



THE FRIENDLIEST CLUB IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

FREE
MAGAZINE

tell tales



[PHOTOGRAPH BY JULIE KIDMAN.]

APRIL 2024



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COMMODORE'S REPORT

BY IAN TEMPLEMAN



It is always pleasing to find out that some people really do read our *Tell Tales* Magazine. During the past month, I have had at least one response to my plea for you good people to come forward if you think you might be able to help on our Club committee. The AGM is only two and a half months away, so please, if you think you may be able to help, speak with me or any of our committee members.

It was also good to see *Usain Boat*, *Icebreaker* and *Frivolous Fish* representing OCC at the Elliott 5.9 National Champs held at Marsden Point. Congratulations to *Usain Boat* for their 4th place overall. As many of you will know, the Elliott 5.9 class has many sailing rock stars within the fleet, so to get into the top five is a really great achievement. Well done Matt, Evan and Luka on *Usain Boat*, Tom, Genevieve and Mitch on *Icebreaker* and David, Luke and Robert on *Frivolous Fish*.

Our Club racing has been well supported and the continuing good weather has helped. The cricket match on the sand bar really did take place despite the confusion, mainly caused by me, of "is it on / is it off?" But alas, we don't have any photos. Our evening racing, unfortunately, finishes on the 5th of April with the end of summertime; shortly, cruisers will be gathering in Ōpua, awaiting the perfect weather window to head north to the islands, and I have to admit that makes me feel a little jealous.

Happy sailing and I look forward to meeting you at the Club.

Ian T.

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of course, prizes for all the different series winners! We expect it to be oversubscribed, so ensure you book a table for your boat as soon as bookings open.

Thank you again to those volunteers who support our racing, the sponsors who support each series, the sailors who step up to take a turn as duty boat, and all the skippers and crews who make racing at OCC such a fantastic experience.



As usual, keep up to date with the Club Website www.opuacruisingclub.co.nz click on the *Sailing/Race Information* Club Calendar, Facebook Posts click on www.facebook.com/opuacruisingclub, the Club's Weekly emails, the Race Noticeboard in the Club, and the verbal updates on race nights. You can also send any questions or comments to raceofficer@opuacruisingclub.co.nz

See you out on the water or up in the Club. *Julie – OCC Race Officer*

Racing at the Club

April is a challenging month. With daylight savings finishing on the 7th of April, summer feels like it's over, and the slide to winter begins. But don't despair – there is still plenty of racing left. The last **Bluefix Summer Wine Autumn Series Race** is on **Wednesday, 3rd April**, and the last **NSR/Open Ocean Watermakers Pursuit Rum Race** is on **Friday, 5th April**.

Mark your calendars for the **NZ Yacht Services Winter Series**, one race a month: **Race 1 - 19th May; Race 2 - 2nd June; Race 3 - 7th July; Race 4 - 4th August; Race 5 - 8th September** There will be a two-handed division and fully-crewed division; if there is enough interest, we could also include a no-extras division. (Please get in touch if you'd like a no-extras division.)

Also, reserve **Saturday, 22nd June**, this is going to be a big night of celebration: **The 2023/24 Season Prizegiving**. There will be food and entertainment, and

Better Racing – Mark Rounding

Racing at OCC with such a diverse fleet makes for interesting mark roundings at times, with calls for buoy room, overlaps being established etc.

The rule most at play is Rule 18, Mark Room. Rule 18 applies between boats when they are required to leave a mark on the same side and at least one of them is in the zone¹.

18.2 Giving Mark-Room

(a) *When boats are overlapped the outside boat shall give the inside boat mark-room, unless rule 18.2(b) applies.*

(b) *If boats are overlapped when the first of them reaches the zone, the outside boat at that moment shall thereafter give the inside boat mark-room. If a boat is clear astern at that moment shall thereafter give her mark-room.*

(c) *When a boat is required to give mark-room by rule 18.2(b),*

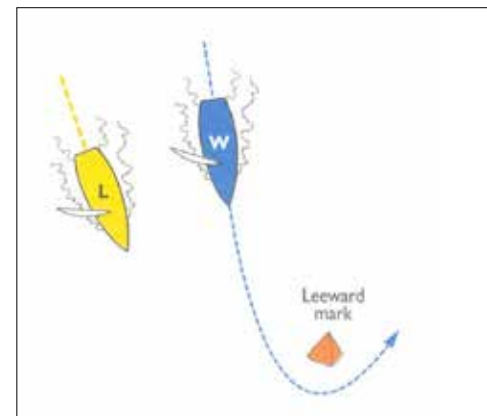
(1) *she shall continue to do so even if later an overlap is broken or a new overlap begins;*

(2) *if she becomes overlapped inside the boat entitled to mark-room, she shall also give that boat room to sail her proper course while they remain overlapped.*

(d) *Rules 18.2(b) and (c) cease to apply if the boat entitled to markroom passes head to wind or leaves the zone.*

(e) *If there is reasonable doubt that a boat obtained or broke an overlap in time, it shall be presumed that she did not.*

(f) *If a boat obtained an inside overlap from clear astern or by tacking to windward of the other boat and, from the time the overlap began, the outside boat has been unable to give markroom, she is not required to give it².*



These two boats on port tack are about to round a leeward mark. Rule 11 says the windward boat (W) must keep clear of the leeward boat (L). But rule 18, the 'mark rounding' rule, says the outside boat (L) must give room to the inside boat (W). Since these two rules are in conflict, rule 18 takes precedence because it is in Section B of the rulebook. Therefore L must give W room to round the mark.

For more on this and other great yacht racing tips see the website by Dave Dellenbaugh Sailing. <https://www.speedandsmarts.com/toolbox/articles2/articles/mark-rounding-moves> and CYC Racing Rules Explained <https://cyca.com.au/racing-rules-explained-rule-18/> You should also reference the Yachting New Zealand Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2014 (A pdf copy is on our website www.opuacruisingclub.co.nz).

¹ *Zone* The area around a mark within a distance of three hull lengths of the boat nearer to it. A boat is in the zone when any part of her hull is in the zone.

² *Extract from P21 The 2021-2024 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) of World Sailing, and the Prescriptions of Yachting New Zealand*

(Photographs by Julie Kidman.)

zero2hero.

Rob's Row

AUSTRALIA 2 AFRICA

A SOLO INDIAN OCEAN CROSSING



Come and listen to an illustrated talk by Rob Barton who last year rowed across the Indian Ocean from Australia to Africa at the age of 58.

A world record achievement.

Ōpua Cruising Club
Wednesday,
17 April at 7.30pm

ARE YOU GETTING YOUR SHARE??

Unfortunately, the cost of operating our Club is increasing, so some changes are necessary.

First, the good news: As of 1st April, Member discounts on purchases from the Bar will double! This means that Full and Superannuate Members will receive a discount of \$2 on each applicable item and Social Members \$1 per applicable item. These increased discounts will be offset by a price increase of \$1 on all beverages that attract the Member discount.

The net result is that Full and Superannuate Members will pay the same net price for their drinks as they have been and Social Members will only pay an additional \$0.50 for the affected items.

Clearly, Non-Members will pay the new full price and that's a good reason to join our Club.

Unchanged is the 'Top-up' bonus we receive for 'putting money on our cards'. Also *Happy Hour* discount every Friday between 5pm and 6pm remains unchanged. So, just how low can the price of a handle of beer or a glass of wine go? A Full Member paying with a credit balance on their card during *Happy Hour* enjoys a net cost of just \$5.92.

More good news is that there will not be an increase to Membership Fees this year.

The Bad News? Well, there isn't any! So come to our Club, tell your friends about it, and let's make sure we all enjoy it and get our share of the Membership benefits we deserve.
Your Club Committee

BURNSCO



SPOT THE YOT GIVEAWAY

Find the Yot hidden in the trade directory and then let us know what you think of Tell Tales to go into the draw to WIN!

If you would like to go into the draw to win a handy Burnsco Dry Bag email publicity@opuacruisingclub.co.nz and let us know, in which advert you found the little yacht, as well as what you like best about our monthly newsletter before **22th APRIL** to go in the draw.

The winner will be announced in the MAY issue.



FIJI 1993

The passage from Tonga to Fiji was uneventful and after four days, we were told to drop anchor in Suva harbour. The next morning we had to tie up to the wharf to clear customs. The Suva Yacht Club was a great meeting place where the food and drinks were very reasonable and we were able to catch up with yachties from our previous travels.

We explored Suva and visited an annual fire-walking ceremony at an Indian Temple. A huge crowd had gathered around a pit with red-hot coals. A procession of men clad in yellow was accompanied by men playing drums and bells. Several of the men had metal objects through various parts of their bodies. Music rose to a crescendo, and a man in a trance walked over the coals and then prostrated in front of a statue to the Goddess of Healing.

We wanted to visit some of the outer islands and needed permission to do

so. We visited the Fijian Affairs office for a permit. We spent two hours being preached to by a huge Fijian, Roger jokingly said to him, 'No one would pinch your pint.' He replied, 'I used to be bad and take other people's drinks but now I have seen the light.' The paperwork for the permit took two minutes! We were told we had to buy kava to present to the chiefs of the villages. He explained that sevusevu is a central ritual and an important part of social, healing and community gatherings.

Before we left Suva we boarded an express bus to Sigatoka, which took two hours. There was still evidence of the damage that Cyclone *Kina* had caused earlier in the year. After looking around, we returned to Suva, a three-hours bus trip.

The weather was very unsettled. On the day we decided to leave for Kadavu it rained and blew so much boats were dragging and it wasn't safe. When we did leave, the sea was very rough and we decided to anchor at Beqa Lagoon, Yanutha Island. The next morning we went ashore and presented the chief with kava. We were invited to watch the school rugby match in the afternoon. We decided to sail overnight to Tavuki Bay, Kadavu.

The day after, we went ashore again and presented kava to the chief of the village, and we were invited to join in a kava ceremony. The kava is pounded into a powder and mixed with water and

then strained into a traditional wooden kava bowl. I can't say I was impressed as the kava looked like dirty dishwater and wasn't to my taste. Passing the half coconut around from person to person didn't seem very hygienic to me. I was in for another surprise, as on leaving, I saw the cloths used to strain the kava strewn on the ground where a dog peed on them. The locals were delightful and inquisitive, coming on board and bringing vegetables and fruit they had grown. Roger gave them some books and old reading glasses.



The next day, we sailed to Daku Bay but didn't go ashore until the following morning. We were greeted by Epi, who insisted on us going to meet his wife and children. Everyone was so welcoming in the village and Roger was asked to help fix the village's waterpipe and some of the outboards. The government at the time had given the locals the outboards but no manuals or spare parts. Roger tried his best but wasn't able to help.

We were also asked to help plant yams the next day and invited to breakfast. We insisted we didn't need feeding but big plates of curry and rice were put in front of us, not something I would normally

eat at that time of day. It turned out to be hot, back-breaking work, and there was no stopping for lunch. I was glad I didn't have to do any of the digging.



We were sorry to have to leave but I needed to get to a dentist at Vunisea due to a painful gumboil. We were asked if we could pick up some children in the next village to take to the school sports event at Vunisea. Three adults and three children squeezed on board *Noridiam*, along with a box of crabs and a large sapling. We had a lively sail and I made curry and rice for everyone before dropping them ashore. After a visit to the dentist and watching the sports, we took five adults and two children to Naqara, Ono Island, a day later.

It was time to move on and we sailed to Musket Cove, Malolo Lailai Island, where we explored the area before leaving from Lautoka to head back to Ōpuā.



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



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Nautical Knowledge

Test your crew!! Test yourself with these five quick questions.

- For towing alongside you:
 - Attach bowline to bow and stern line to stern of disabled boat
 - Attach spring lines fore and aft to disabled boat
 - Manoeuvre slowly and cautiously to destination
 - All of the above
- What type of vessel is this seen at night?

			
Ahead	Port	Starboard	Astern

 - A sailing vessel underway
 - A power vessel underway
 - A sailing vessel at anchor
 - A power vessel at anchor
- When planning a short passage, you should locate on the right nautical chart. Headlands or other areas that may have strong tides or overfalls as they may dictate you pass at a specific time relative to high or low water
 - True
 - False
- _____ is when the wind is over the beam at 90°. The sails will be eased out on this point of sail
 - Broad reaching
 - Running
 - Close reaching
 - Beam reaching
- A landmass onto which the wind is blowing, and the seas breaking is known as a _____.
 - Windward shore
 - Breaking shore
 - Leeward shore
 - None of the above

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.com/courses/course-types/elearning/>

The South Pacific

Leaving French Polynesia our next objective was 560NM to The Cook Islands. We set sail on a course of 220° magnetic in a rather stiff breeze with a reef in the Mainsail. Within an hour we shook it out as *Marathias* needed plenty of sail to push through rough seas. The motion improved, and David went below for a nap only to emerge again a short time later, 'not feeling too good'. It's amazing how one can lose their 'sea legs' after lounging around in calm lagoons for a few weeks. David was somewhat peeved that he was sea-sick but I was unaffected. We put a fishing line out and were rewarded by snaring a large Dorado; when David finally got it aboard, it weighed 45lbs and measured over 5ft long. We cut it up on the aft deck, and soon, we had steaks in the deep-freezer. Dorado is a lovely coloured fish as good as Salmon to eat.

After two days of making good time, the wind slackened, so we bought out the much-mended Spinnaker and resolved not to use it in over 10kts of breeze so, due to periodic squalls, we took it down at night as we couldn't see them coming.

We arrived at Rarotonga on 1st August – Constitution Day – and entered the

small harbour which was congested with steamer ferries that serve the smaller islands. It was nice to be in an English-speaking society again. We went to the cinema and found good-quality produce at very reasonable prices. Rarotonga will always live in our memories as it is where David passed his Morse Code test and we got our personalised call sign *ZK 1 DS*.

From the Cook Islands we headed for Tonga, and our concept of South Seas' weather came in for rather a shock; we had been anticipating temperatures similar to the Caribbean in winter, but this was not the case, so we got out the blankets and warm jackets. Tonga is 850NM from Rarotonga and the passage took 7½ days, although this included a day hove-to as we had been blown too far South. We then picked up a nice South-Easterly and romped along for the next 4 days with the Genoa boomed out.

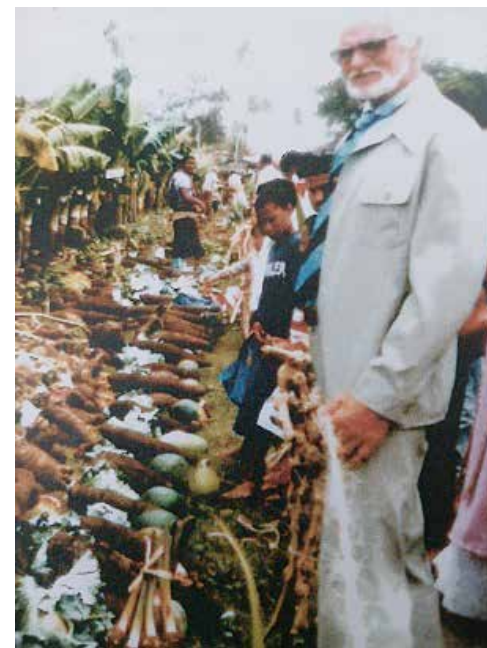
Our original plan had been to head to the Southern Tongan Islands, but the prospect of warmer weather beckoned, so we went to the Northern Vavau Group of 'The Friendly Isles' which was superb, with many closely spaced small islands giving a choice of over 40 anchorages within a radius of 10 miles.

The Kingdom of Tonga is Polynesia's oldest and last remaining monarchy that had never been bought under colonial rule. Consequently, the order of receiving foreign aid was very low. It is a constitutional monarchy where the King actually rules. At the time we were there, there could be no singing on Sunday (except in church), no swimming, no fishing, and no work, sport, or trade. Any contract signed on a Sunday was void and a police permit was necessary to drive a car on Sunday. But they were happy polite people.

One afternoon, an elderly man in a tiny out-rigger canoe came alongside and offered us some unusual shells which we exchanged for a can of Tuna, later he returned with a large Grouper which we exchanged for a can of beef stew. The fish was delicious. He returned later to ask if we would like some Bananas, to which we replied 'Yes please' and a short time later he arrived with a huge bunch so we asked what he would like for them. He replied 'Playboy Magazine'! Obviously, the Methodist preachers had slipped up on his island. He had to be content with a couple of Time magazines.

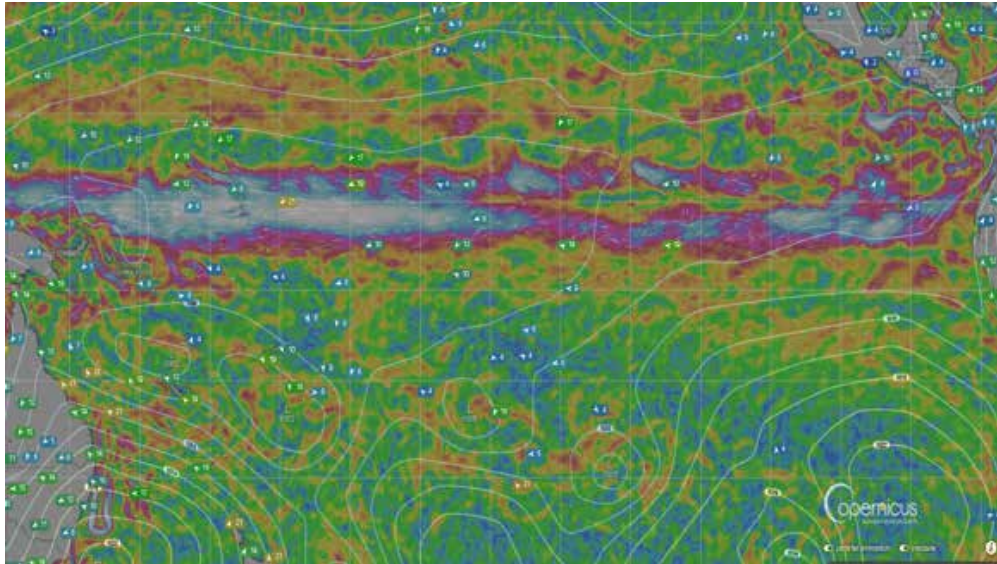
While in Tongan waters, we went to Lefuka, the largest island in the

Haap'ai group. As it happened, the King was visiting an Agricultural Show so we went along to see the fun. I dressed suitably and David wore a suit with collar and tie. It was well worth the effort, as we were seated in the front row and were rather impressed by the proceedings.

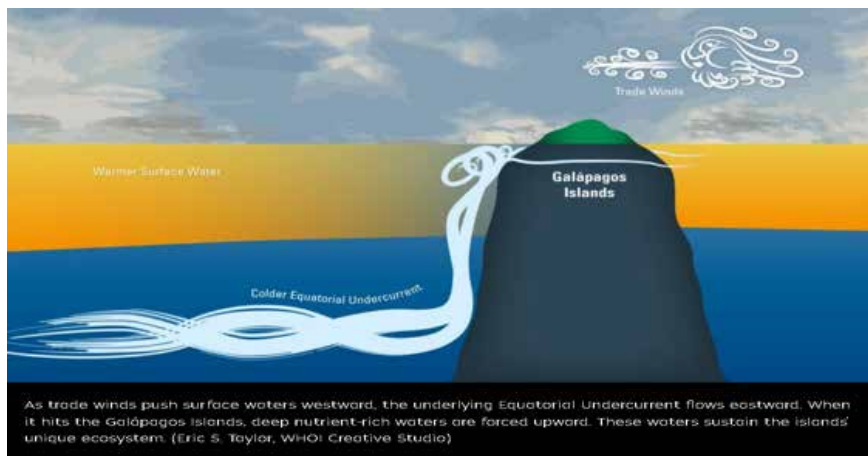


By now, we were getting ready for our run down to New Zealand. We didn't want to arrive too early as it would be cold so we chose the end of October. With a good North Easter we could make the passage in just eight days. Our next address would be: General Delivery, ŌPUA!

In mid-March the equatorial current was going westwards as if on steroids.



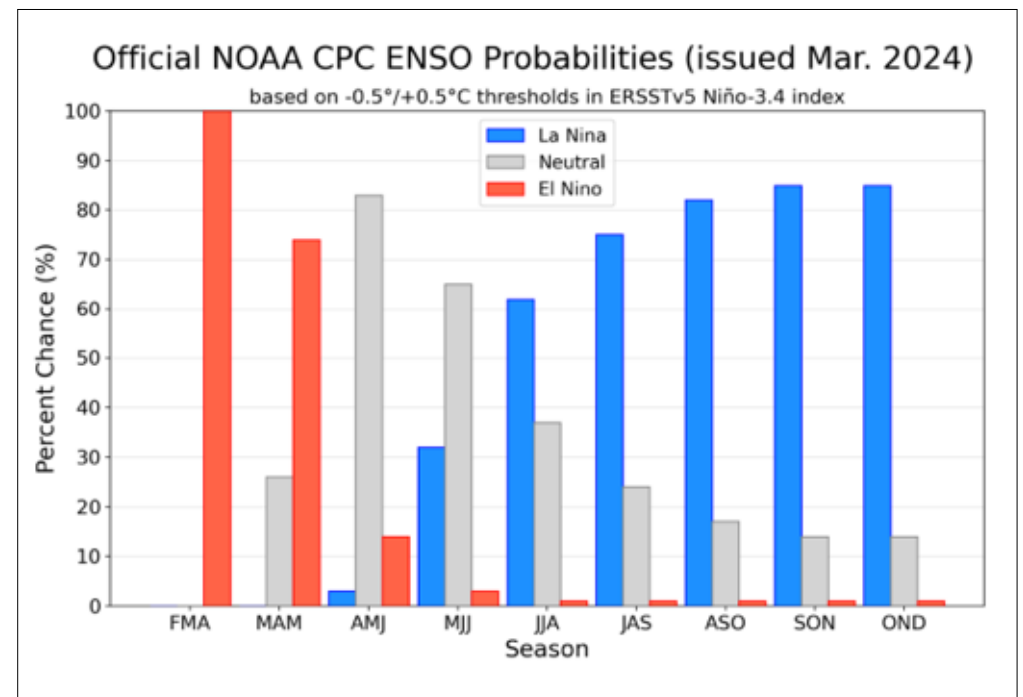
As the surface: warm water is being pushed physically by an increasing wind from the east Pacific along the equator. This happens across the entire equatorial Pacific and piles up over the western Pacific. There, to flatten out this build-up, water beneath it at around 50 to 150m is pushed outwards at over 2kt, creating an east-going current called the Pacific Equatorial Undercurrent or EUC which starts in Indonesia.



When this current hits the barrier offered by the Galapagos, most of it diverts around this obstacle, but some of it diverts upwards to replace the water that has been taken west-wards. This UP-WELLING, being cooler and full of nutrients, provides the rich animal and bird life of the Galapagos with a feast of food.

The behaviour of the EUC is tied up with the El Niño and La Niña patterns, but because it is hard to observe, little is known what changes its ‘mood’.

We do know a lot now about how the tropics influence New Zealand weather. Over the recent summer El Niño was in the driving seat, producing more westerly winds than normal over NZ – filling the hydro lakes with reasonable rain, but producing dry conditions east of the Alps, and now a drought in Marlborough. During autumn El Niño will be replaced by what we call “NEUTRAL” conditions. The weather will swing from one pattern to another, allowing variety as each pattern gets to “play” for a short time.





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PHOTO COMPETITION FOR THE CLUB'S CALENDAR 2024-2025

You are invited to send in photographs for this competition for the front cover of this year's edition of the OCC Calendar 2024–2025.

The photographs should relate to an Ōpua maritime scene, OCC sailing/ racing or the OCC Club.

The photographs need to be in high-resolution and preferably landscape format.

Entries can be emailed to Sheila at publicity@opuacruisingclub.co.nz **by the 15 August 2024.**

We are looking forward to receiving your entries.

Letters to the Committee?

Hello fellow Cruising Club members,

We want to take a moment to remind you that your involvement and ideas are crucial to the success of our Club. Whether you're a seasoned sailor, new to the crew, join in with social events or just enjoy the hospitality of the bar and restaurant, your input can help shape the experiences we offer and ensure that everyone feels welcome and valued.

We're always open to hearing your suggestions for ways to improve our events, facilities, or services. Whether it's a small tweak or a big idea, your feedback matters. So, if you have any thoughts or ideas, please don't hesitate to share them with us.

Additionally, if you have any concerns or questions for the committee, sending an email is a great way to get your voice heard. Whether it's a suggestion for improvement or simply a word of thanks, we're here to listen. We're considering including a *Letters to the Committee* section in *Tell Tales*, publishing questions/ suggestions and answers, do you think this would be useful?

Let's work together to realise the Club's vision of *The Friendliest Club in the South Pacific*. Your participation makes all the difference!

Best regards,
Your Club Committee



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ANSWERS TO QUIZ April 2024
(page 11):

1. d All of the above.
2. a. A sailing vessel underway
3. a. True.
4. d. Beam reaching
5. c. Lee / Leeward shore.

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NEW ZEALAND HYDROGRAPHIC AUTHORITY TIDE PREDICTIONS






Opua
Lat. 35°19'S Long. 174°07'E
APRIL 2024

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

	Time	m		Time	m		Time	m		Time	m
1	00:59	2.3	9	01:25	0.5	17	02:18	2.2	25	02:16	0.8
Mo	07:07	0.9	Tu	07:42	2.7	We	08:33	1.0	Th	08:25	2.4
	13:11	2.3		13:54	0.4		14:40	2.1		14:36	0.7
	19:28	0.8		20:12	2.7		20:48	1.0		20:55	2.4
2	01:51	2.3	10	02:16	0.5	18	03:18	2.2	26	02:54	0.8
Tu	08:01	1.0	We	08:31	2.8	Th	09:34	1.0	Fr	09:01	2.4
	14:04	2.2		14:43	0.4		15:42	2.1		15:13	0.7
	20:23	0.9		21:01	2.8		21:51	1.0		21:33	2.5
3	02:52	2.2	11	03:06	0.5	19	04:16	2.2	27	03:34	0.8
We	09:01	1.0	Th	09:20	2.7	Fr	10:32	1.0	Sa	09:40	2.4
	15:07	2.2		15:31	0.4		16:41	2.1		15:52	0.7
	21:26	0.9		21:50	2.7		22:48	1.0		22:12	2.4
4	03:59	2.3	12	03:56	0.6	20	05:07	2.2	28	04:16	0.9
Th	10:05	1.0	Fr	10:08	2.6	Sa	11:23	1.0	Su	10:21	2.4
	16:16	2.2		16:18	0.4		17:34	2.2		16:33	0.7
	22:32	0.8		22:39	2.7		23:38	0.9		22:55	2.4
5	05:04	2.3	13	04:47	0.7	21	05:52	2.3	29	05:02	0.9
Fr	11:10	0.9	Sa	10:58	2.5	Su	12:08	0.9	Mo	11:06	2.3
	17:25	2.3		17:06	0.5		18:20	2.2		17:19	0.7
	23:36	0.8		23:29	2.6					23:42	2.4
6	06:04	2.5	14	05:39	0.8	22	00:21	0.9	30	05:52	0.9
Sa	12:11	0.8	Su	11:49	2.4	Mo	06:33	2.3	Tu	11:55	2.3
	18:29	2.4		17:55	0.7		12:48	0.8		18:09	0.8
							19:02	2.3			
7	00:36	0.7	15	00:21	2.4	23	01:01	0.9			
Su	06:00	2.6	Mo	06:34	0.9	Tu	07:12	2.4			
	12:09	0.6		12:42	2.3		13:24	0.8			
	18:27	2.5		18:48	0.8		19:41	2.4			
8	00:32	0.6	16	01:18	2.3	24	01:38	0.8			
Mo	06:52	2.7	Tu	07:32	1.0	We	07:48	2.4			
	13:03	0.5		13:39	2.2		14:00	0.7			
	19:21	2.6		19:46	0.9		20:19	2.4			

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

April 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Cruising Division TBC Easter Monday	2	3  Summer Wine Autumn Series Race 6 – 6pm	4	5  Autumn Series Race 5 – 5.30pm	6 Cruising Division TBC	7 Daylight Saving Ends
8	9	10 Darts	11 	12	13 School Holidays Starts	14
15 Committee Meeting 5pm	16	17 Rob's Row 7.30pm (see page 6)	18 	19	20 Cruising Division TBC	21 Cruising Division TBC
22	23	24 Darts	25 Anzac Day	26	27	28  Herb Kingi Cup (TBC)
29	30					