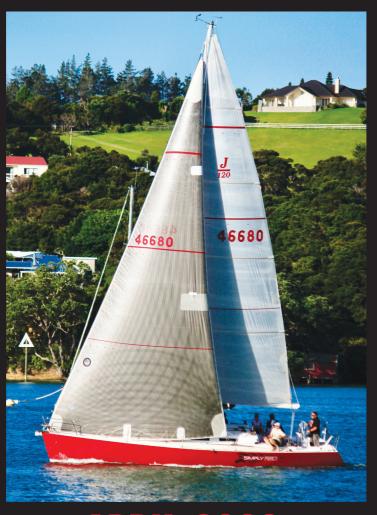


Magazine

THE FRIENDLIEST CLUB IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

tell tales



APRIL 2023



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At long last, we have had a month of stable and reasonably dry weather and hopefully you

have all managed to have some good times on the water. The Club has been fairly busy again which is good for us all as a busy kitchen and bar keep the Club's cash flow ticking over.

Since last year's AGM we have been privileged to have both Nanette and Dale Felton on our OCC Committee and they have bought renewed energy to our Club. Dale was

the instigator of OCC Friday Rum Races which everyone likes and Nanette has reinvigorated our *Tell Tales* and Facebook page. Unfortunately for us, we are going

magazine, website and Facebook page. Unfortunately for us, we are going to lose them both as family ties are taking them away for a couple of years and they will be sorely missed. We have been actively seeking ways to cope without them and will do all we can to maintain the high standard they have set for the Club. We will surely miss them both and it has been an honour and a pleasure to have them on board.

By the time you read this, our Club Dock will be being dismantled and taken away for refurbishment. We are sorry for the inconvenience that this may cause and all going to plan, it should be reinstated within about three months. As you can imagine, this will also put a little more strain on your already well-stretched committee. If you have some time to spare and any skills that you feel could be of use to our Club (it could be anything from welding to computer skills) then please don't hesitate to contact me or the Club's office as your help is always needed.

Enjoy the last months of our summer in our beautiful Bay of Islands and continue using our happy little Club.

Stay safe, keep smiling and all the very best.

DOROTHY BATEMAN - LIFE MEMBER - 90th Birthday



L/R: Ailsa, Marion, Dorothy Bateman, Ron, Cees, John and Ian.

Dorothy Bateman's 90th birthday was on the 19th March 2023.

The Club thought we should celebrate this milestone with an informal get-together with a few of her friends

Dorothy has been a Club member since it started and is known by everyone in Ōpua.

ÖPUA INDOOR BOWLS CLUB

The history of the Ōpua Indoor Bowls Club is hard to find. We are not sure when Ōpua started, but 20-25 years ago Waitangi Indoor Bowls came to Ōpua to play, as they couldn't get to the Waitangi Outdoor Bowls Pavilion because the bridge was being repaired. It took six weeks and when they went back the floor of the Club was carpeted. They stayed on at Ōpua with Waitangi playing Thursday and Ōpua on Monday. Waitangi ran out of players and Ōpua ended up with their bowls and mats.

Frank Joyce was a foundation member but gave up bowls because he didn't like leaving his 2 dogs in the car and kept going out to check on them. Herb Perrett was made a life member and his wife Daphne is still playing turning 91 this year.

We try to keep our Club nights friendly with a lot of banter and laughter. Our floors run uphill and downhill to the sea which makes it tricky.

BY TERRY HOOPER



Daphne Perrett still playing at 90+ with Terry. We have visits from players from Waipapa, Kerikeri and Pākaraka on 3-4 BOI Club nights. Some of us travel to their clubs some nights.



Monday nights 7 to 9–30 pm \$3 per night

At the Opua Community Hall, Beechey Street I just wanted to give you a bit of info about the Whangaroa Cruising Rally on 22nd April this year.

We are super keen to get as many people out there sailing as possible, so it would be amazing if the OCC fleet could get out there in full force. There will be racing division for keelboats, multihull division and sports boats division.

Additionally, we are holding a Cruising Rally and would love to get the cruising boats from around the marina to join in too. We had a lot of interest from people wanting to have a



PHRF prize so we have a special prize for this too as well as line honours etc.

The unofficial after-race gathering will be a raft-up in the western arm (Lane Cove) in Whangaroa Harbour. Official prize-giving to be held at BOIYC on the 28th April. Registration is open on the Bay of Islands Yacht Club website.

The main organizer is Thomas Fewtrell, his number is 028 414 9800 or email thomasfewtrellnz@gmail.com





Registrations are now open.

The sixth annual *Great Escape Women on Water Weekend* is open for registrations and you are invited to join us. Berths are limited and allocated on a first in first served basis. This is a fun weekend designed to give women a chance to stretch their skills and enjoy sailing in a safe, non-competitive, environment. It is not a training course or a regatta, just a bunch of women having fun, sailing a fleet of boats, in one of the most beautiful cruising grounds in the world

We'll have ten *Great Escape* yachts, skippered and crewed by women sailors. It's not a race, but we have some activities along the way. Sail to the destination Saturday, sail home on Sunday with a lunch stop en-route (weather dependent).

We all meet at the Ōpua Cruising Club on Friday night for meet and greet and final boat allocations. We enjoy a shared meal and prize giving ashore on Saturday and have fun with an activity ashore Sunday morning.

Cost is \$165 per sailor, bring your own provisions, bring your own linen or use ours (pillow, sheet, duvet and towel \$30 per person).

We look forward to welcoming you aboard.

Registration and more information from Julie at sail@greatescape.co.nz



MARATHIAS PART 2

The Atlantic

Our voyage from Puerto Rico in the Canary Islands to the Caribbean began on 12th December 1984, we had waited 6 weeks for the right weather window and during this time had worked to ensure every aspect of *Marathias* was in the best possible order.



Leaving Puerto Rico.

We had cast off at 16:30 and took it easy to get settled down in a variable NE wind for our first night, heading for our first waypoint at 20°N x 25°W. Our plan was to head South almost to the Cape Verde Islands to ensure we could pick up the Trade Winds.

With the hydro-vane steering working well we settled into a comfortable routine of reading books and enjoying the sunshine. We ran the engine for an hour each day to charge the batteries and keep the refrigerator and freezer at the correct temperatures.

The swell was moderate but never uncomfortable, when the wind rose above 25 knots, we would shorten the sails to maintain a comfortable ride. On reaching the North Equatorial Current, it gave us a lift of 12-15 nautical miles each day and lasted all the way to our destination.

Navigation was never a problem for us because the SatNav told us exactly where we were together with the course and distance to our next waypoint as well as an ETA. We plotted our position each day on the chart and although we had good intentions to plot sun sight position lines, we never did get around to it. Throughout the trip, we kept in touch with other yachts doing the crossing with us and although they were never in sight, we kept a lookout.

Not until the 10th day did we see another vessel, it was a somewhat murky day so we were keeping a good lookout, a sail appeared on the opposite gybe and looking most uncomfortable, almost out of control. We made contact on channel 16 and had quite a long chat with Sun Fizz, a charter boat with a temporary crew delivering it to the West Indies for the winter.

We never saw another boat until we arrived at St Lucia.

One day we found the deck, rigging and sails covered in sand. We concluded that it could only have come from the Sahara, over 1,000 miles away. A daily chore was clearing the decks of Flying Fish. Although some people ate them, we were far too well-provisioned to bother. However, one day we caught a 7 lb Dorado on the line we trailed, this one gave us 2 good dinners and a light lunch!

Running westward, we tried to sail about 30 degrees off a dead downwind course for comfort, the seas caused *Marathias* to oscillate between 120 & 180 degrees off the wind with the hydrovane steering coping quite adequately and giving a comfortable ride. We had fitted 'preventers' so had no fear of an unintended gybe.

When our supply of fresh bread ran out, I mademore using yeast from the freezer, I found relatively calm water was best for bread making as when there was too much motion, the dough wouldn't rise properly!

We had agreed that we would heave-to on Christmas Day but *Marathia* was romping along, seeming to enjoy the sense of occasion, so we just kept going and enjoyed freshly roasted chicken with pork sausage, bacon and stuffing with new potatoes and peas followed by Christmas pudding with brandy butter custard and mince pies. A bottle of good Spanish wine to toast friends and family completed the occasion.

Our routine continued and soon we began thinking about our arrival at Rodney Bay, St

Lucia, the SatNav predicted an early afternoon arrival on New Year's Day. As it was a public holiday, Immigration would charge double entry fees so we decided to slow down. With St Lucia in sight, we hove-to and started to fish. To our surprise and delight, and some difficulty with gaffing, we landed a 15 lb Tuna.

It was exciting and deeply satisfying to motor leisurely into Rodney Bay, anchor off the beach and enjoy a quick swim, a long drink and a superb dinner of fresh Tuna and Champagne. A perfect ending to our journey.

The next morning, we motored to the inner lagoon, only to learn from the Customs Officer that January 2nd was also a public holiday, so we had to pay a double entry fee anyway!



MARATHIAS in Caribbean Paradise.

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publicity@opuacruisingclub.co.nz and let us know in whose advert you found the little vacht as well as what you like best about our monthly newsletter before July 25th May to go in the draw.

The winner will be announced in the June issue.

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Pacific Rallies

Well, it's that time of the year when the days get shorter, temperatures start to drop, daylight savings ends and some lucky cruisers start to think about their next adventure into the tropics.

We are told by Island Cruising Assoc. that 50+ boats have

registered so far for their Pacific rallies this season, so it looks like things are well and truly getting back to normal on that front!

This of course means lots of preparation with Cat 1 certifications, haulouts, rig checks and general maintenance in advance of the season in May.



One of the benefits of joining a rally is the possibility of pre-arranged checkins at the Lau group in Fiji, Vanuatu or the Loyalty Islands. These special arrangements are attractive because cruisers don't have to first check-in at a major immigration port before sailing



many miles back out to these special destinations.

Other considerations on people's minds will be their cruising plan for the season, crew arrangements for the first passage and trying to pick a good weather window closer to the time.



These decisions are all part of the adventure and we wish everyone who is aiming to go offshore all the very best with their planning and preparations.

Also, just a heads up that swimming on Noumea's beaches is currently banned after a spate of shark attacks!

Be safe out there!





In celebration of Women on the Water #6 at Great Escape www.greatescape.co.nz ($29^{th} - 30^{th}$ April) here are some questions about amazing female sailors.

- 1. Which year did Tracey Edwards & crew (including one of our Great Escape instructors!) become the first all-female team to complete the Whitbread Round the World on MAIDEN
 - a. 1988
 - b. 1989
 - c. 1990
 - d. 1991
- 2. Lisa Blair has sailed single handedly, around which continents?
 - a. South America
 - b. Australia
 - c. Antarctica
 - d. New Zealand
- **3.** How old was Jessica Watson when she became the youngest person to sail around the world solo and unassisted in 2010?
 - a. 15
 - b. 15 1/2
 - c. 16
 - d. 16 1/2

4.



The yacht 'Guppy' pictured here, belonged to which young female round the world solo sailor?

- a. Jessica Watson
- b. Ellen MacArthur
- c. Kay Cottee
- d. Laura Dekker
- 5. Naomi James was the first woman to sail single handed around the world.
 - a. True
 - b. False

If you struggled with any of the questions or you want to expand your knowledge of sailing theory take the free eLearning courses at International Yacht Training. https://www.iytworld

The sea trails of our Alan Pape Steel Maid 35' completed, we decided to venture further afield.

We had wanted to go to the Med. but decided we could do that any time and opted for the East Coast of the USA cruising the Intercoastal Waterway.

I managed to get another year off work, Roger had already left his job so we packed up the boat and in September 1988 we headed for the Scilly Isles, Spain, Portugal and the Canary Islands, where we met up with our good friends Colin and Gill on *Kayos II* in Lanzarote. I wanted to go to the Cape Verde Islands and convinced Roger and our friends



that it would be a good idea to go.

We arrived at sunset with the islands bathed in a golden glow and anchored in Mindelo Harbour, Ilha de St Vincent.

We found the officials corrupt, some of the locals aggressive and excessively pestering and the beach used as a public toilet. The next morning after retrieving our passports in exchange for alcohol we set sail. It was Friday 25th November and though considered bad luck we couldn't wait to get away. Roger and Colin had met the Minister for Tourism and complained bitterly about our treatment.

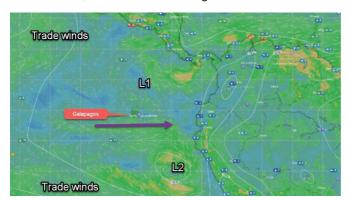
A vear later some friends went and said it had been OK. It would be nice to think we had helped influence the change. Mid-Atlantic a catamaran caught up with us and explained they needed a spinnaker to get them to Martinique on time, as they were delivering the boat and wouldn't get paid if they were late. We offered them our cruising chute which they promised to leave for us at a place in Anse Mitan. I must admit. I was doubtful as to whether we would see it again, but I was proved wrong. We had a similar incident mid-Atlantic on the return trip. We saw a mast behind us and it was gaining at a rapid rate. We were apprehensive until we realised it was Kayos II, having had left after us it was a miracle that they found us. Colin had become very ill due to an ear and throat infection and was in desperate need of medication. Fortunately, we had some antibiotics on board. In return, we were given some beers as we had run out. Later, the local paper ran an article Drugs for Beer.

We visited Norman Cay in the Bahamas, where Charles Lehder refuelled planes from Columbia delivering drugs to Miami. It wasn't long after the place had been raided and there were cars with bullet holes and the house had been trashed, plus a plane wrecked in the water nearby. About four miles off Cape Canaveral we were boarded by the US coastguard keen to catch smugglers. They were very intimidating with submachine guns, we were ordered to put our hands up and sit in the cockpit while four men boarded our boat. Three guys searched the boat while one guy stayed in the cockpit and was very polite and we had to fill in a questionaire.

As to their behaviour, not sure what would have happened if we had been smugglers. We breathed a sigh of relief when they left.

USA here we come.

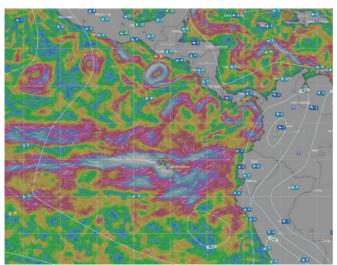
In mid-March, there was a twinning of Lows north and south of the Galapagos Islands.



As shown here on windy. com with L1 near 5N and L2 near 10S. L2 was the remains of a Tropical depression named Cyclone *YAKU* by the Peru Met agency. It formed on 9 March in a convergence zone that was south the Galapagos Islands.

These lows combined to form a belt of WESTERLY winds just south of the Galapagos Islands as shown by the purple arrow. There was a strong movement of sun-warmed surface water eastwards, over 3knots in places around Galapagos, as shown in this current map.

This warm water continues to pile up along the Peru Coast. One of the yachts that passed thru this area described the scene thus: "as far as the sea life is concerned, a couple of dolphins came by a day or so ago, few birds resting on the deck at night, and that's about as much as we have seen, had 3 fishing rods out with various types of lures and not had a touch in 4 days I think they know not to come near this part of the ocean."



So much warm water has shifted that the Intertropical convergence zone ITCZ has gone inland and there is now a lot of convective activity along the Peru coast. Parts of Peru have had flooding and mudslides during March, worse than what Cyclone GABRIELLE gave to Aotearoa/ New Zealand, with rain amounts they haven't seen since Jan 2017 at the start of an El Niño COSTERO event, see:

www.globe.gov/web/claudiacarovera/home/blog/-/blogs/el-nino-costero-in-peru-a-story-to-tell

This sea surface temperature anomaly map shows a warm pool starting to build near Peru. With the weaker trade winds a cool pool also starts to build in the west Pacific. This shifts the WALKER CIRCULATION and affects the weather patterns all around the Pacific.

If El Niño gets Stronger, then New Zealand can expect more cold fronts than normal and stronger southwest winds. When measured monthly it is likely to be wetter than normal in the west and drier in the east.

As far as the Bay of Islands is concerned – the outlook for this in autumn is a mixed bag of changing conditions. We have had typical La Niña conditions all summer with several wet events with easterly winds. As the El Niño slowly starts to kick in, the Bay is expected to be visited by several lingering anticyclones with long periods of calm weather. Then, maybe by June, cold fronts may become more noticeable and followed by longer periods of showery southwest wind.

THEY'RE OFF!

BY IAN TEMPLEMAN



As the continued expansion of Ōpua Marina has curtailed dinghy sailing for kids, the decision was made to donate all the OCC owned *Optimist* and *Firebug* dinghies to the Rotary Mangawhai Sailing Project where they will get back to doing what they do best, enable children to learn the

joys of sailing and having fun! Our three *Splash* dinghies have been sold with two of them headed for the active youth sailing fleet at Whangārei Cruising Club where ex OCC Member Ruth deBray is Commodore.

MARCH RACE PHOTOGRAPHS















NOT A YOTTIE BY JO MOXEY

I belong to a knit and natter group – we catch up with each other a couple of times a week. It's a lovely support group of like-minded people, and last month 9 of us went on a trip together to the South Island. The Intercity bus was booked to take us to Auckland but then along came *Gabrielle* to upset all our plans – what to do next? We didn't want to miss out on our holiday that had been in the planning stages for months.

One group of us drove down the day before the flight was due and stayed overnight in an Auckland hotel, it was quite a hairy journey for them, and I drove down the next day with some more of our group, leaving at 5 o'clock in the morning. Just at the bottom of Lemons Hill, the river was across the road and quite deep. There were some lovely people on duty who advised us to go very carefully through the middle of the road and to 'just keep going and don't stop' – it was a bit hairy but we got to Kawakawa and SH1 and just kept on going. After Whangarei we were diverted off the main road towards Waipū and the coastal road south. There were trees that had come down across the roads and been cut and moved, and slips that had been cleared but the road was still very slippery and hazardous in places. We eventually met the main road near Kaiwaka and headed down to Coatesville. My daughter lives there and had promised to drive us to the airport and then mind my car 'til we got back. Needless to say, we caught up with our friends in the Departure Lounge and there were no more dramas for the flight to Queenstown.

A taxi took us into Queenstown and our lovely apartment at The Glebe. Really close to the centre of town but on a very steep

hill. We had a well-equipped kitchen and a huge long lounge area with sofas and chairs at each end plus a massive dining table and chairs in the centre. We certainly weren't crowded. We hired a 12-seater vehicle and were pleasantly surprised to find that we'd been allocated a Mercedes Sprinter – what a lovely drive it was too.

A trip on the Earnslaw for a late lunch and watch the sheep shearing, a day trip to Arrowtown and one to Wānaka. On leaving Queenstown we drove to the Moeraki Boulders and then on to Christchurch where we rented a house. The obligatory ride on the trams, ice cream from the indoor market, a day trip to Akaroa, what a stunning township it is and the best fish and chips.

Then early one morning a taxi to the train station and then a train ride to Picton. The ferry had been cancelled once again and we eventually got on the boat for the 9.30 sailing and eventually fall into bed at 2am. We went to the Cricket in Wellington, England against New Zealand, and amazing atmosphere of happiness. After a few days in Wellington, we caught the train through to Auckland, the *Old Railway Hotel overnight* and then drove home to the Beautiful Bay of Islands.

That's all for now, Love, Luck and Laughter from Jo



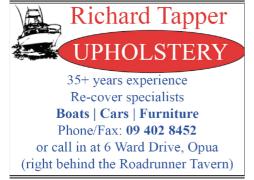
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ANSWERS TO QUIZ APRIL 2023:

- 1 a 1000
- 2.b. and c. New Zealand may or may not be a continent, depending on the geologists you believe.3.c. 16.
- 4.d. Laura Dekker.
- 5.b. False. Krystyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz of Poland was the first woman to sail around the world solo, (via the Panama Canal) on 21 April 1978. Naomi James was the first woman to sail around the world solo (via Cape Horn), she finished less than 2 months after Krystyna.



NEW ZEALAND HYDROGRAPHIC AUTHORITY TIDE PREDICTIONS

OPUA

Lat. 35° 19' S Long. 174° 07' E

APRIL 2023

N.Z. LOCAL TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

	Time	m		Time	m		Time	m		Time	m
1 Sa	0501 1111 1720 2330	2.1 1.1 2.0 1.0	9 Su	0327 0938 1551 2208	0.7 2.5 0.5 2.5	17 Mo	0450 1101 1717 2325	2.4 0.7 2.3 0.7	25 Tu	0504 1112 1717 2341	0.8 2.3 0.7 2.3
2 Su	0457 1108 1717 2325	2.1 1.0 2.1 0.9	10 Mo	0410 1019 1633 2252	0.7 2.4 0.6 2.4	18 Tu	0546 1158 1815	2.5 0.6 2.4	26 We	0551 1158 1802	0.9 2.2 0.8
3 Mo	0546 1157 1806	2.2 0.9 2.1	11 Tu	0457 1105 1719 2340	0.7 2.4 0.6 2.4	19 We	0021 0638 1251 1908	0.6 2.6 0.5 2.5	27 Th	0030 0641 1247 1852	2.2 1.0 2.1 0.9
4 Tu	0011 0629 1240 1851	0.8 2.3 0.9 2.2	12 We	0548 1155 1809	0.8 2.3 0.7	20 Th	0113 0727 1340 1957	0.6 2.6 0.5 2.6	28 Fr	0122 0735 1341 1946	2.2 1.0 2.0 0.9
5 We	0052 0708 1318 1931	0.8 2.3 0.8 2.3	13 Th	0035 0644 1251 1906	2.4 0.8 2.3 0.7	21 Fr	0202 0814 1426 2044	0.6 2.6 0.4 2.6	29 Sa	0219 0831 1439 2045	2.1 1.0 2.0 1.0
6 Th	0130 0745 1356 2010	0.7 2.4 0.7 2.4	14 Fr	0137 0746 1355 2009	2.3 0.9 2.2 0.8	22 Sa	0248 0859 1509 2128	0.6 2.5 0.4 2.6	30 Su	0316 0927 1539 2143	2.1 1.0 2.0 1.0
7 Fr	0208 0822 1433 2048	0.7 2.4 0.6 2.4	15 Sa	0243 0852 1505 2117	2.3 0.9 2.2 0.8	23 Su	0333 0944 1552 2212	0.6 2.5 0.5 2.5			
8 Sa	0247 0859 1511 2127	0.7 2.5 0.6 2.5	16 Su	0349 0958 1613 2223	2.3 0.8 2.3 0.7	24 Mo	0418 1028 1634 2256	0.7 2.4 0.6 2.4			

TIMES SHOWN IN BOLD HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED FOR N.Z DAYLIGHT TIME CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED

			first mortgage trust Meat Pack Draw	Darts		
লি	Great Escape Women on the Water	Great Escap	BUNGO		Holiday	
	29	28	2/	20		24
School Holidays ends	Whangaroa Race & Cruising Rally		first mortgage trust Meat Pack Draw	Darts	Meeting	
	October Prizegiving Yend of season party				:	
	22	21	20	19	18	17
RBC Womans Race			B J N G O first mortgage trust Meat Pack Draw	Darts		OCC Bar and Bistro CLOSED
	15	14	13	12	11	Easter Monday
1 6	Cruising Digion elemight BBQ Cruise	School holidays start	first mortgage trust Meat Pack Draw	Summer Twilight Series Race 6 Prizegiving		
OCC Bar and Bistro CLOSED	OCC Bar and Bistro CLOSED	OCC Bar and Bistro CLOSED		Opua Car Detailing		
Easter Sunday	Easter Saturday	Good Friday	6	5	4	3
RBC Single Handed Race 3 of 3						
Daylight Saving ends	L					
\top	Saturday	Friday	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday
		23	APRIL 2023	A		