

I look forward to seeing you out on the water and around the clubhouse. ►

COMMITTEE REPORT

Welcome to the 2026/27 Committee

Following the election of Officers and Committee members for 2026-27 season at the AGM, I am delighted to confirm the following:

President: Hans Swete.

Flags: Commodore Jacky Bush, Vice Commodore Mike Matthews, Rear Commodore Allan Geddes.

Officers: Secretary John Marshall, Treasurer Steve Morriss

General Committee members: Cameron Le Sueur, Damon Paling, David Cashmore, Gregory Thwaite, Jeremy Cope, Richard Limbrick, Russell Hawken, Tony Evans, Keeley Sander, Martyn Spencer (new).

Honorary Solicitor: Donald Webster and **Honorary Auditor:** Mike McGlone.

Outgoing Committee members: Andy Bevan and Karen Aw Yong. ►

THIS ISSUE

BY DERYN WILLIAMS
EDITOR

Welcome to the September 2026 issue of Plain Sailing.

In this issue we have reports from the AGM and the results from Prize-giving, as well as the Quiz night.

Jeremy encourages more introductions to sailing with the Friday Night Special, while new crew member Scott scores a spot prize of a Day Skipper course.

Damon explains more about the Endowment Fund, and Russell introduces one of our key sponsors, CRC.

Continuing our series introducing skippers, this time we chat to Alan Retter of *Patere*, who has a long family history of sailing with Richmond.

Enjoy the read and see you out on the water as Spring sailing gets underway.

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

WELCOME



New Members

Warren Green and Sarah Sweeney
General Family
Magic Bus (Ross 35)

Colin Rickett
General
Auriga (Chico 30)

Pepijn Lagerberg
Associate

Matthew Crozier
Associate

New Crew Members

Xander Butler	Kawal Singh
Blake Goodhue	Alex Vincent
Andrew Keane	Severin Vonlanthen
Esra Mescioglu	James Walters
Bruce Ritchie	



UPCOMING CALENDAR & EVENTS

September 2026

- 2nd Pot Luck Lunch
- 9th Volunteers Dinner
- 12th Working Bee
- 19th Spring Regatta/Gold Cup Race 1
- 30th Wednesday Night Series Race 1

October 2026

- 7th Pot Luck Lunch
- 9th Friday Night Special Briefing
- 11th Harbour Short-handed Race
- 14th Wednesday Night Series Race 2
- 16th Friday Night Special Race 1
- 23rd Coastal Classic (Multihull YC)
- 28th Wednesday Night Series Race 3
- 30th Friday Night Special Race 2
- 31st-1st Hauraki Series (4 Island Races)
Races 1 & 2
- 31st Cruising Event (Man-o-War
BBQ)

November 2026

- 4th Pot Luck Lunch
- 6th Friday Night Special Race 3
- 11th Wednesday Night Series Race 4
- 13-15th 3x3 Summer Blast
- 20th Friday Night Special Race 4
- 25th Wednesday Night Series Race 5
- 27-28th Single-handed Series 4
- 28th Hauraki Series (Peter Blake
Memorial) Races 3 & 4
- 28th Cruising Event (Motutapu BBQ)
- 29th Single-handed Series 5

December 2026

- 4th Friday Night Special Race 5
- 9th Wednesday Night Series Race 6
- 11th Friday Night Special Race 6



RYC AGM 2026

BY JACKY BUSH
RYC COMMODORE

Richmond Yacht Club – 122nd Annual General Meeting

The 122nd Annual General Meeting of the Richmond Yacht Club took place on Friday, 26 June 2026, at the clubhouse on Westhaven Drive. As the recently refurbished office space on Level 2 is currently empty, we took the opportunity to hold the meeting there to show members all the hard work that had been done.

Commodore Jacky Bush presented her annual report. She summarised the year's highlights, noting the biggest challenge has, and will continue to be, the loss of the Level 2 tenant late last year. She also extended special thanks to the Committee, all the club's volunteers, including race support launch *Taipan*, and Kerry Bevan for her work in the office.

Vice Commodore Mike Matthews presented nominations for the RYC Property Endowment Fund Guardians — Damon Paling, Donald Webster, and Richard Limbrick — all accepted unanimously.

Treasurer Steve Morriss presented the 2025–26 Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet, answering questions on expense categories, future budgeting, and dinghy locker fees. He noted the impact of the loss of the Level 2 tenant and the required refurbishment of the space. He confirmed that detailed breakdowns would be provided to interested members. The proposed increases in membership and locker fees were accepted unanimously.

The Officers and Committee for the

2026–27 season were then voted upon. The Committee welcomes Martyn Spencer as a new committee member, and noted that Andy Bevan and Karen Aw Yong have stepped down from the Committee, and were thanked for their time.

The Commodore expressed thanks to those who contributed to the club's success, and presentations were made to Rodney Janes for his and Kate's work on the club handbook, to Roger Crabtree for his service aboard *Taipan*, Plain Sailing editor Deryn Williams, social media volunteer Brittany Le Seur and club photographer Kate Herstell. This year a special presentation was made to Richard Limbrick, David Cashmore and Keith Bekker for their work on refurbishing Level 2. David Cashmore also received Life Membership for his outstanding service. The work of the race officers Andrew Burr, Trish Beken and Margaret Harvey was also acknowledged.

For AGM reports and minutes, see <https://richmondyc.org.nz/agm-2026/> ■

New RYC life member David Cashmore



ANNUAL PRIZE GIVING 2025/2026

BY JACKY BUSH
RYC COMMODORE

Annual Prize Giving 2025/2026

The evening before the AGM and Annual Prize Giving saw our expert polishing team hard at work, bringing every trophy to a brilliant shine while swapping stories of trophies won and lost.

Once the AGM wrapped up and members had finished another hearty meal prepared by Tracey, the Annual Prize Giving began. As tradition dictates, the event was hosted by Commodore Jacky Bush, ably supported by Vice Commodore Mike Matthews.



Club Champion – Noel Cole Trophy

First presented in 1947 by the club's longtime patron and benefactor, Sir Noel Cole, this is Richmond's most prestigious award. It recognises the skipper with the best handicap points



score across nine races in the club calendar. The competition was tight, but this year's winner was Jeremy Cope of *Time Out* — who, in a delightful twist, had polished the trophy the night before without realising his name was already on it!



Centennial Trophy

Donated by the Donald family to mark the club's centenary in 2003, this trophy goes to the boat that takes part in the most club races. For the 2025/26 season, that honour went to Ken Kok of *High Voltage*.

Maurice Livingston Memorial Trophy

Awarded to the member who truly "goes the extra mile" in their sailing, this year's recipient was Sinisa Grujicic of *Hotdogger*. The award recognises Sin's impressive Round North Island (RNI) success and the challenges he overcame during the race. The Committee also extends congratulations to other RYC members who completed this demanding event — yachts *Perfect Storm*, *Carpe Diem*, *Indis*, and Cameron on *General Lee*.



Alan Wright Trophy

This trophy celebrates exceptional determination and seamanship. It was presented to Rowan Smith of *Carpe Diem* for completing two major offshore races back-to-back — the RNI and the Three Kings Offshore — both successfully finished.

Trish Lewis Trophy

Recognising those who champion women's participation in sailing, this year the trophy went to Trish Beken, who leads an all-women crew aboard *Chico Too*. Trish and her team have been active in most RYC races, including Route 66, hopefully inspiring other women along the way.

Blake Memorial Shield

Presented to committee member(s) who go above and beyond, this year's recipients were David Cashmore and Richard Limbrick. Their dedication, energy, and craftsmanship in refurbishing the Level 2 office space have been invaluable. The Committee extends heartfelt thanks for their outstanding contribution. ■



VICTORIA FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIAL

BY JEREMY COPE (*TIME OUT*)
FNS CO-ORDINATOR



One of our most popular events is the Victoria Friday Night Special.

Named after it's main sponsor, The Victoria Cruising Club, this friendly racing series is open to anyone to come and give it a go, no experience required. It's a fantastic way to get out on the water on a Friday evening after work and de-stress on a beautiful sailing boat, and yes, they're all beautiful.

The Victoria Friday Night Special brings new members to the club to enjoy new experiences, generate new friendships and, in some cases, never leave. Friday Night Special members have been known to buy a boat or two and become the series co-ordinator - yep, that's me. Others become the club commodore, Jacky Bush. Dreams do come true.

The series consists of 8 races, about 60 crew and 15 boats and we try to get crew on a different boat every race. This year, the series starts on the 9th of October with a briefing and finishes on February the 12th, with March the 12th as a reserve day.

On the water we're always at the mercy of the weather and the Friday Night Special is no different. Although the Waitemata Harbour is quite sheltered, it can still get a little spicy when the gusts come through or a little tepid when there's no wind and we're drifting around in the tide. Last series we had the full range of experiences with a bouncy and wet, "just hold on"

TRY SOCIAL SAILING WITH THE



VICTORIA FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIAL

first race and then a complete drift around in circles in a later race. One of the highlights was avoiding a Royal New Zealand Navy frigate as it pushed through our race under the Harbour Bridge.

If you're an existing RYC crew member who has never done a Friday Night Special, then why not join up? Sailing on different boats with different skippers and crew is really good fun, who knows you might be lucky and find a cool Young 88 skipper that you want to crew with ;-). Likewise if you're a skipper who doesn't race but would like to give it a go, this is the ideal introduction. It's no extras, easy as.

Please encourage your family, friends and work colleagues to come and enjoy sailing with us. Entries for this year are already open so pass the word around. ■



RICHMOND YACHT CLUB QUIZ NIGHT

BY CHRIS CRONE
QUIZMASTER

The clubhouse was buzzing on Friday 28th August for 2026's RYC Quiz Night, with thirteen teams battling it out.

Chris took the helm as quiz master with the able assistance of Charlotte who navigated marking and scoring the seven rounds of questions.

The line-up was as colourfully named as ever: Finally Here, Gerty, Quizlings, Apparition A, Hazy Time, Changelings, Tranny Try Hards, The Fuzzy Fossils, No Buoys Allowed, Apparition Baddies, Wavey, Flasher and Ding Dong Belle. With two Apparition crews entered, there was both intra- and inter-boat competition to keep things interesting!



The seven rounds provided a good mix of trivia for all. The first round was "Island Inhabitants" in which teams were given the names of islands, both fictional and non-fictional, and asked for the most famous inhabitant. Can you name the most famous inhabitants of the Island of Sodor, Robben Island and Craggy Island? Answers →

The next rounds were Sport, Entertainment and General Knowledge, followed by a drinks break to prepare the brain cells for History, Science and Geography. The refreshments seem to have been especially

useful for Quizlings and Hazy Time, who scored full marks in the History round!

By the final round, the scoreboard was too close to call. Finally Here and Gerty finished locked together at the top, forcing a tie-breaker to separate them. Finally Here came out on top, but well done to both teams for a commanding performance throughout the evening. Quizlings claimed third, rounding out a tight top three.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to another enjoyable evening at the club – and remember to start studying up for next year! ■



Answers
Thomas the Tank Engine
Nelson Mandela
Father Ted



ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

BY DAMON PALING
ORA ROSA

A sailing legacy for Richmond's future

Summer is upon us and another sailing season is beginning to come alive. It is also sometimes a good time to slow down, take stock and think a little further ahead. Earlier this year, Richmond Yacht Club took an important step in bringing the RYC Endowment Fund to life, following its development and subsequent approval by members.

At its heart, the Fund is about protecting Richmond's sailing legacy. For more than 85 years, generations of members have sailed from Richmond, raced on the Waitematā, volunteered their time, maintained the Club and encouraged the next generation onto the water. Much has changed over those decades — and more change is coming.

The Club and its facilities will need to move with the times, and significant decisions about our future infrastructure lie ahead. Sailing itself will continue to evolve, as will the expectations and interests of future generations.

But some things don't change. The simple pleasure of being on the water. The challenge of a good race. The friendships made through sailing. And the satisfaction of seeing another generation discover the sport that has given so much enjoyment to those before them. That is ultimately what the Endowment Fund is intended to protect.

The Fund has been established specifically to help RYC meet significant future capital needs associated with our Club facilities. It is deliberately a long-term initiative. Contributions are invested and, together with future donations and bequests, have the opportunity to grow through compounding over many years. The Fund is administered by three elected Guardians and is separate from the Club's normal day-to-day operating expenditure.

Could the Endowment Fund be an option for you?

There are many ways we think about legacy. Family naturally comes first for most of us, but legacy can also be about protecting the communities, traditions and activities that have been an important part of our lives. You might consider contributing to the Fund during your lifetime. Alternatively, you may wish to leave a gift to the Fund in your Will. A bequest does not need to be large to be meaningful. Contributions from many Richmond members, invested over many years, can collectively make a significant difference.

If you already have a will, a gift can potentially be added through a codicil — a legal document used to make an addition or amendment to an existing will. The Guardians can provide further information, although members should obtain their own legal advice when making or changing a will.

There is no expectation or obligation. The Fund simply provides an opportunity for members to help Richmond YC adapt to the changes ahead and encourage future generations to discover the pleasure of sailing.

If you are interested or curious about how the Endowment Fund works, please speak with one of the Guardians or contact the Club. ■

THANK YOU SPONSORS

BY RUSSELL HAWKEN
SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR

You always hear me talking about our 'family' of Sponsors. They are the ones headlined at every race, cruise and club event. It is their generosity that enables us to organise the events that our members enjoy.

It has been many years since we asked our sponsors what they value about being a part of the Richmond Yacht Club "family", so I asked them a few key questions to share what they have been doing and what is coming up.

We start this series with **CRC**, who are a prime sponsor of the Richmond Yacht Club.

Who are you and what do you do?

New Zealand's close relationship with the water has played a major role in CRC's success. From recreational boating and fishing to competitive sailing, marine environments place constant demands on equipment and infrastructure. Salt, moisture, and UV exposure can quickly accelerate wear on metal fittings, electrical connections, trailers, tools, and onboard equipment.

For decades, CRC products have helped boat owners and marine enthusiasts protect and maintain the gear they rely on, both on and off the water. Whether it's preventing corrosion, displacing moisture, loosening seized fittings, or protecting moving parts, CRC has become a trusted companion in marinas, boat sheds, and workshops around the country.

CRC's longevity comes from decades of helping people solve everyday

maintenance challenges quickly and effectively, whether that's in a workshop, around the home, on a farm, or aboard a boat.

Why do you support Richmond Yacht Club and how can RYC support you?

This connection to New Zealand's boating culture is reflected in CRC's long-standing partnership with Richmond Yacht Club. As one of Auckland's most respected sailing clubs, Richmond Yacht Club has been introducing generations of Kiwis to life on the water. CRC is proud to support a community that shares many of the same values: practicality, reliability, performance, and a commitment to looking after the equipment that keeps people doing what they love.

In New Zealand, CRC has become woven into a culture of maintenance, repair, and self-reliance. From garden sheds and garages to marinas and yacht clubs, CRC products help people protect the things they value and get more life from their investments.

That is why CRC continues to feel at home in places like Richmond Yacht Club, where maintaining boats, trailers, equipment, and facilities is simply part of enjoying time on the water. It's a partnership built on shared values and a practical understanding that taking care of your gear today helps ensure it's ready for tomorrow's adventure.

What has changed for you in recent years and what do you have planned for the future?

For the next generation of problem-solvers, CRC will continue to develop innovative products that make maintenance easier and help Kiwis keep doing what they love. ■



INTRODUCING...

ALAN RETTER
PATERE



Kerry sits down with one of our skippers to hear his sailing stories:

Alan Retter and *Patere*

Q: What is your current boat?

Patere has been part of our family since late 1981, when my parents bought the bare fibreglass hull and decks of a Stewart 34. Using my cabinetmaking workshop, Dad (George) and I spent several years fitting her out for cruising. Weight wasn't a concern, so she ended up 500-700 kg heavier than the racing Stewart 34s - but she was built exactly for the kind of sailing we wanted at the time. *Patere* means "to flow freely".

She was launched in February 1984 after countless evenings covered in sawdust and epoxy. Since then, she's been our constant companion, cruising everywhere from Whitianga to Doubtless Bay.

Q: What's your connection to Richmond and how long have you been a member?

We have been family members of Richmond since 1966 with George being on the committee almost from the beginning then Commodore and later a Life Member.

Our first boat was *Matua*, a 1903 Logan design — beautiful, but very basic. After one season my sister Joanne and my mother Aureole, staged a mutiny: "a bucket and chuck it" was no longer acceptable.

So, the next boat had one essential requirement: a toilet with a door. Joanne stepped aboard *Matatua* - a



Roy Lidgard 36-footer, looking at nothing else - saw the toilet and declared "this one will do". We owned *Matatua* until 1981.

Q: Where is your favourite place in the Gulf to explore and why?

We love the whole Gulf, but Kawau Island and the surrounding bays are our favourite. Our son Jordon learned to sail his Townsend dinghy there, and daughter Abbey discovered the joy of jumping off the back of the boat. The kids have been aboard since birth, so Kawau has become a place full of our family's earliest boating memories.

Q: What sailing / RYC series do you enjoy the most?

The Wednesday Night Series is my favourite RYC event - without question. It breaks up the working week, it's easy to find crew, and it's simply good fun sailing with friends.

It also has a personal connection. George was part of the small group who helped get the series started. In the early days we didn't race because Mum and Dad were busy with race

management, so every second Wednesday meant dinner at Richmond for me.

Once we finally joined the fleet, we never stopped. *Patere* is still out there on Wednesdays, and it remains the highlight of my week.

Q: What's your most memorable sailing moment?

The Christmas Cruise of 1991-92

Not long after meeting Sue - who grew up in Fiji on motorboats - we decided to show her the Bay of Islands by yacht. The trip began normally with the usual stop at Kawau. Passing Māori Rock, Sue quietly mentioned she could smell diesel smoke. The problem was found quickly, but the fix would take a bit longer, so we changed direction and sailed to Great Barrier.

While waiting for a northeaster to arrive, we set the long line. George was filleting fish at full speed: "fillet off, skin off, fillet in the bucket, skin in the tide. Without breaking rhythm, he inadvertently switched to skin in the bucket, fillet in the tide. Sue again quietly pointed out the issue.

When the breeze arrived, we headed north. Passing the Mokohinau Islands, the wind built, the sea rose, and then the fishing rod screamed. I steered, George hauled on the line, Sue watched. A wave and a large tuna simultaneously landed in the cockpit, the latter thrashing like a crazed demon. "Best kill it before it jumps out," was the call. George bled it quickly, and the cockpit instantly filled with thick, swirling bloody water. Sue said nothing, just quietly moved to the windward rail as the wind changed direction, rose to 25 knots, breaking seas and hard on the wind. For someone new to sailing, she was extraordinary.

Tutukaka became our landfall, by which time she was wet and pale and



admitted she'd never been seasick before, but the blood nearly did it.

The next day was calm, and we carried on to the Bay. A few more minor issues (including the toilet), but Sue handled everything like a seasoned sailor. It was a fantastic holiday, and I realised that not only was the tuna a keeper - so was Sue.

Today we're still here, still sailing, still part of Richmond. Sue raced Wednesdays before having our children, and now she's back to the Friday Night Special. Life on the water is truly something special. ■



DAY SKIPPER COURSE

SCOTT GAMBLE

The best spot prize

Winning a spot prize during the Richmond Yacht Club Victoria Friday Night Special is always a highlight. For those who haven't done it, the series is a brilliant way to try out various roles on different boats each race. But landing a voucher for the Coastguard Education Day Skipper course turned out to be the real jackpot—and it didn't require a long commute, given the Coastguard building sits right next door to our clubrooms!

As sailors, we spend plenty of time on the water, but stepping into the classroom offered an invaluable refresher on the crucial fundamentals that keep us safe. The course is intensely practical and perfectly tailored for the Kiwi boating environment, covering maritime rules, navigation, channel markers, and the intricacies of right-of-way.

While those of us still learning to sail

rely on gut instinct or the actions of the boat ahead, having a Coastguard tutor break down the actual collision prevention regulations was incredibly useful. A particular highlight was the section on medical emergencies and hypothermia. Learning about the phenomenon of "cold shock" and the critical dangers associated with warming someone up too quickly was a massive eye-opener—essential knowledge for anyone sailing the Hauraki Gulf.

What impressed me most was the quality of the instruction. The tutors are seasoned boaties who bring real-world sea stories to the table, making the theory digestible and highly relatable. Whether you are swapping boats every week to learn the ropes or looking to step up to the helm, this course fills the gaps that casual sailing often leaves behind.

I'm incredibly grateful to Richmond Yacht Club and Coastguard Education for donating such a fantastic prize. It was an awesome reminder that no matter how many nautical miles you have under your belt, there is always something new to learn. If you get the chance to take this course, absolutely grab it. ■





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

Cameron Le Sueur

Damon Paling - *Oro Rosa*

Gregory Thwaite

Jeremy Cope - *Time Out*

Keeley Sander - *Perchance*

Martyn Spencer

Richard Limbrick - *Cool Change*

Russell Hawken

Tony Evans - *Predator*

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Magazine

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