OPUA
CRUISING CLUB

FREE MAGAZINE

THE FRIENDLIEST CLUB IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

tell tales

SEPTEMBER 2024

Set Sail with Great Escape Sailing Adventures

If you've ever dreamt of casting off and taking the helm, but feel unsure where to start, Great Escape Sailing is here to help. One of the best ways to see if sailing is for you – and to increase your chances of getting welcomed aboard with friends and family – is through fundamental sail training.

As the proud sponsor of the OCC calendar for September, Great Escape Sailing offers two exceptional opportunities to help you get into the world of sailing in the stunning Bay of Islands:

YNZ Keelboat Sailing Level 1 - Introduction to Sailing
This two-day, hands-on course is perfect for beginners eager to learn the basics. You'll be guided by a qualified instructor, ensuring your experience is both safe and enjoyable. The option to sleep aboard the boat between the first and second day adds an extra touch of adventure. By the end of the course, you'll have picked up enough sailing lingo and skills to be a helpful crew member aboard any boat.

YNZ Keelboat Sailing Level 2 - First Voyage
Keen on a greater adventure? This six-day sailing adventure starts with three days of expert instruction, covering everything you need to know to sail confidently and safely. The second half of the course gives you three days of sailing independently, solidifying your new-found skills. In addition to earning YNZ qualifications, you can also work towards International Yacht Training (IYT) credentials. Upon completion, you'll not only have enjoyed a fantastic sailing holiday but also gained the qualifications and confidence for future adventures, including bare-boat charters and advanced training with Great Escape.

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COMMODORE'S REPORT

BY TERRY DUNN

Welcome everyone again. Hopefully, the weather is starting to warm there; it is still 28 degrees in Canada, hot and sunny.

My big thanks to Julie and the sailing committee; they are working hard to put together a calendar that hopefully encourages lots of you to come out on the water. Some fun weekend cruises and Interclub races starting with a **Club Opening Day** on **29th September**; bring your friends along, and we can get them out on a boat to show them what sailing and OCC is about, plus a bit of live music in the afternoon. Further details on pages 4 and 9.

We are also looking at sponsorship again for races and publications, many thanks to those businesses who have supported OCC in the past and those who are continuing to do so. Any new sponsorship would be greatly appreciated.

The good news is we have been working with BOISW, and once again, OCC is going to be the base for the *Bay of Islands Sailing Week Regatta* in January, a great opportunity to show OCC hospitality.

So lots of things happening. My big thanks again to our enthusiastic committee who are keeping things moving.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the OCC Opening Day.

Happy Sailing.

Cheers, Terry Dunn, commodore@opuacruisingclub.co.nz

SEPTEMBER RACING REPORT

BY JULIE KIDMAN - RACE OFFICER

It's spring! And it won't be long before our 2024/25 racing commences. Here are two important dates to mark in your calendars:

- **Sailors' Briefing** – 6.00pm, Wednesday 11th September at OCC.
- **2024/25 Season Opening Day** – from 10am, Sunday 29th September.

At the **Sailors' Briefing** you will have a chance to comment and contribute to the following;

- Sailing calendar and schedule of events
- Updated sailing Instructions, new course sheet
- Race fees, entry forms
- Duty boat system for Wednesday night racing
- Volunteer(s) to be race officer(s) for Friday nights
- Handicaps: and the new handicap policy
- Protests
- Introduction to 2024/25 season sponsors

All skippers, crews, and supporters are welcome. If you can't make the briefing and would like your input to be considered, please send your thoughts through via email.

Our Opening Day will be a celebration of the start of the season and a chance to socialise and connect. The format will be as follows;

- Champagne Brunch from 10.00am, ***Mark Foy Race*** from 1.00pm
- Live music (background entertainment) at the bar in the afternoon/evening
- *The Galley* is open for dinner as usual

A huge thank you to the team that has stepped up to be on the **Sailing Committee** for the 2024/25 Season; currently Finn Topz, Julie Kidman, Kevin Peat, and Paul Smith. Ideas, suggestions, and help from club members and OCC sailors is also needed to run a successful season. Please remember most of the people involved are volunteers, compliments and thank-you are appreciated at any time. If you have a complaint or issue, please don't accost individuals during their personal time, please take the time to email your input so that a considered response can be given. Handicaps are an area where everyone has an opinion; we'll be discussing them at the **Sailors' Briefing** and sharing the new policy. If at any time you have an issue with your boat's handicap please email through a request for a handicap review, with any evidence to support your request.

Looking forward to a great season, on and off the water.
Julie and the OCC Sailing Committee

racingopuacruisingclub@gmail.com

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Brian Broadhurst

Brian Broadhurst passed away recently in Whangārei, after suffering a stroke.
He had been a member of the Ōpua Cruising Club for many years. He joined in the racing with his boat *Feudal Baron*, and was known to be very competitive.

Brian had an engineering workshop on the foreshore next to Rick Johnson, the sailmaker, in the 1990s. When the area was turned into a marina he had premises near Caters. He lived in a flat belonging to Dorothy Bateman for several years before buying a bungalow at the bottom of Lyon Street.

He had been in the Navy and had been married. Brian's daughter relocated to Spain, and his granddaughter came to live in New Zealand when she was in her late teens. They were often at the Club on a Wednesday and Friday night.

They moved to Tikipunga several years ago.
RIP, Ōpua Cruising Club, Georgina Porter

Diane Sadler 3rd September 1932 – 15th August 2024

Di's early life was in England where her parents owned a large estate, Edstone Hall, with several farms. The 2nd World War began in 1939 on the day of her 7th Birthday. During the war, the house became home to two families and a group of Land Girls who all pooled their ration books. Di's father sadly passed when she was 12 and the family moved into a farm on the estate.
At 17, she left England and spent two years in Switzerland, where she learnt to ski and speak French. On returning to England, Di had an active life and a passion for Motor Sport, regularly racing her Mini Cooper. Which may account for her speedy driving!
She married at 22 years of age to Trevor Parry. They lived on the estate where they raised their 3 sons and, in 1967, bought their own 500-acre farm. Seven years later they sold the farm and purchased Whatley Manor, a run-down manor house. They began renovations and bit by bit created a luxury retreat that became a favourite haunt for celebrities and royals.
The pressures of developing Whatley Manor took their toll, and after 8 years, Trevor and Di divorced.
Needing to get away, Di bought a 24' boat and learnt to sail. Realising she really liked sailing, Di thought she could manage a bigger boat and visited the Earl's Court Boat Show in London. At the boat show, she met David Sadler, the designer of *Sadler Yachts*, who was to become a close friend.
Di and David spent a couple of years holidaying in the Mediterranean and agreed they would like to sail the world but although the Sadler 32 was a great boat, it wasn't big enough to cross the Atlantic! They went into partnership to buy a Contest 42. The boat was renamed *Marathias* (Sparkling Water) and they began a 10-year circumnavigation. Di concluded that Ōpua was the best place in the world to live, so they returned in 1994 and having had a long and enjoyable engagement, Di later married David at George and Dorothy Bateman's home.
Di survived David by 10 years, she was a skilled Bridge partner and has been active in the community until recent months.
RIP, Ōpua Cruising Club, Derek Edwards

WINE, CHEESE, BEER & SAUSAGE TASTING EVENING

A big thank you to all who came out on such a terrible night for the Wine, Beer, Cheese & Sausage Tasting Evening, but the fire and wine kept us all warm and cosy.

20 people attended and were spread out over 6 tables. Again lots of shenanigans from Table 3 (Bay Physio and friends) with great artwork and fun answers. There were a lot of competitive groups this year, especially from Dave Krebbs and his team on Table 5. New Ōkiato residents on Table 6 were clear winners, and it was so great to meet you. Thank you for supporting Ōpua Cruising Club.

A great night would not have been possible without support from Andy at Phat House Brewery, who supplied the Craft Beers, and Māhoe Cheese, who supplied the lovely tasty cheeses. Thank you also, Barry, for your homemade sausages. It made each team really think about the ingredients and flavour of each sausage.

Another thank you to the team who arrived from Tonga on Saturday morning and joined our tasting; it was so lovely to meet you all.

A special thanks to Cees and Trish for another successful night, and also thanks to Cees for supplying your own personal wines. Lots of variety. Many thanks to Manjula, your help in putting out the tastings of wine and beer was most appreciated, and your Heads & Tails game was a hit; this will have to be a regular now.

Trish, Manjula & Cees

Opening Day

29 September

Champagne Brunch from 10am - Cash Bar

Mark Foy Race from 1pm enter before midday

Everyone Welcome

Live music back at the bar in the afternoon
The Galley open as usual

Mission Accomplished

Our final port of call in Australia was Sydney but the wind died, so we began to motor the last 40 miles – until the engine front pulley detached from the crankshaft. As Broken Bay would be easier to reach under sail, we tried to contact the Royal Prince Albert Yacht Club but to no avail. Fortunately, Sydney Radio heard us calling and contacted them by telephone and we were able to tie up to one of their fingers. The next day, David got the pulley repaired so we could relax for a few days before continuing to Sydney, where we found a quiet anchorage in Manley Cove. This gave us access to the ferry and Sydney public transport system.

We enjoyed several days and nights of the Sydney attractions and got serious about preparing for sea again. David wanted to get as far North as possible in order to continue the circumnavigation whereas I wanted to return to New Zealand and stay there, if possible, even if only for 6 months at a time. We reached a compromise that we would return to New Zealand for about a year and then complete the circumnavigation. This was on David's 'Bucket List'. Thus, we left Sydney on 10th January 1991 bound for Nelson.

After 4 months of exploring and with Winter approaching, we decided to head to 'the islands' and joined a 'fun' race to Tonga, then enjoyed several weeks in the Vav'ua Group, one of the world's best cruising grounds. We then went to New Caledonia before returning to the Bay of Islands. As soon as we called the Harbour Master, Des, on the VHF we were quite overwhelmed by the many people calling up to say 'Welcome Back'.

We spent the Summer further exploring New Zealand before returning to Ōpua. I had promised David we would complete the circumnavigation and I intended to keep my word. By this time, I knew that Ōpua was the best place in the world to live and I or we would return. As we were preparing to leave, I was hospitalised with acute appendicitis but fortunately made a speedy recovery. None-the-less, we were behind schedule, and whilst our passage to Cairns began in fair weather, after a couple of days, it became a battle against bad weather. Our objective was to join an organized rally which departed from Grove in the Northern Territory and visited Aboriginal territory during the voyage to Darwin. Our great disappointment with Australia was that there are so many creatures there ready and able to kill you; we even saw saltwater Crocodiles 20 miles off-shore, not to mention the Sharks!

From Darwin, we joined a race to Ambon, Indonesia. The program changed daily, as did the entry fee; confusion reigned supreme and on start day, there was a near riot when the handicaps were announced. They were obviously rigged, but as ours was quite favourable, we kept quiet! The winds were very light, and there were quite a few retirements, but we 'stuck it out' and finished 5th. Needless to say, all the prizes went to Australians.

Komodo Dragons.

We spent 2 months in Indonesia and visited the island of Kimono to see the Dragons, they are about 20 feet long and apparently quite dangerous.

Stickfighting in Lambok.

Our favourite island was Lombok which was unspoilt and very beautiful. Bali, on the other hand, was noisy, dirty, and full of tourists and residents trying to 'rip-off' the ill-informed. We both had an attack of 'Bali-Belly' which was our cue to leave.

Coastal traffic.

It was about a thousand miles to Singapore; the winds were good, but there were hundreds of small out-rigger fishing canoes, especially at night. These were difficult to spot even by day and impossible at night. They didn't show up on radar and they didn't carry lights, so I kept watch on the bow and would shout warnings to David. Even so, we still collided with one of them that went unnoticed. Fortunately, no damage was done.

Editor Note:
Di Sadler passed away 15th August 2024; she survived David by 10 years.

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

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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 22 September to go in the draw.
The winner will be announced in the October edition.

Great Escape
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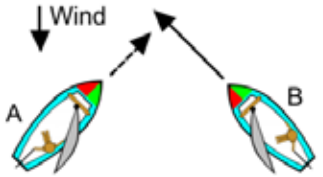
Nautical Nowledge

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

1. How many medals did Kiwi athletes bring home for water sports this Olympics?
- a. 12
- b. 10
- c. 7
- d. 4

2. 

Which is the give way boat & why?
a. A – Port tack gives way to starboard.
b. B - Starboard tack gives way to port.
c. B - Overtaking boat keeps clear.
d. A - Give way if the wind is on your port side or you are windward to the other sailing boat.

3. The H28 yacht was designed by the same person who designed the J class racing yachts
- a. True
- b. False

4. The term kayak comes from the word 'qayaq' meaning 'small boat of skins' from the language of the original inhabitants of where?
- a. Iceland
- b. Greenland
- c. Tasmania
- d. Newfoundland

5. Although New Zealand were the winners of the 36th Americas cup, the 37th Americas Cup Aug-Oct 2024 is being held in which city?
- a. San Diego
- b. Marseille
- c. Sydney
- d. Barcelona

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/

ANECDOTES OF A YOTTIE

PART 1

BY GEORGINA PORTER

New Caledonia and Australia

On returning to New Zealand in November '94 we received a warm welcome at the Ōpua Cruising Club. We loved being part of the Ōpua Community and the sailing scene. Roger continued helping out behind the bar and I helped Carole Hesketh with the social events. We enjoyed the Wednesday and Friday night racing, Roger crewing and me watching, plus helping out in the kitchen. We also enjoyed the cruising weekends and day BBQs in the Bay.

We were having so much fun in New Zealand that it was time to think about getting a NZ Permanent Visa. Our friends on *Kayos 11* had already decided to stay and try and find jobs. I had even gone searching for them in Whangaroa with Dorothy Bateman's help to tell them a letter had arrived for an interview in Auckland. A kind fisherman took us out to find them in one of the Bays.

I needed to go back to England to see my mother and search for all my necessary documents. I knew Roger would be well looked after so there were no worries about leaving him. I had looked for them those documents on a previous visit but couldn't find them. This time they were in the first case I opened.

After a month I arrived back in Ōpua and started the process of form filling and telephone calls to immigration in Auckland. On going there, we found long queues to see anyone and we were told the quota would soon be filled. We were advised by a couple on a boat anchored near us that if we went to the New Zealand Embassy in New Caledonia we had more chance of getting our visas as their quota wasn't always filled. We got all our paperwork together and set sail at the end of May.

After a nine-day sail, we arrived in Nouméa, New Caledonia and cleared customs. We were looking forward to sampling the French cheeses and crusty bread. On arrival at the New Zealand Embassy, we were welcomed with open arms and even asked for our advice on the new decor. I was rather worried that the point system was about to change, making it difficult, as there were more points for experience but less for age. I hadn't reached fifty, the cut-off point for my criteria, and Roger was relying on me.

We decided to go sailing up the coast anchoring in several bays. I loved searching for shells and found several broken nautilus shells; one day, I was lucky enough to find one intact, much to my delight. Communication was difficult as mobile phones were not readily available so we headed back to Nouméa to check up on our visa progress. There was some panic as we had missed completing a police check form. Again, there was no quick and easy method, just relying on the mail, but eventually, all was sorted. So, while waiting, we sailed to some different anchorages. We spotted what we thought was some wreckage and went to investigate. I don't know who got more of a shock than us or the whale we disturbed as its tail came up in the air in front of us and slashed down before disappearing.

After about a month of waiting, we heard that we had got our visas, much to our relief. We knew we would have to settle down to work on our return to New Zealand, so we decided to visit some of the East Coast of Australia first. We headed for Bundaberg and, after a nine-day sail, tied up at Burnett Heads Marina and cleared customs.

We motored up the river and tied between tyres. We thoroughly enjoyed our stay there; I couldn't believe the open air-zoo that anyone could wander through day or night. Roger loved our visit to the Rum Distillery, Bundaberg being surrounded by sugar cane for the process.

We headed south through the Sandy Straits anchoring in various bays before negotiating the notorious Wide Bay bar. We also had to avoid fish traps and small fishing boats on our way to Mooloolaba.

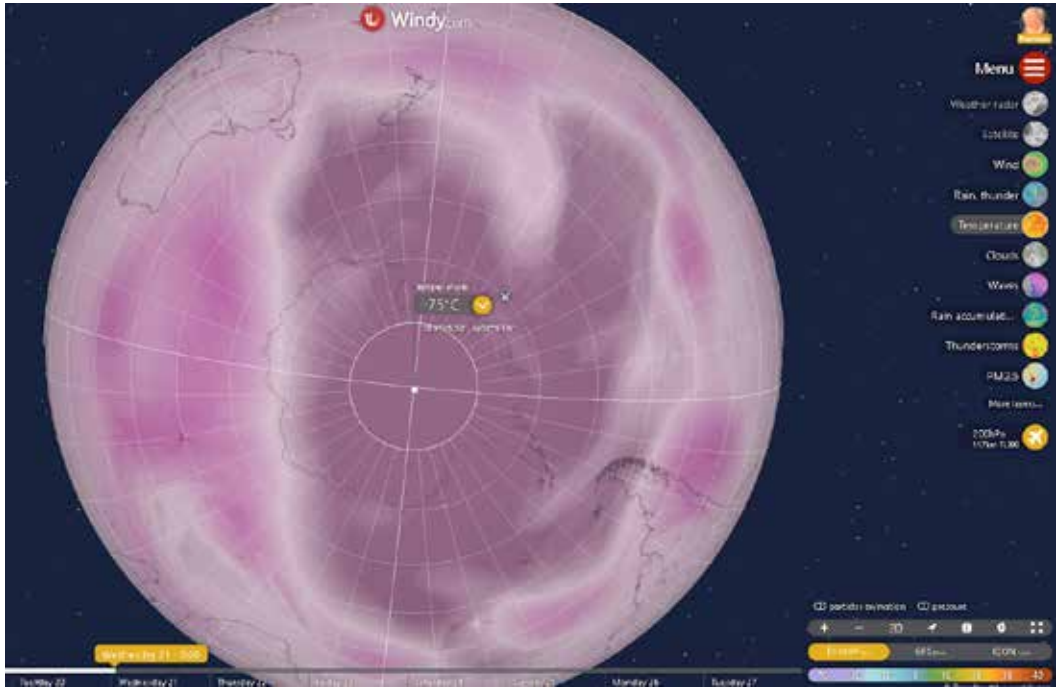
After three pleasant days there we sailed down to Tangalooma, Moreton Island and anchored near the sunken dredgers. While ashore we had great fun sliding down the sand dunes on some sheets of plastic.

The next anchorage was Mud Island before heading up the Brisbane River. We encountered masses of jellyfish on motoring up the 32km to Brisbane.

POLAR VORTEX

BY BOB MCDAVITT

The southern Polar Vortex is a ring of wind swirling around and holding in a zone of cold air over Antarctica. This has been wobbling more than normal recently.



200hPa upper-level temperature forecast map over Antarctica on Wednesday, 21 Aug from windy.com

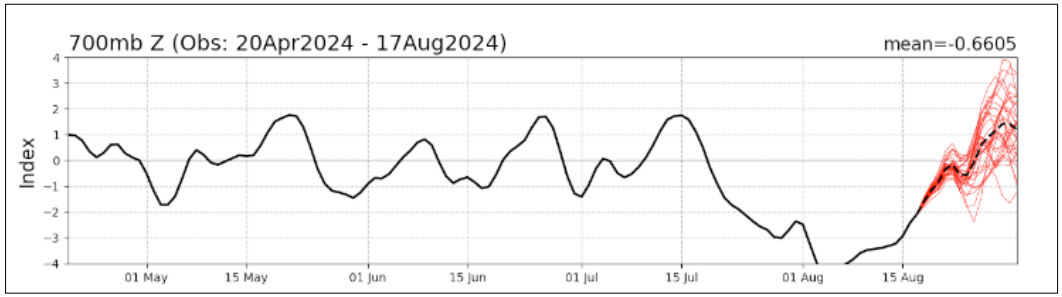
This shows our Polar Vortex as a rather untidy mess, with a sheath of cold air extending north into the Tasman Sea/South Island area, and another extending as far north as 30S near Southern Cooks.

In July there was an SSW or sudden stratospheric warming event. This was caused by a large-scale atmospheric wave, called a Rossby wave, that was pushed up from below until it "broke" on top of the Polar Vortex, causing the downwelling of a layer of air and, thus, a warming of a large zone in the stratosphere. An SSW is a rare event – the last three known events occurred in 2002, 2010 and 2019. They disrupt the Polar Vortex and encourage Polar outbreaks. These may well extend until the end of the year, delaying the onset of summer.

SAM, the **S**outhern **A**nnular **M**ode, is a parameter we use to measure the strength of the Polar Vortex. When SAM is negative the Polar Vortex is weak and allows polar outbreaks.

I have access to AAO (The **A**nt**A**rctic **O**scillation) and use this as a proxy for SAM. It verifies there was a long weak period of the Polar Vortex during July and into August, but it is now near normal, and the forecast is for it to become more positive into September, returning some health to the Polar Vortex.

However, the recent SSW suggests it will dive negative again by late September encouraging more outbreaks of cold southerly winds.



Basically, we can expect a lot of "yo-yo" weather this spring and the warmth of summer may be delayed this year.

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ANSWERS TO QUIZ September 2024 (p 13):

1. b. 10

2. a. & d. Boat A gives way as they are on Port tack. Also explained as
'Give way if the wind is on your port side or you are windward to the other sailing boat.'
It must be noted though that **BOTH,** *the give-way and the stand-on vessels are responsible for preventing a collision and not just the give-way vessel. If the give-way vessel does not take avoiding action then it is the responsibility of the stand-on vessel to take action.*

3. b. False (same family though) – The J class by Nate G Herreshoff and the H28s by his son, L Frances Herreshoff

4. b. Greenland

5. d. Barcelona

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

SEPTEMBER 2024

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

		Time	m		Time	m		Time	m		Time	m
1		00:07	0.9	**9**	05:11	0.8	**17**	00:06	0.7	**25**	00:39	2.4
Su		06:09	2.2	Mo	11:25	2.3	Tu	06:21	2.5	We	06:49	0.7
		12:22	0.8		17:28	0.9		12:28	0.6		13:18	2.4
		18:40	2.4		23:34	2.3		18:50	2.6		19:31	0.9
2		00:56	0.9	**10**	05:51	0.8	**18**	00:59	0.6	**26**	01:40	2.3
Mo		06:59	2.3	Tu	12:08	2.2	We	07:14	2.6	Th	07:49	0.8
		13:08	0.8		18:14	1.0		13:19	0.5		14:22	2.3
		19:24	2.4					19:38	2.8		20:38	1.0
3		01:39	0.8	**11**	00:17	2.2	**19**	01:49	0.4	**27**	02:45	2.2
Tu		07:42	2.3	We	06:37	0.9	Th	08:04	2.7	Fr	08:56	0.9
		13:47	0.7		12:57	2.2		14:08	0.4		15:29	2.3
		20:03	2.5		19:06	1.1		20:26	2.8		21:46	1.0
4		02:17	0.8	**12**	01:07	2.2	**20**	02:38	0.4	**28**	03:51	2.1
We		08:22	2.4	Th	07:29	0.9	Fr	08:53	2.8	Sa	10:05	0.9
		14:23	0.7		13:57	2.2		14:57	0.4		16:31	2.3
		20:40	2.5		20:04	1.1		21:14	2.8		22:50	1.0
5		02:52	0.7	**13**	02:06	2.1	**21**	03:26	0.3	**29**	**05:54**	**2.2**
Th		09:00	2.4	Fr	08:29	0.9	Sa	09:43	2.8	Su	**12:07**	**0.9**
		14:58	0.7		15:02	2.2		15:47	0.5		**18:26**	**2.3**
		21:14	2.5		21:07	1.1		22:02	2.8			
6		03:25	0.7	**14**	03:13	2.1	**22**	04:14	0.3	**30**	**00:44**	**0.9**
Fr		09:36	2.4	Sa	09:33	0.9	Su	10:32	2.7	Mo	**06:49**	**2.2**
		15:33	0.7		16:07	2.2		16:38	0.6		**12:58**	**0.9**
		21:48	2.5		22:10	1.0		22:52	2.7		**19:13**	**2.4**
7		03:59	0.7	**15**	04:21	2.2	**23**	05:03	0.4			
Sa		10:11	2.4	Su	10:36	0.8	Mo	11:24	2.6			
		16:09	0.8		17:06	2.4		17:31	0.7			
		22:21	2.4		23:10	0.9		23:44	2.5			
8		04:34	0.7	**16**	05:23	2.3	**24**	05:54	0.6			
Su		10:47	2.4	Mo	11:34	0.7	Tu	12:18	2.5			
		16:47	0.9		18:00	2.5		18:28	0.8			
		22:56	2.4									

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

CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED

September 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 **Father's Day**
2	3	4 Darts	5	6	7 **Annual Membership Draw**	8 **Winter Series** Race 5 – 1pm
9	10	11 **Sailors' Briefing 6.00pm** Darts	12 BINGO	13	14	15
16 **Committee Meeting 5.00pm**	17	18 Darts	19 QUIZ	20	21	22
23	24	25 Darts	26 BINGO	27	28 **School Holidays Starts**	29 **Mark Foy Race from 1.00pm** **2024-2025 SEASON OPENING DAY** *(from 10.00am, see p3, 4 & 9)* **Daylight Savings Starts**
30						