



THE FRIENDLIEST CLUB IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

FREE
MAGAZINE

tell tales



*'Blue Dude' and 'After Hours'.
(Photograph by Vera Hausmann.)*

MARCH 2025



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COMMODORE'S REPORT

BY TERRY DUNN



Well, the *Bay of Islands Sailing Week* was a big success. A great breeze over the three days and a good number of entries after such a cautious start.

Looks like the race committee could be looking at a change of format for next year, with possibly a four- or five-day event with a lay day in the middle to enjoy the local activities.

It's good to have it based out of the Club again with some busy evenings.

Some great performances on the water by the local boats, but possibly the most rewarding result was *Kantime* in the lucky-draw prizes, where they won two marine batteries and a Musto bag full of T-shirts and hats, all donated by *The Chandlery* and *Bosch*.

It takes a lot to beat *Cees* and *Nexus* when it comes to a lottery or lucky draw.

Pretty Boy Floyd, *Blue Dude* and *Moving Violation* just headed off to do the *Northern Triangle Two-Handed Race* of 500 miles; a great family event with Chris sailing with his daughter Rebecca, Bill teaming up with his son Lewis and Finn's mate Craig coming up from Wellington. Best of luck to those crews.

Wednesday and Friday race fleets have been down a bit with people out cruising, on holiday, or just overloaded. But hopefully, we will see a good fleet for our *Ōtehei Bay Regatta Weekend* at the end of March.

Planning is underway for a fun social family weekend and we will have some wing-foiling gear out there to try if you are looking for a new sport or you want to find some old muscles.

We have been a bit slack organising cruise weekends this season, so it would be great to get a good turnout. Details will soon be on the website.

It is nice to see lots of guests in the Club, and there are plenty of cruisers getting their boats ready to head north when *The Island Cruising Pacific Rally* leaves in early May.

So enjoy the Summer, the waters are still warm and the days are still long. Hope to see you out there.

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



Join the Fun **OTEHEI BAY CUP**

**A WEEKEND OF
SAILING AND
SOCIALISING**

**FRIDAY 28TH -
SUNDAY 30TH
MARCH**

Everyone welcome; keelboats, multihulls, trailer sailers, foilers, dinghies, and launches. You could even kayak down!

Friday evening will be a fun race down to Urupukapuka. (Sailing instructions to come). **Saturday** will be a day playing on the water - foiling, off the beach match-racing and dinghy races. Shared meal and BBQ ashore. Casual Rally back to the club on **Sunday afternoon**. PLEASE SHARE ANY IDEAS AND COME ALONG TO MAKE THIS A TRULY MEMORABLE WEEKEND.

Once again, we must start with a huge thank you to our Club Racing Volunteers; Rob in the tower on a Wednesday night and Vera in the tower on Friday nights – we couldn't go racing without you; Thank you.

The sailing committee has *SailSys* running for Club handicapping, and we're looking for a computer-literate volunteer who can do the data input (you don't have to handle any of the controversial decisions!) This work can be done from the Club or remotely – please get in touch if you can help.

Congratulations to the OCC boats who competed in the *SSANZ Northern Triangle Series*, *Blue Dude*, *Moving Violation* and *Pretty Boy Floyd*.

Thank you also to our fabulous sponsor, *The Chandlery - Henri Lloyd*, who are sponsoring both the *Wednesday Night Series* and the *Friday Night Series* this month. Please do check out their excellent range of marine electronics and sailing gear at thechandlery.co.nz, or drop into the store - 15 Aucks Road, Russell.

The Ōtehei Bay Cup will be held Friday, 28th March to Sunday, 30th March – this is different from the printed calendar – it is going to be a fabulous weekend, and everyone is welcome.

The *Friday Night Race* down will be the *Autumn Pursuit Series Race 5* and sailing instructions will be posted on the website and on the race noticeboard. If you have any ideas on activities for Saturday, please get in touch – so far, we have **foiling**, **off-the-beach match racing** and a **shared BBQ** ashore.

Remember, keep up with the sailing and racing news; on the OCC Website, OCC Facebook Page, via the WhatsApp Group and you can always get in touch with us via email – racingopuacruisingclub@gmail.com

See you out on the water or up at the Club.

Julie, OCC Race Officer



Mark Woolley
021 425 145

Maggie Woolley
021 0500 266

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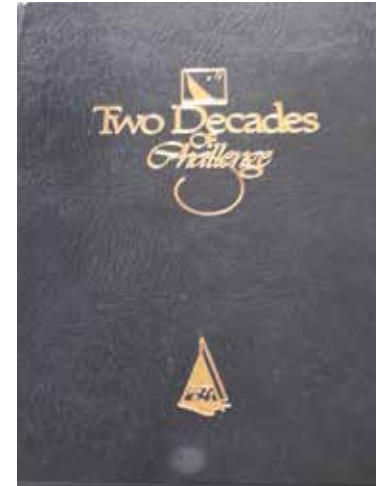
THANK YOU ...

BY IAN TEMPLEMAN

Two Decades of Challenge

OCC has been gifted a magnificent limited edition book titled *Two Decades of Challenge* by Ian Delves and his family. It is the history of the *America's Cup* from 1857 through to the Australia versus Freedom Challenge of 1980.

The book is beautifully illustrated, and although it concentrates on the 1960-1980 era, it has many tales of the skulduggery that went on from the beginning, when the schooner *America* won the Royal Yacht Squadron 100 Pound Cup in 1851 for a one-off race from Cowes around the Isle of Wight. In 1857 the owning syndicate of the schooner *America* donated the Cup to the New York Yacht Club under a deed of gift that renamed it the America's Cup. And the rest, as they say, is history... This treasured book is kept in the Club and if you would like to borrow it please contact Sheila in the office.



WINE TASTING

BY TRISH & MANJULA

Wine Tasting by Tara from Villa Maria

Great turnout and interest in the new wines that Ōpua Cruising Club is now going to stock at the bar: Proving popular, the **Villa Maria Brut Cuvée** is a refreshing bubbles sold by the glass.

There are lots of new red wines for variety and Pinot Gris. Pop into the Club and try our new range on the deck while watching the sailing.

A big thank you to Tara from Villa Maria, who spent time sharing her knowledge and samples of each wine.



Enjoying the Wine Tasting at the Ōpua Cruising Club.
L/R: Denise Ball, Trish Hope, Paulette Smith, Chris Petch, Sheila Grant and Chris Ball.



Simon & Niki Barker on Alice II.

The best laid sailing plans often go awry, well ours do, so the planned Christmas in Sydney never came to pass.



Gold Coast from a distance.

We had to race down the Queensland coast from the Whitsundays to Brisbane before cyclone season began on the 1st of November. It was just as long a trip as on the way up (funny that) with the same issues of wind, tide and sparse anchoring opportunities. By the time we got to Brisbane, we were not keen to carry on with the long days' sailing with very few places to stop that would be involved in getting to Sydney. Also, there is really no room at the inn for boats in Sydney over Christmas.

So we decided to head back home from the Gold Coast because *Southport Yacht Club* is easy to clear out from. What a shock we had entering the Gold Coast waterways after the peace, quiet and solitude of sailing thus far. It was manically busy on the Sunday we arrived. Literally, hundreds of jet skis, hundreds of small boats, tour boats and people everywhere. We thought it was horrible! Couldn't get out fast enough! So, we were back waiting for the weather, checking Windy and Predictwind at least three times a day.



Leaving Southport.

Where you choose to set off from doesn't really make much difference in terms of distance to New Zealand, but it is the accepted wisdom that you should try and be as far south as possible, preferably south of Sydney, to catch a free ride on the lower edge of a high-pressure system. As we didn't want to add the 600 miles or so getting that far down, we were looking for a very different weather scenario. We needed a low, well to the south of us, so we could tag along its northern edge, hoping to get favourable winds for most of the trip. Amazingly, our desired weather window arrived immediately and our leaving date with customs was set for 5th of November.



Good Speed.

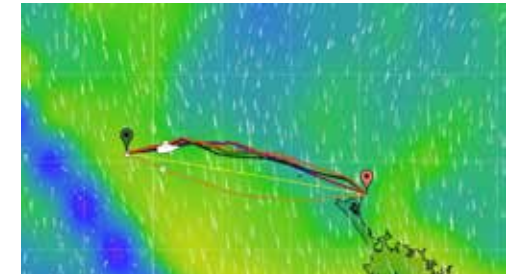
Well, we got what we wished for and then some! Yes, the winds were favourable from the northwest, but boy did they blow hard, 25 to 30 knots most of the time. We were being closely followed by a cold front that was constantly snapping at our heels. We could see all the electrical activity at night, but, going as fast as we were, we kept just ahead of it. *Alice II* went like a rocket, doing two consecutive days of 206 miles from noon to noon. We saw no other boats, though the AIS was tracking loads of yachts heading to New Zealand from all over.



We are not alone...

Of course, it was rough; of course, I was seasick for a couple of days; of course, life on board was difficult, and it was just the two of us. But, it was exhilarating to be

doing such speed. Having lived at one with *Alice II* for six months, we knew she was well able to handle the exceptionally rough conditions.



Day 5.

What was truly wonderful was to see the Cape Reinga light after only six days at sea. Seeing that light makes you feel like you are home at last. Even though we still had to get all the way down to Ōpua, we were in our home cruising ground and familiar with the whole coastline, a relief after our five months away. The wind was offshore so the sea was flat. Bliss.

Six and a half days and 1,200 miles after leaving the Gold Coast, we were alongside the Q dock in Ōpua. We had really enjoyed our Queensland cruise but it was so lovely to be home.ack home.



Back home!

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!

The February WINNER is: **Cindy Dunn:**

"I appreciate the Great Escape quiz, great thinking."

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 March 2025** to go in the draw.

The winner will be announced in the **April** edition.

OPUA

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

THANK YOU ...

BY TERRY DUNN

New VHF for Club's Chase Boat

Thanks to Nick and Burnsco for donating a new VHF for the Club's Chase Boat.



Terri Dunn with Nick.

Although at OCC, we do not have an active dinghy sailing program, the boat gets used by the *Bay of Islands Yacht Club* for their *Youth Regattas* and *Foiling Week*. The *Bay of Islands Sailing Week* use it for the week, so it is useful to have. Along with that, *36 Degrees Brokers* lease it for photo shoots and boat viewings.

Thanks again, Nick.

Fundraising BBQ

A hamburger BBQ to raise funds for *Bay of Islands Yacht Club Youth Sailing* was held during the *Bay of Islands Sailing Week regatta*; 173 hamburgers were cooked over two evenings and \$1,300 was raised and donated.



L/R: Paul, Emma and Lola Doidge, Terry and Cindy Dunn, with Merla Topzand.

Thanks to the Doidge family and Cindy for running the *Big Mac Opuia*.

BOIYC Kids

We also had a visit of 25 kids and parents from BOIYC to crew aboard keelboats for the Friday *Seapower-sponsored Rum Race*.

It was great to see the skill level, and thanks to the skippers for passing over the controls. Hopefully, we can create an opening for youth to move up to bigger boats and come sail more at OCC.



Yachts at anchor in Fiji.

L/R: John, Elaine, Karl, Richard, Libby & Steve, Champagne Beach, Yasawa, Fiji.

The Island Cruising Pacific Rally will once again gather in May at the Ōpua Cruising Club for their annual pre-departure social events prior to setting sail to the South Pacific.

This season sees a huge group of over 130 boats registered for **The Pacific Rally**, all heading in various different directions. The flexible format means that people can still tap into all the information, resources and discounts on offer and still cruise independently, if they wish.

Twelve of these are yachts, that will be departing from Ōpua, are crossing the Tasman from Australia first. **The Island Cruising Pacific Rally** purchased **The Down Under Rally** in 2023 and since then has been working hard to encourage Australian cruisers to hop across the ditch and enjoy some cruising in New Zealand before heading up to the Pacific on **The Pacific Rally**.

The Pacific Rally content includes information for sailing to Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Australia and returning to New Zealand at the end of the season. You can pick and choose your own destinations and be connected with everyone else heading in the same direction.


There is still time to join, and everyone is really looking forward to spending some time at the Ōpua Cruising Club for some warm Northland hospitality before they set sail in May.

You can find all the details here: https://www.islandcruising.nz/index.cfm?module=event&pagemode=indiv&page_id=2313582



Nautical Knowledge

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. The term for when a vessel skims on the surface of the water rather than pushing through it is called</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Skimming Floating Planing Surfacing | |
| <p>2.</p>  | <p>These marks with a flashing white light which consists of 2 quick flashes with intervals of 5 seconds indicate what?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Safe Water Hazards Special interests Isolated danger |
| <p>3. Running rigging refers to the lines and sheets that adjust the angle of the sails to the wind?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> True False | |
| <p>4. In nautical terminology speed is expressed in ...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Miles Kilometers Clicks Knots | |
| <p>5. What tides occur when the sun and moon are at 90° to each other and results in lower tidal ranges.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> High Low Spring Neap | |

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/>

Our Final Overseas Voyage on *Noridiam*

We had arrived the evening before in Niue, and after a good night's sleep, Roger called Niue Radio and was told to clear customs at 4pm. We had been forewarned about the difficulties of getting ashore as there are no beaches, only a dock with an electric hoist. On a calm day, this is not an issue, but due to the swell, it was quite an experience timing the jump to grab the ladder. All dinghies had to be hoisted ashore; we had fitted a bridle, so we managed the manoeuvre fairly efficiently.



Hired motorbike Niue.

The next day, we hired a motorbike. The weather was glorious and we set off early to explore. It was a Sunday so everywhere seemed deserted as most of the locals were attending church. The people we did meet were very friendly.

We passed through some abandoned villages as the locals had opted to live in New Zealand to work. We were amazed at the lavishly decorated graves in some of the front gardens.

The first place we visited was Togo, we had a walk through a forest to the coast where there were large coral pinnacles. We followed a path which led to a vertical wooden ladder down to an oasis in the coral which looked quite magical. We clambered over the coral, through a cave to the ocean, Niue being one of the largest coral islands. After exploring more of the island we returned to the boat exhausted.



Dock with electric hoist, Alofi, Niue?

Alofi, the capital of Niue, didn't appear much larger than Ōpua. I think we had more supplies on *Noridiam* than what was available in the shops. There were no vegetables or fruit at that time but we did get some bread. At 4pm, everything seemed to come to life; the butcher opened and a variety of frozen meat was available. We cleared customs before a queue formed for the Bond Store.



The vertical wooden ladder.

We thoroughly enjoyed our stay at Niue, but on the 16th June 2000, we left at 7.30am, having cleared customs the previous afternoon. We set sail for Neiafu, Vava'u, Tonga. We had a spirited sail, riding on a never-ending roller coaster, plus time travelling crossing the International Date Line again. We didn't get much rest and were glad when we sighted land after 244 nautical miles.

We tied up at the wharf, and customs, immigration and MAF boarded us immediately, clearing us in 10 minutes, much to our surprise. We then anchored off the Paradise Hotel near a couple of boats we knew.

On going ashore the next morning, we found nothing much had changed since a previous visit. There was a new market with the usual pawpaw, green bananas and taro. The supermarket shelves were mostly empty, waiting for the ship to arrive with supplies. The Post Office was still a ramshackle place but sold lovely stamps. These usually covered most of the envelope or postcard leaving little room for any writing.



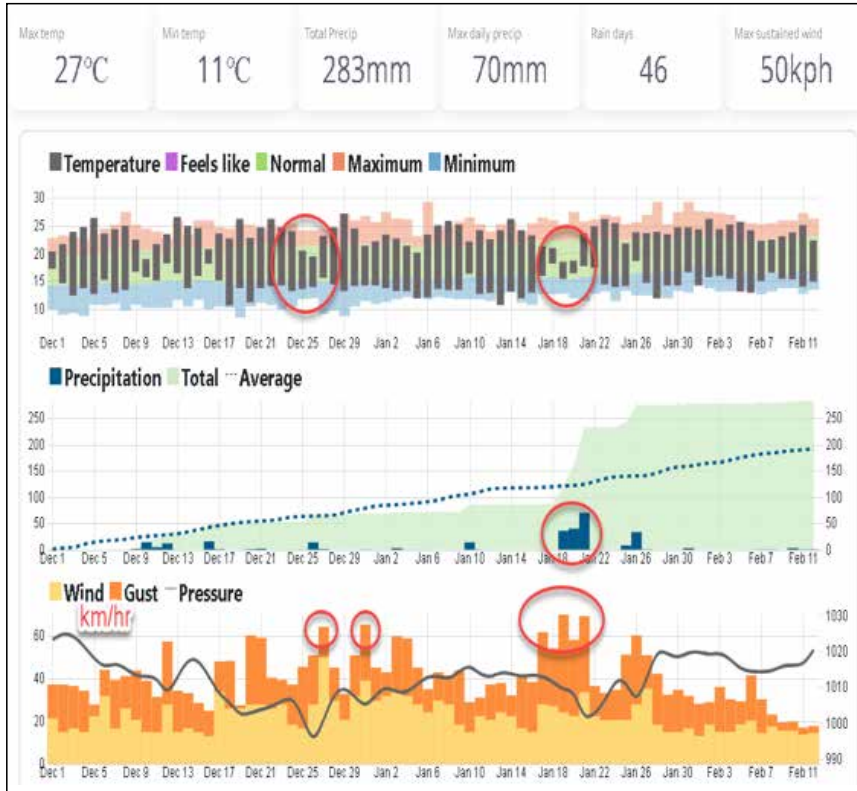
Ribtec Camel Trophy 655 racing boats.

While in Neiafu, the **Ribtec Camel Trophy 655** boats arrived from Nuku'alofa. They had 130hp engines and they cost over \$80,000.

They were originally going to race to Fiji, but because of the conflict there, the destination was changed to Samoa. They were moored on the Paradise Hotel wharf. We had had enough of the noise and left to sail to Hunga Island.

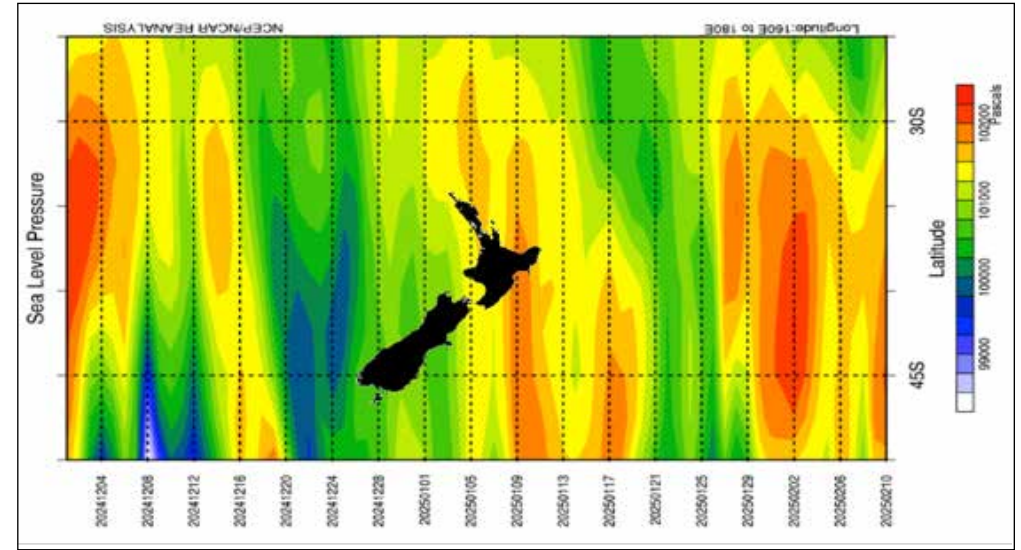
It has been a rather ho-hum Summer.

Kerikeri airport data below shows cold wet and windy snaps highlighted with circles. These appeared especially around Christmas and 19 January. Then again February has been mostly sunny with light winds (wind and rain due 17 February is not shown here).



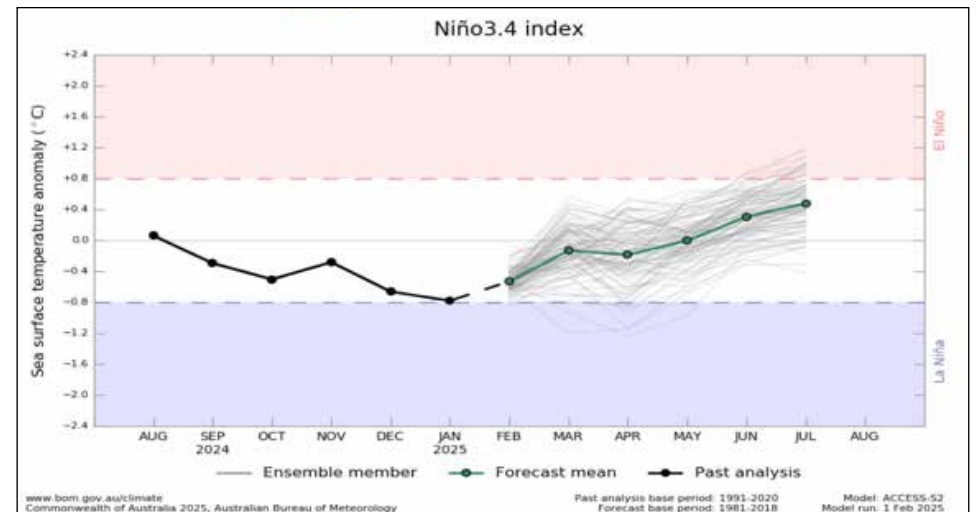
The next image shows the daily averaged isobars over the NZ area for the main part of summer (longitudes 160E to 180 and latitudes 25S to 50S from Dec 1st to Feb 10th). The passing HIGHS usually pace themselves at around once a week with a trough in-between, but that Christmas trough and 19 Jan trough stand out as bucking the pattern.

The first half of February has been High and dry, but a trough is expected around 17 February.



The **La Niña Summer** that was forecast late last year never really happened. The equatorial cool pool responsible shifted towards the dateline, making the pattern a **La Niña Modoki**. (Japanese; roughly translates to similar but different, or in Kiwi vernacular, “yeah, nah”.)

The outlook for ocean surface temperatures in the target region is to trend to “normal” in the next few months, allowing what I call the “Weather Jazz” pattern, in which each player gets a solo.



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BAY OF ISLANDS

**ANSWERS TO QUIZ
March 2025 (p 13):**

1. c. Planing
2. d. Isolated danger
3. a. True
4. d. Knots
5. d. Neap

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NEW ZEALAND HYDROGRAPHIC AUTHORITY TIDE PREDICTIONS

Opuia

Lat. 35°19'S Long. 174°07'E

March 2025












N.Z. Local Times and Heights of High and Low Waters

	Time	m		Time	m		Time	m		Time	m
1	03:01	0.6	9	04:10	2.2	17	04:14	0.9	25	04:33	2.1
Sa	09:23	2.6	Su	10:18	1.1	Mo	10:29	2.4	Tu	10:34	1.2
	15:30	0.7		16:29	2.2		16:38	0.8		16:42	2.1
	21:42	2.6		22:43	1.0		22:52	2.4		23:01	1.0
2	03:47	0.6	10	05:17	2.2	18	04:50	0.9	26	05:33	2.2
Su	10:08	2.7	Mo	11:27	1.1	Tu	11:03	2.4	We	11:34	1.1
	16:17	0.6		17:36	2.2		17:13	0.9		17:47	2.2
	22:30	2.6		23:52	1.0		23:27	2.3			
3	04:33	0.6	11	06:18	2.3	19	05:27	1.0	27	00:00	0.9
Mo	10:54	2.7	Tu	12:30	1.1	We	11:37	2.3	Th	06:27	2.3
	17:04	0.6		18:38	2.2		17:49	0.9		12:30	1.0
	23:18	2.6								18:45	2.3
4	05:22	0.7	12	00:52	0.9	20	00:04	2.3	28	00:54	0.8
Tu	11:41	2.6	We	07:12	2.3	Th	06:06	1.0	Fr	07:18	2.5
	17:52	0.6		13:25	1.0		12:13	2.3		13:23	0.8
				19:32	2.3		18:28	0.9		19:40	2.4
5	00:07	2.5	13	01:43	0.9	21	00:43	2.2	29	01:45	0.7
We	06:12	0.7	Th	07:59	2.4	Fr	06:50	1.1	Sa	08:06	2.6
	12:30	2.6		14:12	1.0		12:54	2.2		14:14	0.7
	18:41	0.7		20:19	2.3		19:11	1.0		20:31	2.5
6	01:00	2.5	14	02:25	0.9	22	01:29	2.2	30	02:34	0.7
Th	07:06	0.8	Fr	08:41	2.4	Sa	07:39	1.1	Su	08:53	2.7
	13:22	2.5		14:53	0.9		13:40	2.2		15:03	0.6
	19:33	0.7		21:01	2.4		19:59	1.0		21:20	2.6
7	01:57	2.4	15	03:04	0.8	23	02:24	2.1	31	03:23	0.6
Fr	08:05	1.0	Sa	09:19	2.4	Su	08:33	1.2	Mo	09:41	2.7
	14:19	2.3		15:30	0.9		14:34	2.1		15:51	0.5
	20:30	0.8		21:40	2.4		20:56	1.1		22:09	2.7
8	03:01	2.3	16	03:39	0.9	24	03:27	2.1			
Sa	09:09	1.0	Su	09:55	2.4	Mo	09:33	1.2			
	15:21	2.2		16:04	0.8		15:36	2.1			
	21:34	0.9		22:17	2.4		21:58	1.1			

Times listed are N.Z. Daylight Time

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March 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1 Sandbar Cricket Match & BBQ Start appr. 2pm	2
3	4	5  Race 2 – 6pm Autumn Series	6 Thirsty Thursday	7  Race 2 – 4.30pm Autumn Pursuit Series	8	9
10	11	12  Race 3 – 6pm Autumn Series	13 Thirsty Thursday 	14  Race 3 – 4.30pm Autumn Pursuit Series	15	16
17 Saint Patrick's Day	18	19  Race 4 – 6pm Autumn Series	20 Thirsty Thursday 	21  Race 4 – 4.30pm Autumn Pursuit Series GREAT ESCAPE Social Sailing Weekend, 21-23 March	22	23 RRC Windward Leeward Interclub Racing
24 Committee Meeting 5.30pm	25	26  Race 5 – 6pm Autumn Series	27 Thirsty Thursday 	28  Race 5 – 4.30pm Autumn Pursuit Series Otēhei Bay Cup Weekend Sailing Festival, 28-30 March	29	30
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