



FREE
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tell tales

February
2018

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On the cover: Luke and Cees coming back from Day 1 BOISW, by Vera.

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COMMODORE'S REPORT

Welcome to this first edition of Tell Tales for 2018. By the time you read this BOISW will have passed for another year and I hope all who participated in either the on or off water activities enjoyed this well-organized event.

BOISW and the ICA Rally are good examples of synergy within commercial relationships that can benefit our Club and by extension its Members. For the future, OCC is likely to have more of these arrangements in its trading mix as it deals with demographic changes and increased competition.

In addition to major events, we also need to do better at managing and improving our current activities and to achieve this we need some volunteers to undertake specific tasks.

Firstly, we need someone to attract more Venue Hire and manage that activity in the best interests of our Members, there are clear opportunities that currently we are missing.

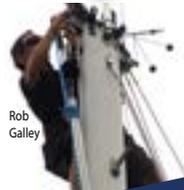
Secondly, we need someone with a clear focus on Fund Raising. Apart from the Club Dock, which is a project in itself, we need to be making applications for grants to replace our Club Safety Tender and upgrade equipment for our Youth Sailing Programme.

Both of the above need people with the right skills and knowledge to get things moving.

If this is you, please contact any member of the Committee in the first instance.



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YOUTH SAILING

Nick Webley



Youth sailing will start up again on Tuesday the 13th of February meeting at 3 ish and run to about 5.30 -6ish at the youth sailing shed.

All are welcome to come along and give it a go for the first few times, from then onwards the charge will be \$50 per school term which helps pay for fuel and the upkeep of our fleet, we do ask that you full out a registration form, these are available from Sheila at the Opuia Cruising Club office and from our website.

Parent helper volunteers are encouraged please come and along and get involved (even just come for a sail) as these kids are the future of our club.

Any questions enquiries please contact Nick on 021 262 8599 or call into Burnsco or email nickwebley@yahoo.co.nz



THE MERMAID'S WHAT?

Dawn Bates

As we sat on the beach at night whilst my dad fished, my mum and I sat looking out to sea; cup of tea in hand and the tiley lantern burning bright next to us; I turned to my mum and said "I want to live out there". At the age of 8, I already had a love of the ocean, and a very driven nature. My mum never doubted my dream of living at sea would come true; until I met and married a tall, dark, handsome stranger, moved to the city, built businesses and travelled the world with him. 7 years after we met, we had our two incredible boys.

Fishing was my dad's passion. He loved it, and it is his passion that has led me to mine – the ocean. She's just so beautiful. With her strong, wild, unpredictable nature, juxtaposed with her calming energy, her very essence resembles my own personality in many ways.

My love of the ocean never left me, and every given moment that I could get to the beach, I would; regardless of the weather (which is essential living in the UK with our varied weather, mainly windy and raining!). If I was travelling, and there was a ferry crossing, I would choose the ferry instead of flying every time, timescales permitting. Being up on deck, with the sound of the water splashing against the hull, the smell of the sea salt air and feeling the spray on my face was my favourite place on board. I felt energised, alive, especially when the wind got up and the waves got bigger.

After 18 years, my marriage ended and I was catapulted into a world of being a full time single mum; although ask those that know me well and they'll tell you I have effectively been a single mum since the boys were born 15 and 11 years ago due to the ex-husband travelling so much for our business. I had encouraged him to travel, the one who had won the international contracts for our business; but now I was the only income earner and so had to ensure that I created an online, location free business that enabled me to be the full time mum I wanted to be. I took my 20 years of running businesses, developing teams, regenerating communities, understanding different cultures, organising fund raising events AND raising two young boys, to create my coaching and mentoring business; with the intention of writing as many books as I could to fulfil my other passion of writing.

As my business grew, so did my awareness of just how many women put their own careers dreams on hold to support their husbands and their children; often forgetting about their own, and in many cases not even knowing what their dream life would look like. I started to see a global shift happening. More and more women were fed up being the one taking care of everything and being financially dependent on their husbands. What would happen to her lifestyle if they divorced? What if he became sick, couldn't work and they lost his income? Why had she let go of her dreams and career to support him, sometimes for so little love, attention and thanks? My male clients were saying similar things. They were fed up of being the 'bank account', sad about not spending value time with their families, feeling under pressure to keep providing, seeing the woman they fell in love with lose who she was, along with the energy and passion she once had, simply because she was so busy taking care of him and the children. I was witnessing two sides of the same coin present itself to me.



Collect your copy of our exclusive Opua Cruising Club calendar and you'll always know what's going on at the club.

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SAILING WEEK SPECIAL REPORT
After sailing two races with his centre board only halfway down Tania Birt composed this little ditty

*“And when they were up they were up
And when they were down they were down*

*But when they are only halfway up
DAVID KREBS IN TOWN”*

Are you interested in becoming a Yachting New Zealand Keelboat Sailing Coach? We are organising a training workshop in February 13-15th

A Keelboat Coach is a competent and experienced Keelboat, Multihull or Trailer Yacht sailor who has been trained and assessed in the teaching of sailing to groups. A Keelboat Coach will be graded Level 1, 2 or 3 and can teach to that level of the Keelboat Programme. This is a 2 1/2 day course.

Please register your interest with Julie K at Great Escape - info@greatescape.co.nz ASAP

SPOT THE YOT AND WIN A PRIZE!

WINNER WINNER CHICKEN DINNER!

The winner in the Spot the Yot competition is **DON HOPE**, well done for spotting the little tiny yacht hidden in the 36degrees Advert in the summer edition. Nick Webley at Burnsco has your fabulous Garmin Vivofit 'Fitness Band That Moves at the Pace of Your Life' for you.



A 20 litre Burnsco branded dry bag is up for grabs this month. All you have to do is search our Sponsor's adverts in this issue and let us know where you have found the little yacht to go into the draw.

Opua Cruisers Net - VHF 77 - 0800 Monday - Friday
New Arrivals, Buy, Sell, Swap - News, Events, and Weather

THE MERMAID'S WHAT?

Continued

Dawn Bates

With this depth of awareness and my love of the ocean and writing, I knew I had what it took to make a difference to others. I had spoken on stages, radio, been on TV and featured in various magazines and podcasts around the world, that public speaking wasn't an issue. I was also an international bestselling author, and never saw my writing as work. Writing was my way of clearing my head and sharing my knowledge and experience with others; I just had to wait until both my boys had completed their exams and were interdependent enough to be without me. 2022 was the year I was going to head off and live my life on the sea. Or so I thought.

I became restless, started looking at homes by the sea, began sailing on the Tall Ship Excelsior and chose to do my coaching at sea. But this wasn't enough; and the boys knew it. With the coaching and mentoring I was receiving, and giving, I knew I couldn't put off my life at sea. If I was going to go and live at sea, I had to do it now. So after many discussions with my boys, and with my ex-husband, I received their full support and encouragement.

They all understood I wanted to lead my boys, and my clients, by example, so encouraging them to live a life they loved, making their dreams a reality, and not doing it myself was totally out of alignment. Telling my boys that there is a whole world out there and to go explore it, without having done it myself, made me feel like a hypocrite; and a hypocrite I am not. I also needed time by myself to heal from some of the personal challenges I'd faced over the past 4 years, both directly and indirectly associated with my divorce.

How it was going to happen I didn't know, but that's the beauty of following your dreams and wanting to create a positive impact in other's lives as well as your own, you can just forget the how and allow the Universe to co-create with you.

I wanted to learn all about different kinds of sailing, the history of sailing in all the countries I would visit, gain an understanding of the male dominated (often seen as sexist) world of sailing AND I wanted to get all the qualifications I needed to be able to coach my clients at sea, on my own boat.

Having realised just how many boats need crew members, and how I could combine my travel plans with those needing crew, I knew I could achieve all I wanted to do, and more. So I chose to share all the knowledge I would gain through a blog *The Mermaid's Guide to Hitch Hiking*, and share my journey of stepping back so my boys and their dad can step up together, all of us working together to up level our lives.

I've been called a mermaid by friends and family for as long as I can remember due to the amount of swimming I do, and my love of seafood, so it was no surprise to them that the blog would have the word mermaid in it; plus thinking with my business brain, *The Mermaid's Guide* would then give me a platform to create spin offs to other Mermaid's Guides.



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THE MERMAID'S WHAT?

Continued

by Dawn Bates

Letting my mum know what I was doing, and when I was leaving her first words were “it’s about bloody time you’ve put yourself first for once”, followed closely by “I’m really proud of you. What you are doing for yourself and other women is admirable” (before giving me a dressing down on being careful and staying true to my own vision!). Only 2 people have told me I’m being incredibly selfish and abandoning my boys, whereas most people understand the importance of what I am about to do for myself and other women. The support and encouragement I have given is incredible; from both men and women.

I already miss my boys, but I miss myself more; and I can’t be the mother I wish to be if I am not the person I wish to be. Loving others wholly and completely can only truly come from a place of owning who you are yourself; and if you are running on empty, then you need to recharge... just like you would your phone or your laptop. With technology as it is, staying in touch with them will be easy, and I’ll still be able to attend parent’s evening by joining my boys on a Skype call. We chat daily via What’s App, sharing photos and giggles, and my mobile network enables me to call home for no extra charge. So regardless of where I am, I’ll never be more than a week away from a video chat or phone call with my boys. The added bonus for my boys is that their school holidays have now taken on a whole new level of excitement, with supervised flights on Emirates, they get to travel the world, meeting mummy in



new places and enjoying new countries, cultures and of course water sports with a side order of weird and wonderful food!

You can follow my journey on www.patreon.com/themermaid-guidetohitchhiking or on social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook using the tag @DawneeBe

SPRINT RACING

David Krebs & Manuela Gmuer-Hornell



A big thumbs up and thank goes to Paul, Gregg and Cam, who did a brilliant job on the tiny start boat. We will schedule more of this kind of racing in the near future.

Dear Handicapper

We would like to express our concern about the handicap for the yacht named “Black Magic”.

Maybe it should be in the 500 area or her own division. There must be a professional crew on board as there is a lot of yelling coming from the cockpit. And plenty of “advice” for the opposition. Maybe they need to be reminded of rule 69?

Another reason for the low handicap could be the age of the crew?

We are confident you will come to a fair conclusion.

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous

I have referred your comments to “The Handicapper”. He advises:

Unfortunately, the protest time is well over the yardarm for any protest under Rule 69.

The handicapper also noted from the event THAT:

-Two boats that should have beaten Black Magic did not bother to read or obtain a set of sailing instructions.

-The handicapper was informed by one of Hot Pursuits crew, that they understood top marks 1 and 1A to be a gate and could be taken either way.

-That the Nexus crew was not aware that the number pennant meant two times around, and was confused by the other flags and...

- That there was a bottom gate and what to do. Also wanted longer races to catch up on their errors!

-That the smallest boat was undercrewed and still scored 8 points similar to Jagged Edge and Black Magic. The only problem was they didn't score enough 1st and 2nds in achieving that score, and were probably trying to match race Jagged Edge and forgot about the real threat. All these boats finished behind Black Magic, and that does not comment on their upwind strategies. I must admire the skill of the handicapper, as only 2 points between 1st and 4th. That's simply impressive by any standards.

You are quite correct the Black Magic crew are fairly aged, which could explain the yelling, as their hearing aids are turned down to save power. However, the agedness of the crew and tactician had them finish over the line well ahead of much quicker boats on a number of occasions.

Fair Decision: NO FURTHER ACTION Kindly on behalf of the Handicapper

BEHIND THE SCENES

Dawn Bates

As all the competitors and spectators arrived in the Bay for the 16th Birthday of Bay Islands Sailing Week, the team behind it were still doing everything they could to ensure the event went to plan. Manuela and Melanie were still incredibly busy organising the many volunteers, sponsors and suppliers, whilst also doing a great front of house job with all those in attendance – with a smile on their faces as they answered the same questions many times over.

This year is a special year. Hitting the age of ‘Sweet 16’ isn’t something to overlook, regardless of whether it is a sailing regatta or our children hitting a milestone that makes us realise that it won’t be long before they head off into the big wide world by themselves.

A lot has gone into this event, as with any event that is planned and prepared for so many people. Time, energy, money, thought and time away from family and friends as the event gets closer. Thoughts on how to improve on the previous years, growing from the feedback and learning from past mistakes; and what was wonderful for me to see, was how both ladies are highly thought of and respected by both the volunteers and competitors alike. Forces



to be reckoned with, Melanie and Manuela are two incredible women, pulling together an event that has more testosterone than a male fertility clinic! Being a woman in a male dominated environment isn’t always easy for many women, but these two ladies have proven that if you want something bad enough, you’ll do what it takes to make it happen; and they’ve done it incredibly well.



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Bay of Islands

BAY WEEK 2018

Dawn Bates

The teams on the Committee Boats, who have volunteered their time to make sure the competitors are in the right place, at the right time to start their races, and then watch the clocks with due care and attention, full on focus and respect to ensure all times are captured accurately, takes a lot of mental energy, especially with the sun beating down and so many boats to capture. Making a mistake can mean the difference between winning or losing that top prize, and personal bests being affected. For some it is simply the taking part that gives them a buzz, but for others, winning and beating their previous times is all important. Getting the balance right for all the different racers is no easy task, and watching Jerry and his team has been nothing short of impressive.

You then have the team of ladies in the club house, working hard preparing food for everyone to enjoy after a great day of racing, Brian and his team behind the bars serving the much desired Rum and Dry or beer; the sponsors who have generously donated clothing, as well as part of their marketing budgets, all to give the racers an opportunity to come together, push themselves and their pride and joy, and of course to socialise with friends old and new. A selfless act for many, and a complex global project that is not always appreciated by those taking part.

With the number of entrants on the up, and the middle section always remaining strong with the number of racers, the team should be incredibly happy with what they've achieved. I may not have been to other regatta's here in the Bay, or in fact here in New Zealand, but I have been impressed; and so too have the racers. Being an outsider, you can tell by the way the way the racers acknowledge the various members of the organising committee, the way they salute, give the thumbs up as they sail passed, and of course those who have gone out of their way at the end of the day to give words of thanks and appreciation to the team on the timing boats and the officials; not to mention the conversations I've overheard whilst showering in the Clubhouse!

So as the event reaches its peak and celebrates its 16th birthday, it's time for me to say a huge thank you to Manuela, Melanie, Cam, Jerry and Brian for making me feel very welcome and allowing me to gain an outsiders view of what goes on behind the scenes of New Zealand's premier racing Regattas, and of course to Rusty and Truby for hosting me on Higher Ground; Steve Mair for allowing me to be part of his crew on board Clockwork, from Westhaven Marina, and Kerry in the Opuia General Store for helping me make the connections to be part of this amazing event, with a very beautiful backdrop.






Opua Cruising Club
Ladies Afternoon
Hight Tea & Movie
 Sunday 18th February
 2pm onwards
 Bring a plate of home baking to share

Overnight BBQ Cruise

Depart Saturday 24th return Sunday 25th
Location TBC
keep an eye on your emails, website or Facebook for details nearer the time.

Quiz night - Thursday 15th - 1930 start
Chris Ball in charge. come with a team or join one on the night.

Bingo - Thursday 1st - 1900 start.



Saturday 17th February has been chosen as the day for a club **WORKING BEE**. John Goldsbury has once again donated as much firewood as we can collect, so we need chainsaws and splitters, people to collect and stack.

The exterior walls on the deck side need a good clean, along with the clears, and the cupboard under the darts board needs a good seeing to.

So there is plenty to do for all!
Please come along, even if only for an hour,
many hands make light work

Andy



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NEW YEAR'S BBQ CRUISE

*Vera & Ernesto
SV Libertee*



The weather was a little bit of everything, rain, drizzle, sun, cloudy and the wind direction was not good for anchoring at Nobbies to see the Paihia fireworks.

We went to Orokawa bay and found a nice spot for the BBQ. At midnight we were surprised by a great firework display, one of the house owners started an unexpected show for us.



On New Years Day we left the bay early to get our canadian friends Bill & Sue from Kerikeri Airport. After a lunchbreak we went back to Orokawa with our german friends Sylvia & Peter. We had again a lovely evening with lots of our friends, so it was a good start to the New Year.

See you out in the bay next time.
cheers Vera & Ernesto





The next weekend BBQ cruise will be 24th and 25th February, the destination will be weather dependant so keep an eye on the noticeboard outside the club, Facebook, Website and emails closer to the time for more details. bring your food to cook and drink and join some of our club members on the beach for fun and games. Often it is in a location accessible by road too so landlubbers may join in.



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The Rev Thomas Kendall and the Maori chiefs Hongi and Waikato, by James Barry,

FEBRUARY 2018

January
 M T W T F S S
 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
 29 30 31

March
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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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5 		6 	8 	9	10	11 
12 Waitangi Day		13 Valentine's Day 	15 	16 	17 Ladies' Afternoon 	18
19	20 	21 	22	23 	24 	25 
26	27 	28				