OPUA CRUISING CLUB

FREE MAGAZINE

THE FRIENDLIEST CLUB IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

tell tales

Great Escape Women on Water (WOW) Weekend.
See page 17.

JUNE 2024

Bay of Islands ITM have been operating in Haruru Falls for over 10 years and have been a sponsor of the Ōpua Cruising Club for most of that time. Since then, we have opened another branch in Waipapa 4 years ago and we are about to open our new store in Kaikohe on June 10th; So we definitely have the Bay and Mid North covered. If you have an account, it will work in all three stores, and if you don't… come and see us instore, it's a very easy process.

We are primarily a builders' trade shop; however, with no hardware store in Paihia, we try to range products that suit the handyman homeowner as well, pop in and have a look. If you need us to stock a product, or even just a one-off purchase, let us know; we are always happy to try and source and order it for you.

And remember, if you are building a deck or adding that extra room, we are the guys who will *"see you right!"*

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COMMODORE'S REPORT

BY IAN TEMPLEMAN

This is my last Commodore's Report for *Tell Tales* as my term finishes at the AGM on the 25th of June.

In fact, by the time you read this, I have actually departed, and Merry and I are in England for our daughter's wedding.

There are only three more weeks to our AGM when you have both the opportunity and the responsibility to elect your committee for the next twelve months.

I know that I sound like a broken record, but please think seriously about what you could do to help on your Club Committee. With a complete committee, the jobs are not too onerous or time-consuming, and you will find it can be both fulfilling and enjoyable.

Happy sailing, and I look forward to meeting you at the Club when I get back in July and a big thank you for your support over the last two years.

Ian T.

ŌPUA CRUISING CLUB INC
AGM

25 June, 2024 at 7pm, in the Club Rooms

All Full Members and Social Members are encouraged to attend as proposed changes to the Club Constitution will be discussed.

Nominations for Committee positions are invited from all interested parties.

Forms can be sent by Email or collected from the Club but **MUST** reach the Office by:

12 noon on the day of the AGM, contact Sheila at 09-402 6924 Mornings, 9am to 12.30pm

OPUA CRUISING CLUB

PRIZE GIVING

22nd June
1700 Hours

About Event

Tickerts $25pp include a welcome drink, canapes, and a live band after the formalities.
Let us know your boat name when you book so we can plan the seating.

Get your tickets ASAP - Book together with your crew and reserve seats together. Tickets available from the bar or club office.

JUNE RACING REPORT

BY JULIE KIDMAN - RACE OFFICER

The *NZ Yacht Services Winter Racing Series* got off to a great start last month with nine boats for race 1. We had light conditions but enough breeze to send the fleet out on a course past Brampton, through the Kent Passage, around Motuterakihi and the Black Rocks, then to the finish, one of our new weekend courses. *Pretty Boy Floyd* led the fleet home, followed closely by *Kantime*. Remember, we have both fully-crewed and two-handed divisions; please check in with the start tower on VHF Channel 77 before each race to advise which division you are in.

The next race is Sunday, 2nd June.

If you haven't already, please make sure you have a copy of the updated course sheet and sailing instructions which are on our website – https://opuacruisingclub.co.nz/racing-documents/.

This month we will acknowledge another fabulous OCC race season with the annual prizegiving. Sponsors, skippers, crews, supporters, and all Club members are invited to join in a night of celebration. **The prizegiving will be held at the Club on Saturday 22nd June from 5pm.** It's going to be a great night, after the formalities we have live music (and dancing? :-) with the Ōrongo Band. The cost is $25 pp and this includes canapés and a welcome drink. *The Galley* will be open as usual for meals. Get your tickets early from the bar or Club office, so you don't miss out.

Our Club racing wouldn't happen without all the wonderful people that help make it happen. A big thank you to Gregg for all the behind-the-scenes work on handicaps and results and Judy, who has stepped up to run the tower for the remainder of *Winter Racing Series*. We'll use the duty boat schedule again for the *Summer Racing Series* and at any time if you have ideas or would like to help with Club racing get in touch: raceofficer@opuacruisingclub.co.nz

See you out on the water or up in the Club,
Cheers Julie

ANECDOTES OF A YOTTIE

PART 1

BY GEORGINA PORTER

***Noridiam* in Vanuatu 1994**

We had spent eight expensive weeks in New Caledonia, two enjoyable weeks had been with Dorothy. Now it was time to set sail for Vanuatu, the New Hebrides as Cook had named them in 1774. We had three bouncy days at sea before arriving at Port Vila, Efate Island. Vanuatu used to be jointly owned by the French and the British; they had two separate justice systems, and criminals could choose either. They usually chose the French, as wine was provided with their meals!

We arrived in time for the Independence Day celebrations. There were stalls, dancing and feasts. Trucks were laden with men dressed in traditional costume, some of the men had bones through their noses.

On Malekula Island, there were still cannibals in 1969; they still believed in witch doctors' medicine on all the islands

While in Port Vila we enjoyed going to the local club for delicious beef burgers and a beer or two. We wanted to visit the islands further north so we obtained a cruising permit and headed off. Wherever we anchored, we were visited by locals in dugout canoes, some wanting to trade fruit and vegetables for t-shirts, pens, etc. At Ambryn we anchored in a few different bays, being a volcanic island the strong smell of sulphur and the ash caused us to move on. We didn't fancy the eight-hour trek to and from the volcano.

Next we stopped at the Southern end of Pentecost Island, here high towers are built from bush timber and vines for land diving every May. The forerunner of bungy jumping, but no safety gear was used there. We visited a few bays and experienced some challenging squalls on the way.
We met delightful, curious locals, Vanuatans were a very happy race of people at that time, I hope they still are today. Unfortunately, westernisation isn't always the answer. At one of the bays on going ashore we asked permission to explore, we were escorted by a group of children to a lovely waterfall. On the way back some of them asked to see our boat, they were fascinated by the television and cassette player. At Loltong, the northern end of Pentecost Island, we went ashore and traded for fruit and vegetables. We were escorted to the chief's house who allotted us a guide to show us around the attractive village of small round thatched huts made of bamboo and coconut palms. It was a Saturday, afternoon and a football match was in progress, played in front of a concrete grandstand, donated by a foreign government. It seemed out of place and we felt a medical facility would have been of more use at that time.

We made our way north to Palekula Bay, Espiritu Santo. There were about 30 yachts in the anchorage, apparently this was the meeting point of the *South Pacific Crackpot Cruisers*. A pig roast had been arranged at the Yacht Club and we were invited to join in. We cycled to Luganville, passing Million Dollar Point, the site where Americans had dumped all their WW2 surplus.
A few days later, Roger dived on the site but was disappointed as it shelved off steeply, and the water clarity was poor, so he couldn't see much. I stayed on the beach, which was still littered with lots of broken Coca-Cola bottles.
Roger went on a trip to see the WW2 crash sites, he was amazed at the good condition of an American fighter plane. He saw lots of live ammunition lying around. I didn't go as I didn't fancy trekking through the jungle for a couple of hours in the heat.

After a week in Santo, we headed back to Vila to renew our cruising permit to visit Tanna Island with seven other yachts.

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AN AGM FOR EVERYONE

BY DEREK EDWARDS

The OCC Annual General Meeting will be a little different this year and every Member is encouraged to attend and join in as changes to the Constitution that encourage more involvement by our Social Members will be on the agenda.

For there to be a meaningful discussion and outcome, participation in the process is necessary. The current Committee believe that greater participation in the management of our Club by Social Members is necessary for future success, as changing demographics show us that a growing proportion of our overall membership are no longer the Full Members who have traditionally and constitutionally held all of the voting rights, the current Committee believe this should change – if you want it to – and that change must start at the AGM to be held on 25th June.

Our Club exists primarily for the benefit of we, the Members.
It flourishes or declines with our active involvement in its future, let's all be a part of that.

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!

Congratulations to the May Winner is Karen Koens:
What I like best of Tell Tales, *it is a well balanced mix of the Club's news, articles aimed at both Racers and Cruisers, members' yarns and local community events. It's so nicely written, making it very enjoyable to read. Well done to the Editor!*

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 JUNE to go in the draw.
The winner will be announced in the JULY edition.

ŌPUA CRUISING CLUB

Are you planning a family occasion, a wedding or a Christmas Party?

Ōpua Cruising Club's deck is the perfect place.
You have sole use of the deck with bar access.
Food can be specially organised by our lovely Chef Peini.
What better place can there be but your local Club with its fantastic views!

Contact Sheila - 09 402 6924 or secretary@opuacruisingclub.co.nz

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 are looking forward to receiving your entries.

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

1. ? occurs when a person is suddenly immersed into water 15° C or less.
- a. Cold exposure
- b. Hypothermia
- c. Cold water shock
- d. Hyperthermia

2. This is Lisa Blair, she was the first woman to sail solo around Antarctica with one stop and the first woman to sail solo, non-stop and unassisted around Australia. What is the name of her boat?

- a. Action for the Climate
- b. Climate Action Now
- c. Ocean Climate Action
- d. Post-It Ocean Action

3. A breeze which flows onto the land once the land has warmed up in the late morning is called
- a. Sea breeze
- b. Land Breeze

4. The ratline hitch, or builder's knot, is a knot made using two successive single hitches that is classically used for tying fenders onto boats. By what other is the ratline hitch more commonly called?
- a. Clove Hitch
- b. Double turn hitch
- c. Trailer hitch
- d. Monkey fist

5. The loss of effective propeller thrust which has a corrosive effect on the propeller blades is called?
- a. Hydraulics
- b. Stowing
- c. Prop-walk
- d. Cavitation

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/

New Zealand

Crayfish for lunch in Kaikōura.

By October, it was time to leave Tongan waters as we needed to head south before the arrival of the cyclone season. Most of our voyages so far had been from East to West with the Trade Winds and currents behind us, but now our passage to New Zealand was North to South with the distinct likelihood of head-winds.

We planned to sail close to the Minerva Reefs which lie some 300 NM South West of Tonga, there is no vegetation there, just coral that is awash at low tide forming two circular lagoons. Apparently, quite a few yachts anchor there after passing through a narrow passage and it was claimed that the water is smooth enough to ride out a storm. We got within 4 miles but the water was too rough to discern the reef so we sheered away to avoid an anxious night.
We also avoided the Kermadec Islands due to the lack of a suitable anchorage and continued our passage without seeing any other yachts or shipping until the last day, then a 35-foot yacht came into sight. We made contact by VHF Radio and discovered the owner was sailing single-handed from Australia to Fiji and intending to stop off in New Zealand but did not have detailed charts and his SatNav had packed up. He was glad to be informed that he was at the position he had calculated and asked if he could follow us to Ōpua.

After we were cleared by Customs, Ag & Fish and Immigration we were pleasantly surprised by a visit from Rod Bradley, who arrived with a bottle of vintage Australian Port as a token of thanks for leading him into Ōpua the previous night.

Our mail was waiting for us in Ōpua and the atmosphere most friendly and welcoming. However, *Marathias* needed attention and we sailed to Whangārei for this. After 6,000 hours of use our Perkins 4/108 diesel engine needed an overhaul, this had been made necessary due to running it every day under light load to charge the batteries and maintain refrigerator and freezer temperatures. This type of use was not what the engine was designed for but before the invention of solar panels and wind turbines, that was what had to happen and now we were going to pay for it.

While the engine overhaul was taking place, we had quite a list of other tasks to attend to that included sail repairs, making new covers for the saloon cushions and a major refurbishment of the galley.

The refurbished galley.

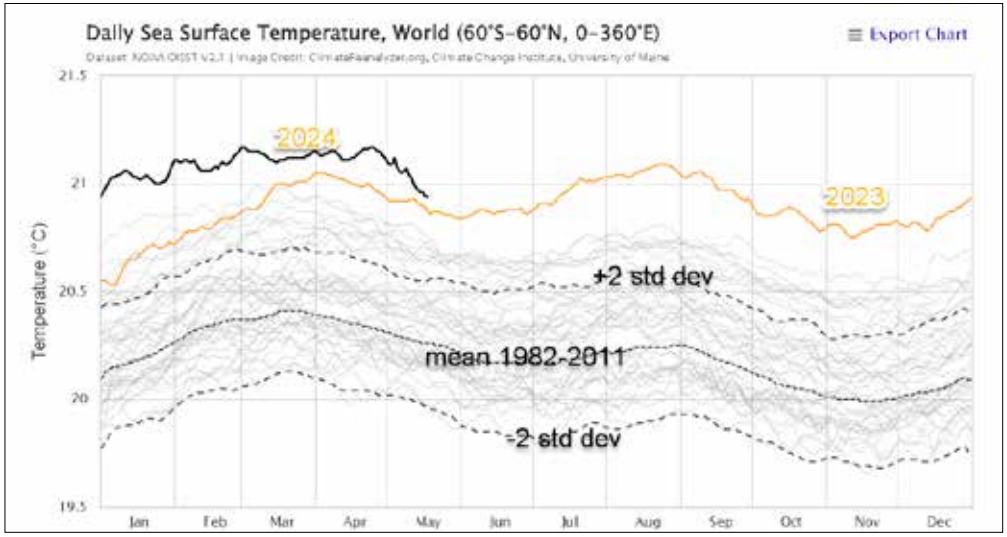
While we waited for the engine work to be completed, we had time for sight-seeing travelling by car throughout the country. Everyone we came into contact with was so helpful and friendly that writing about New Zealand became a monotonous hymn of praise and we had pretty much decided by then that this was where we wanted to live one day. By now it was early April so we hauled out before leaving Whangārei, anti-fouled and filled with fuel, water, duty-free booze and filled the freezer with fresh New Zealand meat. It was time to head North seeking warmer weather.

We had missed the Samoan Islands the previous year so we decided to go directly there. Our departure coincided with the start of a ‘fun-race’ to Tonga and as it turned out we should have joined them. Two days into our passage it began to blow and during the first half of our journey we had two full gales putting more water on deck than we had ever seen before. *Marathias* was a wonderful sea-kindly boat so we hove-too early and retired below, sleeping through the worst of the winds which reached 50 knots. We heard on the radio of other boats being quite badly knocked about but we had no trouble and spent quite a bit of time watching videos on our newly-acquired 12v TV/Video. Apparently, the boats that went to Tonga had an easy passage and the crews were given a wonderful welcome that lasted over a week, so we really regretted not joining them.
Once the storms had passed, we sailed on in ever improving weather and after 14 days and 1,800 miles we checked in to Pago Pago Harbour in American Samoa.

CHILLY IN CHILE

BY BOB MCDAVITT

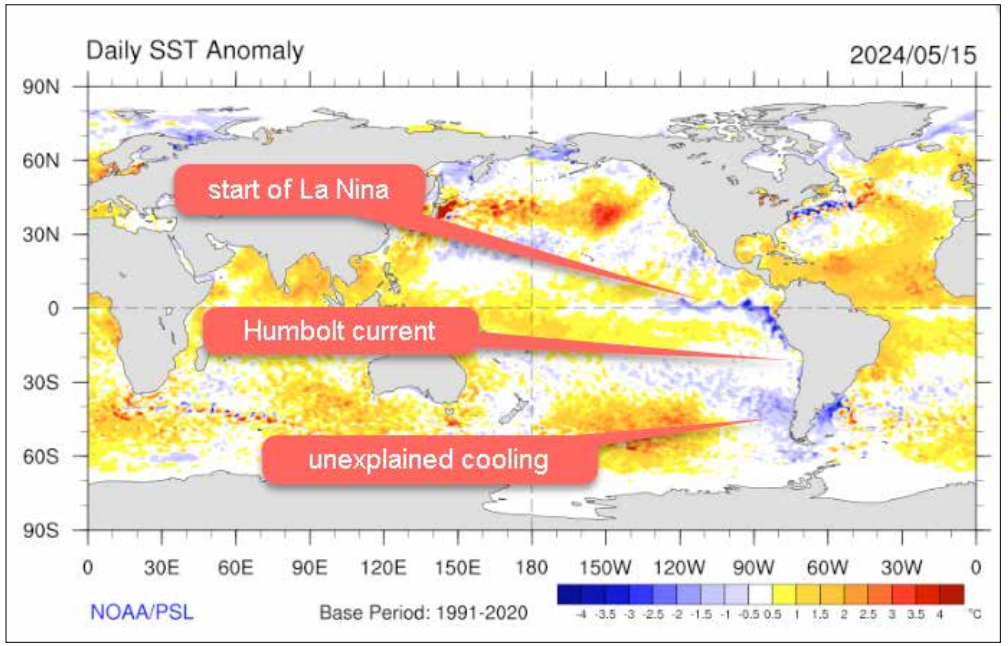
The world's oceans have been absorbing so much heat in the past year that May 2023 to May 2024 has broken the record with the highest measured "World Sea Surface temperature" on record for a whole contiguous year (https://climatereanalyzer.org/clim/sst_daily/)



Along with this record areas north of the equator have recently suffered from the hottest weather ever recorded.

Despite all this, residents of Santiago, Chile, are suffering from the longest Southern Hemisphere cold snap on record during autumn. "Since 1950 onwards, i.e., in the last 74 years, we have not had such an intense cold spell in May," said University of Santiago climatologist Raul Cordero.

Scientists have been researching the cooling ocean around the south of South America for a while. It has been called "the most important unanswered question in climate science".



"It's about 1 degree Celsius, it's not a lot but recall that the planet has been warming, now, more than one degree, so it's a huge departure from what the rest of the planet is doing."

One theory is that the "cold tongue" is meltwater from Antarctica's rapidly disappearing icepack. Maybe this meltwater is being transported by winds and ocean currents. Much of the cold water comes from directly south of New Zealand.

So as the cool pool accumulates around Chile, a corresponding warm pool accumulates further west, near Aotearoa/New Zealand. At this stage we do not know the implications for our future weather.

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ANSWERS TO QUIZ June 2024 (p 11):

1. c. Cold Water Shock
2. b. Climate Action Now
3. a. Sea breeze
4. a. Clove hitch
5. d. Cavitation

GREAT ESCAPE WOW WEEKEND

BY JULIE KIDMAN

May 3rd to 5th was the seventh annual *Great Escape WOW (Women on Water) Weekend*.
It was a fabulous weekend; ten boats and over 35 women joined us.

As usual, we started with a fun briefing and "getting to know you" evening at Ōpua Cruising Club. The next day, we sailed to our destination, Paradise Bay on Urupukapuka Island. We enjoyed a shared meal ashore and many of the team went swimming. Sunday we had a bit more breeze and a fun sail home.

It's a wonderful weekend, organised by women for women. We laugh, we share ideas, we learn, and we have fun sailing in the beautiful Bay of Islands.

WOW, what a weekend!
The next WOW Weekend will be the second week after Easter 2025.

Cheers, Julie

BOIYC'S WHANGAROA RACE

BY TERRY DUNN

The Bay of Islands Yacht Club's (BOIYC) annual Whangaroa Race was held on the 27th of April with a great turnout of racers and cruisers, a total of 21 boats.

The start was off Waitangi with a spinnaker run to the Ninepin through to the Cavalli Islands to Flat Island. A great ride for those that got the late breeze.

Placings rapidly changed from here on with light, minimal breeze from all directions, especially in the vicinity of *Pretty Boy Floyd*. KP's new boat *Blackout* crept past and got to the harbour first in the keelboats, but still behind the two Tornadoes.

Big raft-up in Rere Bay with 15 boats on one anchor and stories and lies going well into the early hours. No learning here, looking at the state of eryone the next morning.

Prize-giving dinner was held at the BOIYC with a great turnout and lots of prizes; the main magnificent wooden trophy going to the *Blackout* crew.
First in the Cruising Division was *First Lady* and first in the Sport Boats was *Tornado C4*. There was a great performance from the OCC boats, and it was an awesome event by the BOIYC.

Good to see such a great turnout of boats from all the clubs.

Cheers, Terry

Toitū Te Whenua
Land Information
New Zealand

Sourced from http://www.linz.govt.nz

E-mail address hydro@linz.govt.nz

NEW ZEALAND HYDROGRAPHIC AUTHORITY TIDE PREDICTIONS

Opua

Lat. 35°19'S Long. 174°07'E

JUNE 2024

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

	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m
1 Sa	02:15	2.5	**9** Su	03:19	0.8	**17** Mo	03:26	2.2	**25** Tu	03:43	0.7
	08:29	0.8		09:25	2.4		09:44	0.9		09:49	2.5
	14:43	2.3		15:31	0.6		16:09	2.1		15:58	0.6
	20:48	0.8		21:56	2.6		22:03	1.0		22:24	2.6
2 Su	03:12	2.5	**10** Mo	04:08	0.8	**18** Tu	04:15	2.2	**26** We	04:33	0.7
	09:27	0.7		10:13	2.4		10:32	0.9		10:39	2.5
	15:47	2.3		16:17	0.6		17:01	2.2		16:46	0.6
	21:49	0.8		22:42	2.5		22:54	1.0		23:13	2.6
3 Mo	04:09	2.5	**11** Tu	04:55	0.8	**19** We	05:03	2.2	**27** Th	05:25	0.7
	10:24	0.6		11:00	2.3		11:20	0.8		11:31	2.4
	16:48	2.4		17:02	0.7		17:50	2.3		17:37	0.6
	22:50	0.8		23:28	2.4		23:44	1.0			
4 Tu	05:05	2.5	**12** We	05:43	0.9	**20** Th	05:51	2.3	**28** Fr	00:04	2.6
	11:20	0.6		11:46	2.2		12:07	0.8		06:18	0.7
	17:46	2.5		17:47	0.8		18:36	2.3		12:25	2.4
	23:48	0.8								18:31	0.7
5 We	06:00	2.5	**13** Th	00:15	2.4	**21** Fr	00:31	1.0	**29** Sa	00:56	2.6
	12:14	0.5		06:30	0.9		06:38	2.3		07:11	0.7
	18:41	2.6		12:34	2.2		12:53	0.7		13:23	2.4
				18:35	0.9		19:21	2.4		19:27	0.8
6 Th	00:44	0.7	**14** Fr	01:02	2.3	**22** Sa	01:18	0.9	**30** Su	01:51	2.5
	06:53	2.5		07:17	0.9		07:25	2.3		08:06	0.7
	13:06	0.5		13:25	2.1		13:39	0.6		14:24	2.3
	19:32	2.6		19:24	1.0		20:05	2.5		20:27	0.8
7 Fr	01:37	0.7	**15** Sa	01:50	2.3	**23** Su	02:06	0.8			
	07:45	2.5		08:06	0.9		08:13	2.4			
	13:56	0.5		14:18	2.1		14:24	0.6			
	20:21	2.6		20:16	1.0		20:50	2.5			
8 Sa	02:29	0.7	**16** Su	02:38	2.2	**24** Mo	02:54	0.8			
	08:36	2.5		08:54	0.9		09:01	2.4			
	14:44	0.5		15:13	2.1		15:10	0.6			
	21:09	2.6		21:09	1.0		21:36	2.6			

TIMES LISTED ARE N.Z. STANDARD TIME

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June 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2 **Winter Series** Race 2 – 1pm
3 King's Birthday	4	5 Darts	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Darts	13 BINGO	14	15	16
17 **Committee Meeting 5pm**	18	19 Darts	20 QUIZ	21	22 **OCC Prize Giving Dinner 5pm**	23
24	25 **OCC AGM 7pm**	26 Darts	27 BINGO	28 **Cruising Division TBC** Matariki	29 **Cruising Division TBC**	30 **Cruising Division TBC**