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FREE  
MAGAZINE

# tell tales



*L/R: VMG, Pretty Boy Floyd, Frivolous Fish, Blue Dude.  
(Photograph by Vera Hausmann, 2024.)*

**APRIL 2025**

# Great Escape

Bay of Islands, NZ



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**Great Escape Sailing** is your gateway to adventure on the water. Based right here in the stunning Bay of Islands, we offer internationally accredited *Learn to Sail* courses and affordable bareboat yacht charters—perfect for both newcomers and experienced sailors.

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**We look forward to welcoming you aboard.**

## COMMODORE'S REPORT

BY TERRY DUNN



Well, it's a bit cooler in the mornings but still some great warm days out on the water.

A couple of weeks ago I counted 65 boats anchored in the Paradise/Indigo Bay area; so it is good to see so many boats enjoying probably one of our best summers for a while.

Lots of compliments on our **Thursday Quiz Nights**. A lot of work by Mike Preece. So, thanks Mike, it brings a lot of new people into the Club.

Also thanks to Evita and Warren from **The Chandlery – Henri Lloyd** for sponsoring our Wednesday and Friday evening spring Series. It has been some good close racing.

We also moved the start horn onto the Club roof; so hopefully, race starts are not so noisy for those spectators out on the deck.

Congratulations to Finn with *Moving Violation* with 2nd Overall in the recent **2-handed Northern Triangle Race**. After 80 hours of racing there was just 12 minutes between 1st and 2nd place. Also to Bill Kidman with *Pretty Boy Floyd* for 4th in his division. Good performance guys.

A few cruisers are starting to gather in the Bay. **The South Pacific Rally** leaves Ōpua 2nd/5th May. We are planning a few different activities in the Club; so it would be nice to give this group an enthusiastic send off. Hopefully, they will spread the love and everyone will come back to Ōpua in November.

The **Ōtehei Bay Cup** is next weekend, 29th/30th March. We are planning a fun family social weekend for yachts and launches. A bit of dinghy racing, cricket on the sandbar and BBQs, so come join in.

The **Whangaroa Race** is also coming up 25th April; this is always a fun event organised by the BOIYC. A good distance race up the coast, with a raft up party at the end. Racing and cruising divisions, so put that in your calendar as well.

Thanks for everyone's support around the Club.

Hopefully, I'll see you out on the water.

Cheers, Terry Dunn [commodore@opuacruisingclub.co.nz](mailto:commodore@opuacruisingclub.co.nz)



### Are you planning a special Family Occasion, a Wedding or a Birthday 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](mailto:secretary@opuacruisingclub.co.nz)

# 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 MARCH WINNER is Sally Tait:**

**"I love the Ōpua Cruising Club Tell Tales because it makes us still feel included even if we haven't been to the Club for a while. We are looking forward to the Ōtehei Bay Cup. Hope we make it."**

**If you would like to go into the draw to win a handy Burnsco Dry Bag**

email [publicity@opuacruisingclub.co.nz](mailto: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 April 2025** to go in the draw.

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

Once again, a huge thank you to our dedicated Club Racing Volunteers!

Last month, **Ian Templeman** did a fantastic job running the *Interclub Racing*, which has been fiercely contested. As it stands, **OCC** and **RBC** are tied on 22 points, with the top three boats currently *Moving Violation*, *Etchells 906*, and *The Business*. A big shout-out to both **Ian and Merry** for being on the water—we're in for an exciting final race!

We also want to extend our appreciation to **Rob in the tower on Wednesday nights** and **Vera in the tower on Fridays**—your efforts keep our racing running smoothly. Thank you!

### Help Needed – Sailsys Data Entry

The sailing committee has **Sailsys** up and running for club handicapping, and we're on the lookout for a computer-literate volunteer to handle data entry. No need to worry about the tricky decisions—this role is purely administrative and can be done **remotely or at the Club**. If you can help, please get in touch!

### A Big Thank You to Our Sponsor

A special thanks to **The Chandlery – Henri Lloyd**, our generous sponsor for both the *Autumn Wednesday Night Series* and *Friday Night Series*. Be sure to check out their **top-quality marine electronics and sailing gear** at [thechandlery.co.nz](http://thechandlery.co.nz) or visit their store at **15 Aucks Road, Russell**.

### UPCOMING EVENTS – Mark Your Calendars!

**BOISC Whangaroa Race – Starts Friday, April 25.**

Let's get another great turnout from OCC—last year's race was a fantastic success, capped off with a fun raft-up at the finish!

**OCC End of Season Prizegiving Party – Saturday, May 10.**

Save the date—it's going to be a great night!

### Stay Connected

Keep up with all OCC sailing and racing news via:

- **OCC Website**
- **OCC Facebook Page**
- **WhatsApp Group**
- **Email:** [racingopuacruisingclub@gmail.com](mailto:racingopuacruisingclub@gmail.com)

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

*It seemed a daunting prospect. A Pacific Ocean passage of 4,000 miles, plus, with four children aboard. Nina Kiff describes the 41-day adventure, during which two birthdays were celebrated. (Published in Yachting Monthly, Nov 1996.)*



*Wet Happy Hour in the cockpit: The children enjoy a water fight with straws and mugs.*

If anyone had told me before leaving Panama for the Marquesas that it would be a six-week passage my heart would have sunk. The prospect of such a long time at sea with four children, Sarah (13), Richard (11), Rebecca (10) and Tom (6) would have seemed daunting. Would they become bored? How on earth would we keep them occupied for all that time? What about fresh stores, such as fruit and vegetables? Surely we would get on each other's nerves living in such a

small space? These are some of the questions that would spring to mind.



*Provisioning.*

We transited the Panama Canal in April 1992, and then spent a few days anchored off Balboa Yacht Club taking on stores and preparing for the long trip ahead. The list was endless: filling gas bottles, making sure we had all the charts we needed, checking torches for batteries, replacing the sturdy builder's bucket, which is now on the bottom of the Panama Canal, etc. Sarah wrote lists of all the food that we had on board: 180lb flour, 25lb rice, thirty

dried meals, forty tins of meat, eighty tins of vegetables, 70 pints of dried milk, 10lb coffee, etc.



*Where were we going to stow it all?*

We knew we had a long passage ahead and that food in the Marquesas would be expensive. So we stocked up as much as we could. Then came all the fresh produce. Two sacks of oranges, one of grapefruit, seven enormous pineapples, a stem of bananas and a sack each of potatoes, onions and carrots. And so it went on. Where were we going to stow it all? The children were put to work washing and checking. We didn't want cockroaches and other bugs on board.

Finally, with the water and fuel tanks full, we headed out to spend a few days at the islands of Tobago and Las Perlas, in the Gulf of Panama. The sea was flat and the wind virtually non-existent, so we reluctantly motored part of the way to the islands. There we enjoyed several peaceful anchorages all to ourselves, a pleasant change from the noise and bustle of Panama. Eventually, we realized that we could stay no longer and set sail for the Marquesas.

Our next port of call would be Atuona on Hiva Oa, more than 4,000 miles away.

With the wind still light and variable, we drifted out of sight on land, but soon settled back into the life at sea and night-time watch routine. We divided the night into four watches, 2000-2200h; 2200-0130h; 0130-0500h; and 0500-0700h. Tony and I took the middle two, whilst the eldest children, Sarah and Richard, took one each either end of the night. What a difference it makes only having to get up once during the night.

The children seemed to enjoy their watches, probably because they had their personal stereos and could listen to all the tapes I did not like. Hot chocolate and a streusel bar were another incentive!



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

- Water in the bottom of the boat will:
  - Stop the boat rolling
  - Improve stability
  - Reduce stability
  - Keep your feet cool
- THREE SHORT BLASTS** What does this sound signal mean?
 
  - My engines are operating in reverse.
  - I'm turning to starboard
  - I'm turning to port
  - Make your intentions clear
- When a boat is moving ahead and the wheel is turned to Port you expect the stern to swing to Starboard
  - True
  - False
- You may have seen the sponsor 'LIVEOCEAN' on the Black Foils Sail GP boat Amokura, what does 'LIVEOCEAN' do?:
  - Support Citizen Science to map the DNA present in the Pacific ocean.
  - Using 'Marine M2' to help educate about the ecosystems of the foreshore.
  - Supporting the Caulerpa Detection Mission in Northland.
  - All of the above
- When a fresh wind is blowing against a moderate tide, the waves are likely to be:
  - Rippled on the surface
  - Long and low
  - Smooth and calm
  - Short, steep, and rough

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*

It was time to move on from Tonga and after a couple of delays due to the weather, also getting a few jobs on the boat completed, we set off for Apia, Western Samoa. We had never been before, so we were excited at visiting somewhere new. We had a couple of idyllic days of weather before we sighted the lighthouse on Upolu around 9pm. We sailed on until we were abeam of Apia but didn't want to approach until daylight due to a reef guarding the entrance. We hove to for three hours before motoring in and tying up at the wharf for clearing customs. We found the temperature really hot and sticky, the water 29 degrees in the harbour, so cold showers were very inviting.

I really liked Apia and was surprised at the cleanliness and the thriving place it seemed to be. They still had leg breaking drainage holes like Tonga. We were told the Japanese had paid for a new government building in return for fishing rights, no wonder there were no fish in the ocean. We found the RSA where there was cheap food and drink, not quite the same standard as the New Zealand ones but fine all the same. The cold beer certainly went down well. We were usually woken at 4am due to church bells and barking

dogs, a thick pall of smoke would cover Apia, from the cooking fires, if there wasn't enough wind to blow it away.



*Police Band.*

We enjoyed watching the *Police Band* parading every morning from their station to the *Government House* to raise the flag.



*Robert Louis Stevenson's House and Museum.*

We visited *Robert Louis Stevenson's House and Museum*, the author of *Treasure Island* and other books. The house was set in beautiful grounds and the rooms were cool and airy. We had taken a taxi there and were lucky enough to jump on a bus full of

teenage school children going back to Apia, the idea of walking back hadn't thrilled me. The open sided buses kept one cool but the wooden seats were uncomfortable.



*Camel Trophy finish.*

One day it was a hive of activity with stalls and decorations for the finish of the *Camel Trophy*. About fifty *Camel Rib Boats* arrived with their entourage of a tug with a barge and two large fuel tanks, a fire tug and two large launches. A helicopter flew over with cameramen and proceeded to land on the fuel barge. It scared us to death and probably the tug crew, as they were signalled to leave.



*Aggie Grey's.*

Sadly, the heavens opened just as the *Camel* crews tied up and stepped ashore at *Aggie Grey's*.

The celebrations still managed to commence with local dancing, fire dancers and local music. The Prime Minister made a speech before the trophies were awarded. The South African team just beat the French. Australia and New Zealand did not compete. We strolled along the beach viewing all the food and craft stalls. After a couple of beers we returned to the boat and then were kept awake by the loud music till 3am, at 4am the church bells started!

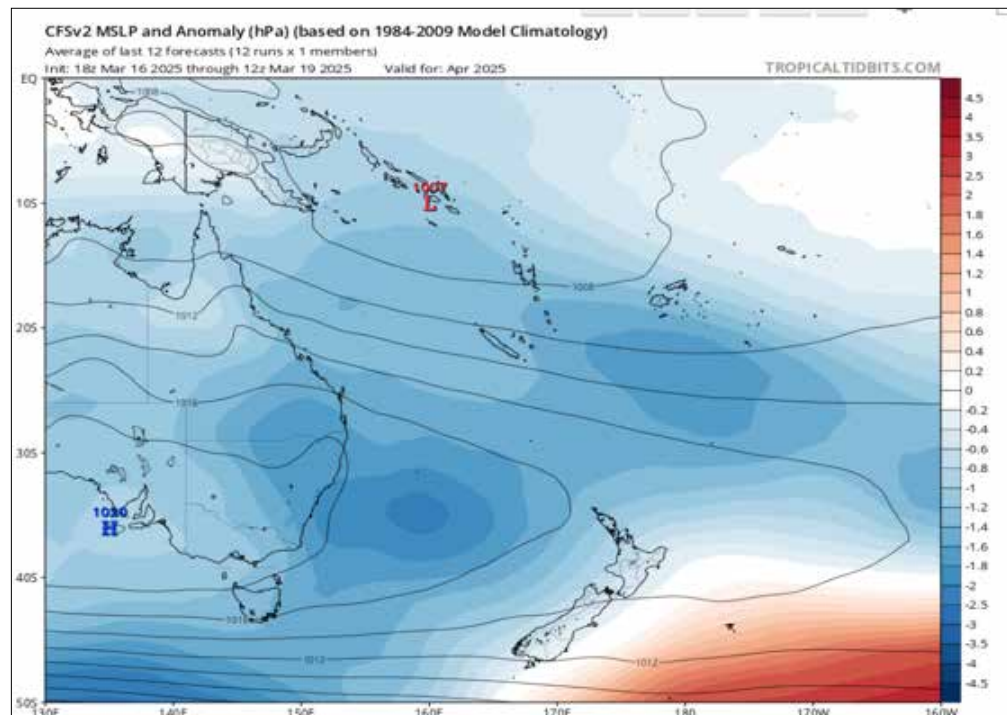
Another day we hired a car and drove around the island taking in the sights. I had prepared a picnic, but trying to find somewhere to park was difficult as the resorts wanted you to pay and the locals understandably didn't want you parking on their land. We eventually stopped for lunch at Sopoaga Waterfall viewpoint where we were inundated with mosquitoes. We continued on to some more waterfalls, finishing at *Papase'ea Sliding Rocks* before heading back to the boat. There is no shortage of water due to the rainfall in Samoa, though May to October is considered the dry season. It certainly didn't seem that dry while we were there. Collecting rainwater for drinking was of prime importance.

After a wonderful time, preparations were made to head further west.

As we sail into another season here in the beautiful Bay of Islands, the weather continues to play a vital role in shaping our time on the water. April brings a mix of warm days and cooler earlier evenings, a reminder that autumn is with us. Easter holidays bring the last hurrah.

This transitional period often sees a blend of weather patterns. Sea breezes may still offer pleasant afternoon sailing conditions. The chance of an easterly wind drops, and the chance of a south-westerly wind rises so that by Easter either is equally likely.

Keep an eye on the weather map to be on the look-out for sudden southerly changes — they can arrive swiftly, bringing gusts and choppier seas.



Here is the averaged weather forecast for April (isobars). The shading shows expected difference from a normal April (from *Tropical Tidbits*).

This map shows that the month should be dominated by HIGH pressure systems starting out from the Australian Bight:

**The blue shading** shows that these Highs are likely to be weaker than normal ... a recipe for light winds.

**The red shading** near Chatham Islands indicates that the isobars there should be higher than normal, making the isobars in the westerly wind belt further apart than normal.

So overall, the outlook is for April to bring lighter winds than normal in the Bay of Islands.

At this stage, the forecast is for a drier than normal April for Northland. Drought was declared in mid-March and is now having a severe impact on those who live off the land.

This dry pattern is expected to be replaced by May with a wetter pattern with several sub-tropical lows. I'll update on that in next month's newsletter.

Meantime, stay updated with reliable weather input. The *MetService Marine Forecasts*, along with *Weather Watch*, *PredictWind* and *Windy*, continue to be valuable tools for checking wind direction, swell, and any potential weather fronts.

Remember to also tune in to *Russell Radio* for local updates — their community reports are always a reassuring source of practical insight.

This time of year brings the chance for beautifully calm mornings, ideal for fishing or a gentle cruise to one of the many idyllic anchorages around the Bay. Watching the sun rise over calm seas is a reward in itself.

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**BAY OF ISLANDS**

**ANSWERS TO QUIZ**  
April 2025 (p 9):

- c. Reduce stability
- a. My engines are operating in reverse.
- a. True
- d. All of the above. They are NZ-based charity organisations supporting many initiatives to protect our ocean and its inhabitants [www.liveocean.org](http://www.liveocean.org)
- d. Short, steep and rough.

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**NEW ZEALAND HYDROGRAPHIC AUTHORITY TIDE PREDICTIONS**

**Opuia**

Lat. 35°19'S Long. 174°07'E

**April 2025**





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

	Time	m		Time	m		Time	m		Time	m
<b>1</b>	<b>04:12</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>9</b>	04:51	2.3	<b>17</b>	04:00	1.0	<b>25</b>	04:50	2.4
Tu	<b>10:29</b>	<b>2.7</b>	We	11:07	1.1	Th	10:06	2.3	Fr	10:59	0.9
	<b>16:39</b>	<b>0.5</b>		17:17	2.2		16:17	0.9		17:18	2.4
	<b>22:58</b>	<b>2.7</b>		23:26	1.0		22:37	2.3		23:22	0.9
<b>2</b>	<b>05:03</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>10</b>	05:42	2.3	<b>18</b>	04:41	1.0	<b>26</b>	05:43	2.5
We	<b>11:18</b>	<b>2.6</b>	Th	11:58	1.0	Fr	10:45	2.3	Sa	11:53	0.7
	<b>17:28</b>	<b>0.6</b>		18:09	2.2		16:57	0.9		18:14	2.5
	<b>23:49</b>	<b>2.6</b>					23:18	2.3			
<b>3</b>	<b>05:56</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>11</b>	00:14	1.0	<b>19</b>	05:26	1.1	<b>27</b>	00:16	0.8
Th	<b>12:10</b>	<b>2.5</b>	Fr	06:27	2.3	Sa	11:27	2.2	Su	06:34	2.6
	<b>18:19</b>	<b>0.7</b>		12:42	1.0		17:41	1.0		12:45	0.6
				18:54	2.3					19:07	2.6
<b>4</b>	<b>00:43</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>12</b>	00:56	1.0	<b>20</b>	00:04	2.2	<b>28</b>	01:08	0.7
Fr	<b>06:52</b>	<b>0.9</b>	Sa	07:07	2.4	Su	06:15	1.1	Mo	07:24	2.6
	<b>13:04</b>	<b>2.4</b>		13:21	0.9		12:14	2.2		13:36	0.6
	<b>19:13</b>	<b>0.8</b>		19:35	2.3		18:30	1.0		19:59	2.7
<b>5</b>	<b>01:41</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>13</b>	01:34	0.9	<b>21</b>	00:57	2.2	<b>29</b>	02:01	0.7
Sa	<b>07:52</b>	<b>1.0</b>	Su	07:45	2.4	Mo	07:09	1.1	Tu	08:15	2.7
	<b>14:03</b>	<b>2.3</b>		13:56	0.9		13:08	2.1		14:26	0.5
	<b>20:11</b>	<b>0.9</b>		20:13	2.4		19:25	1.0		20:49	2.7
<b>6</b>	<b>02:44</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>14</b>	02:10	0.9	<b>22</b>	01:56	2.2	<b>30</b>	02:53	0.7
Su	07:56	1.1	Mo	08:20	2.4	Tu	08:06	1.1	We	09:06	2.6
	14:06	2.2		14:30	0.8		14:08	2.1		15:16	0.5
	20:16	1.0		20:49	2.4		20:25	1.0		21:40	2.7
<b>7</b>	02:50	2.3	<b>15</b>	02:45	1.0	<b>23</b>	02:57	2.2			
Mo	09:03	1.1	Tu	08:55	2.4	We	09:05	1.1			
	15:12	2.2		15:04	0.8		15:13	2.2			
	21:24	1.0		21:24	2.4		21:26	1.0			
<b>8</b>	03:53	2.3	<b>16</b>	03:22	1.0	<b>24</b>	03:55	2.3			
Tu	10:08	1.1	We	09:30	2.3	Th	10:03	1.0			
	16:17	2.2		15:40	0.9		16:17	2.2			
	22:30	1.0		22:00	2.4		22:26	0.9			

Times shown in bold have been adjusted for N.Z. Daylight Time

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		 <p>Race 6 – 6pm Autumn Series</p>	<b>Tradies' Thursday</b> 	 <p>Race 6 – 6pm Autumn Pursuit Series</p>	12 School Holiday Starts	13 Day Light Saving Ends
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			<b>10 Tradies' Thursday</b> 			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			<b>17 Tradies' Thursday</b> 	<b>GREAT ESCAPE Social Sailing Weekend, 11 - 13 April</b>		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>Committee Meeting</b> 5.30pm			<b>24 Tradies' Thursday</b> 	<b>25 BOIYC - Whangarua Race TBC</b> Arrzac Day		20 Easter
28	29	30				
Easter Monday 						School Holiday Ends