



THE FRIENDLIEST CLUB IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

FREE
MAGAZINE

tell tales



Discovery.

From last year's WOW (Women on Water) weekend.

(Photo courtesy of Great Escape Sailing.)

MAY 2025

CMC DESIGN



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Craig McInnes.

Craig McInnes, at the helm of CMC Design in Ōpua, has been boat building for nearly 40 years. He and his team have overseen many projects over the years.

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A lot of experience, careful planning and attention to detail is needed to work in this field. Each element attended to is an investment in the future.

Craig's passion for boat building has led him to grow his business to cater for clients' bespoke project needs. The mastery of timber fits well in creating high-end kitchens, art sculptures and furniture.

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Just south of the Ōpua turn-off, they welcome any inquiries.

CMC Design, Unit C, Ōpua Commercial Estate, 945 Paihia Road, 0282, Northland

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'Clark Gable' Refurbishment, CMC Design.



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Working vessel replacement Caprail, CMC Design.

COMMODORE'S REPORT

BY TERRY DUNN



A very warm welcome to all *The South Pacific Rally* cruisers arriving in Ōpua. It's fantastic to see the activity at the marina as around 70 boats prepare to depart for the Pacific in the first two weeks of May. It's going to be quite the send-off!

We've got a full programme of seminars and talks running at the Club, so it promises to be a busy and engaging week. Whether you're looking for practical tips, weather updates, or just a chance to connect with fellow cruisers, there's something for everyone.

Hopefully the weather settles down a bit before departure day, but in the meantime, we invite all skippers and crews to enjoy the wonderful

hospitality of Ōpua and the Cruising Club while you prepare for your journey. The clubrooms will be open throughout, with internet access available to help with planning.

The Ōtehei Bay Cup Weekend – A Great Success

We had a fantastic turnout for *The Ōtehei Bay Cup Weekend* – thanks to everyone who came along and made it such an enjoyable event. We're already looking ahead to hosting more of these family-friendly weekends next summer. A special thanks to BOIYC for providing the Sunburst dinghies, and to Buddha for handling the towing duties – much appreciated. There were even a few keen foilers giving it a go out there – although unfortunately, the breeze didn't hold long enough for things to get too competitive. Fingers crossed for better wind next time!

Twilight Racing – Wrap-Up

Our *Summer and Autumn Twilight Racing Series* have now concluded. We had great conditions for most of the season, though the final two races were cut short by light winds. A heartfelt thank you to Rob and Vera for running the start box – your time and dedication are truly appreciated.

Don't forget – our end-of-season *Prize Giving Party* is set for 10th May. Save the date and join us for a great evening of celebration.

Club Upgrades and Improvements

And finally, a quick note on the little improvements happening around the Club – you might have noticed the new tap-ware in the bathrooms! We've been steadily working through a list of small upgrades and maintenance tasks to keep the Club looking smart and functioning well. Huge thanks to Les for all his hard work behind the scenes.

Looking forward to seeing you around the Club – and wishing fair winds to all our departing cruisers!

Warm regards, Terry commodore@opuacruisingclub.co.nz



Discovery. (Photo courtesy of Great Escape Sailing from last year's WOW (Women on Water) weekend.)

Once again, a huge thank you to our dedicated Club Racing Volunteers! Last month, **Ian Templeman** did a fantastic job running the final for this season's **Interclub Racing**, Thanks to the **Racoon** and **Salt Shaker** OCC retaining the trophy for another year. A big shout-out to both **Ian and Merry** for being on the water.

Our Wednesday and Friday evening racing has finished for this season, **thank you again to all our sponsors** and to **Rob in the tower on Wednesday nights** and **Vera in the tower on Fridays**—we couldn't have sailed this season without you. **Thank you!**

Still looking for Help– 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!

Winter Racing

We will have two series running over winter the **NZ Yacht Services Sunday Racing once** a month, **Race 1 – Sunday 18th May, 1.00pm start**.

And our **BOI Auto & Marine Winter Pursuit Series** with the first race Friday 30th May. It is suggested we start these races at 3pm so we finish in daylight. Please let us know via the WhatsApp Group what time you would like the first start for this series.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

- **Great Escape WOW (Women on Water) – Starts Friday, 2nd May.** Over thirty women will be at the Club Friday night and set of for a fun weekend's sailing in the beautiful Bay of Islands. The emphasis is on fun and participation with all participants encouraged to stretch their skills and gain new experiences.
- **OCC End of Season Prizegiving Party – Saturday, May 10.** More details to come, get your crews together and celebrate the participants and winners from this season—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**

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

We are consideration making the transition of *Tell Tales* an on-line only publication and invite your feedback.

While rising print costs have certainly played a part in this decision, our main motivation is to improve the way we share news and stories with our members. With a digital format we would be able to reach a wider audience, and deliver updates more promptly and consistently – something we feel is increasingly important for our Club community.

While *Tell Tales* has been a cherished voice of the Club for many years, we believe it is time to change the method of delivery to stay better connected with both current members and a broader network of supporters.

As always, we welcome your contributions – whether it's an interesting story, a cruising tale, a great photo, or anything else you'd like to share.

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!

Nobody spotted the yacht last month!

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 May 2025** to go in the draw. **The winner will be announced in the June edition.**

As part of new legislation affecting clubs and non-profit organisations across the country, we are required to update our Club Constitution to ensure compliance with current legal standards.

Over the past six months, Chris Ball has reviewed and revised our existing constitution. We will soon be sending out a copy of the proposed updates and additions to all members via email.

When it arrives, we encourage you to take a moment – perhaps with a cup of tea – to read through the document. Your feedback is most welcome, and any suggestions or comments you may have will be gratefully received. Thanks

The updated constitution will be finalised and put to a vote at our next *Annual General Meeting* in **June**, so it is important that all members have the opportunity to review and understand the proposed changes in advance.



Are you planning a special Family Occasion, a Wedding or a Birthday Party?

Ōpuā 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

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.)

Hilda, the Hydrovane, behaved well, so sailing was very peaceful and we sighted only one yacht, two container ships and two fishing fleets on the entire passage. During the first two weeks we had several nights when we were becalmed. So, rather than have the continuous slatting of sails, we took them all down. We put up our anchor light and went to bed. If this was to be the pattern for the next 4,000 miles, it was going to take a long time to get to Hiva Oa. But the days passed surprisingly quickly.



School work down below.

Every morning was spent doing school work. Diaries came first. Each day the children found something to write about; dolphins swimming alongside, tired swallows who came and landed for a rest, hair washing and showering in the rain,

sifting weevils out of noodles, making Teddy a pair of shorts, teeth falling out, the day we found some bad eggs, seeing a waterspout, cutting hair, There was always something.



Rebecca is cutting Richard's hair.

One day, Tom wrote: "Dad was in a bad mood today because there was no wind." The trip was memorable for the lack of wind. We only carry 100 gallons of diesel, so motoring any distance was out of the question, and we also needed to keep some fuel in reserve for charging the batteries and running the desalinator. Anyway, where does one motor to in such a vast ocean with so many miles to go?

School work usually continued with maths and English. We had some textbooks from England and did our best to keep on top of the maths. Other subjects were also tackled, including

a general background to history and geography of the Pacific Islands we would be visiting, the crops they grew, some of the customs and the origins of volcanoes and atolls. We looked at ocean currents, weather patterns and time zones, and how they would affect us.



The largest fish that the Kiffs caught.

The fish we caught gave us the opportunity to dissect their gills and eyes, and to look at their different fins and how they are used for swimming. Every fish we caught was carefully weighed, measured and recorded. The largest was a 1.5m (5ft) wahoo, which made excellent eating. We have learnt that a drop of whiskey or other alcohol kills a fish without the messy business of knocking it out with a winch handle.

The sighting of whales and dolphins was always exciting and sent the children dashing up on the foredeck, and then back down below to try to identify them from the books. The waterspout had to be drawn and then they looked at the encyclopedia to find out why they happen. A booby decided to sit on our pulpit for most of one day and seemed

quite content to stay there while Sarah drew it. We took dead torch batteries apart to find out how they worked. There were endless possibilities for learning.

The afternoons were spent on less academic things. We had brought on board bags of odd scraps of material, wool, sewing threads, stuffing, balsa wood, felt, paint, coloured paper, card glue, etc, and these were soon taken of the lockers and strewn about the cockpit. We had seen such wonderfully coloured fish while snorkelling in Bonaire that the children decided to sew and stuff their favourite fish. (Rebecca actually made one and a half; she made two left sides of a Queen Angelfish so she had to make another, but the spare side made a very good mat.)



The kids working on their favourite stuffed fish

Then they each made something out of balsa wood. The boys made boats and the girls made boxes. Sarah's was rather like a treasure chest with a rounded lid, and she stuck balsa wood dolphins on the side.



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Nautical Knowledge

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

- Tides have two significant effects for the navigator, and these change constantly. They are;
 - Depth of water and the speed of horizontal flow
 - Magnetism and depth of water
 - Direction of compass and depth of water
 - None of the above
- 

Which cardinal mark is this?
Where is the safe water?

 - East Cardinal Marker, safe water to the West,
 - East Cardinal Marker, safe water to the East,
 - West Cardinal Marker, safe water to the West
 - West Cardinal Marker, safe water to the West
- When two power driven vessels are meeting head on, both are required to alter course to port
 - True
 - False
- When you experience "weather helm" what can you do to reduce it?
 - Depower by feathering (pinching)
 - Hike out
 - Ease out the mainsail
 - All of the above
- When using a handheld VHF you should?
 - Never use channel 16
 - Ensure the antenna is vertical
 - Only use on low power
 - Transmit as soon as you turn VHF onto desired channel

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/>

Now that cruising sailors are on their final preparations for departing New Zealand for the warmth of the tropical Islands, 'tis a good time to review the ways to obtain weather forecasts and/or provide position reports **when at sea**.

1. ZLM/Taupo Maritime Radio offer a continuous 7/24 Trip reporting service, see www.maritimenz.govt.nz/about/what-we-do/safety-and-response/maritime-radio.asp

The HIGH SEAS forecast for the area SUBTROPIC from MetService is read out in English via ZLM at 0903hr, and 2103hr NZST/NZDT on 6224 and 12356KHz and repeated an hour later



on 8297 and 16531 KHz. www.metservice.com/marine/radio-schedule

NZ MetService ceased their ZKLF Radiofax 1 July 2023.

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology still sends weather maps by HF Radiofax. The nearest transmitter to the South Pacific is VMC in Charleville, schedule is at www.bom.gov.au/marine/radio-sat/radio-fax-schedule.shtml

2. Gulf Harbour Radio ZMH286 www.ghradio.co.nz ghradio@xtra.co.nz

Patricia and David keep track of boats that listen to their roll-call/weather service. Firstly, contact them via email or radio with your details - boat name, MMSI, boat type and length. Then let them know when you are about to take off and whether you will be on air each night. They operate on 8752USB at 0515 UTC which is 5:15pm NZST and an hour later during daylight saving, 6:15pm. Each broadcast is live streamed so friends and family can hear your check in and follow along. David gives a weather update each night for the passage routes and the islands. And there are articles of general interest and specifically on weather in their web site.

3. Passage Guardian passageguardian.nz peter@passageguardian.nz

Passage Monitoring is operated by Peter Mott and provides a global free-of-charge service (donations welcome) that monitors the progress of recreational vessels conducting ocean passages. Peter uses a range of tools, including satellite trackers, AIS and email, and multiple maritime radio frequencies to keep a constant watch on yachts that have filed a float plan prior to departure. The service has a formal policy for dealing with a missed check in. Whilst available to all yachts, Passage Monitoring is especially suited to short-handed and solo sailors, in particular circumnavigators.

4. AMATEUR RADIO/Ham net: PACSEANET pacseanet@gmail.com

The Pacific Seafarers Net is a ham (amateur radio) network providing a free of charge check in service on amateur frequency 14300KHz USB in the 20-metre band at 0300UTC. To participate, operator needs to hold an Amateur Radio Operators Certificate (General class or above). In the amateur radio service, the call-sign is assigned to the licensed operator, so this is a different call-sign from using a maritime call-sign. Position reports are received and reported in the well-know YOTREPS format (but missed calls may not be followed up). They have 12 listening station dotted between Australia and Alabama. See pacseanet.blogspot.com

5. EMAIL via HF requires a PACTOR modem, see <https://sailmail.com/>

6. INTERNET via EMAIL

If you only have email, **Saildocs** (saildocs.com) relays details of a TEXT BASED webpage. See weather.mailasail.com/Franks-Weather/Home

They allow you to download, e.g., the latest Fiji Met Service High Seas by sending an email, no subject necessary, to query@saildocs.com with message: SEND http://www.met.gov.fj/aifs_prods/10140.txt

For a list of useful links see <https://www.y2ksail.com/meteo-link.html>

7. Fiji Fleet code. How to download a map via HF (through email)

This is real old school stuff, but it still works if you need it.

To download the latest Nadi Fleet Code, send an email to query@saildocs.com, no subject needed, saying SEND nadi-fleetcode, or SEND <https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/data/raw/as/asps20.nffn.txt>

This can be viewed within the Fleet Code plug in OpenCPN.

Download this at opencpn.org/OpenCPN/info/downloadopencpn.html

Open the email and select and copy the data (right click, Control A, then Control C on a PC). Then, in Open CPN's Fleet code plugin, there are 4 options: Files, Text, Raw and Downloads. Select Raw and then <paste> or CTRL-V and Voila! The map appears.

I still have a copy of the old, no longer supported Fleet code viewing program called Phys Plot. If you want to try it, let me know.

8. Smart Phone Apps

Some satellite phones now provide Wi-Fi that allow nearby smart phones to use apps.

www.predictwind.com provides an app that supplies forecast model data, observations and, at the Professional Account level, tools for routing and comparing departure dates. It also has a position tracking tool and can help with iridium Go! and some other GPS devices. A moderate subscription gives access to its universal AIS package with a regional search option.

9. The Windy.com App has a free basic option. It also has a subscription option that can be used to compile route plots. To make one: - "right click" anywhere on the map, this will open a small context window. - choose "Distance & Planning"; - place your points on the map; chose 'Boat' and enter your average likely speed, click on "more options" bottom left and in the "table of points" you just made, click the button label "share" in the bottom right corner; - remember and use the short URL link provided or the long URL in the top of your browser. You can also make one by building the URL manually if you are familiar with this. Each time you plug this URL in your browser, Windy will show the map and your planned route. Shift the start time to see which gives the best voyage.

10. YiT, Yachts in Transit, at www.yit.nz or mike@yit.nz has a smart phone app, and offers a subscription service to plot your reports and blogs on the web and to request weather information via coded emails. They also provide info on how to use iridium Go!, YB Tracking, or Garmin inReach for communications. This site was closed for a while but is back again this year.

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BAY OF ISLANDS

ANSWERS TO QUIZ
May 2025 (p 11):

- a. Depth of water and the speed of horizontal flow
- d. West Cardinal Marker, safe water to the West
- b. False, you must pass 'port to port' therefore, they must turn to starboard.
- d. All of the above
- b. Ensure the antenna is vertical

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NEW ZEALAND HYDROGRAPHIC AUTHORITY TIDE PREDICTIONS

Opua





Lat. 35°19'S Long. 174°07'E

May 2025

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

	Time	m		Time	m		Time	m		Time	m
1	03:47	0.7	9	05:03	2.3	17	04:21	1.0	25	05:11	2.5
Th	09:58	2.6	Fr	11:21	1.0	Sa	10:23	2.2	Su	11:24	0.7
	16:07	0.6		17:38	2.2		16:34	0.9		17:51	2.5
	22:32	2.6		23:38	1.1		22:58	2.3		23:50	0.8
2	04:41	0.8	10	05:48	2.3	18	05:06	1.1	26	06:05	2.5
Fr	10:52	2.5	Sa	12:04	1.0	Su	11:07	2.2	Mo	12:18	0.6
	16:59	0.7		18:24	2.3		17:18	0.9		18:46	2.5
	23:26	2.5					23:44	2.3			
3	05:38	0.9	11	00:21	1.0	19	05:55	1.1	27	00:46	0.8
Sa	11:47	2.4	Su	06:29	2.3	Mo	11:54	2.2	Tu	07:00	2.6
	17:54	0.8		12:44	0.9		18:06	0.9		13:12	0.6
				19:06	2.3					19:40	2.6
4	00:23	2.4	12	01:01	1.0	20	00:35	2.3	28	01:42	0.8
Su	06:37	1.0	Mo	07:09	2.3	Tu	06:47	1.1	We	07:54	2.6
	12:45	2.3		13:21	0.9		12:47	2.2		14:05	0.6
	18:51	0.9		19:45	2.3		18:59	1.0		20:32	2.6
5	01:23	2.3	13	01:40	1.0	21	01:28	2.3	29	02:37	0.8
Mo	07:38	1.0	Tu	07:47	2.3	We	07:41	1.0	Th	08:48	2.5
	13:45	2.2		13:58	0.9		13:45	2.2		14:57	0.6
	19:52	1.0		20:22	2.4		19:56	1.0		21:24	2.6
6	02:23	2.3	14	02:18	1.0	22	02:24	2.3	30	03:32	0.8
Tu	08:39	1.1	We	08:25	2.3	Th	08:37	1.0	Fr	09:41	2.5
	14:47	2.2		14:35	0.8		14:47	2.2		15:49	0.6
	20:55	1.0		20:59	2.4		20:55	1.0		22:16	2.6
7	03:21	2.3	15	02:57	1.0	23	03:20	2.4	31	04:27	0.8
We	09:37	1.1	Th	09:03	2.3	Fr	09:33	0.9	Sa	10:34	2.4
	15:49	2.1		15:13	0.8		15:51	2.3		16:40	0.7
	21:55	1.1		21:37	2.4		21:55	0.9		23:08	2.5
8	04:14	2.3	16	03:38	1.0	24	04:16	2.4			
Th	10:32	1.0	Fr	09:42	2.3	Sa	10:29	0.8			
	16:46	2.2		15:52	0.9		16:52	2.4			
	22:49	1.1		22:16	2.3		22:53	0.9			

Times listed are N.Z. Standard Time
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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Thirsty Thursday  hosted by Derek Edwards 7.30pm South Pacific Rally Cruisers	2 Citizen of the Sea Training Program with Erin Bornaal, 8am-2pm Meet the Fleet, 5.30pm South Pacific Rally Cruisers	3 Briefing with VIKKI Moore, 9am-3pm Island Party, 5.30pm South Pacific Rally Cruisers	4 Great Escape WOW Weekend, 2 - 4 May General Drop-In & Maritime NZ with VIKKI Moore, 9am-3pm South Pacific Rally Cruisers
5	6	7	8 Thirsty Thursday	9	10	11
South Pacific Rally Cruisers 			 15 Thirsty Thursday hosted by Ria Bright & Rick Palmer	16	17	End of Season Prizegiving Party  Race 1 – 1pm Winter Series
12	13	14	15 Thirsty Thursday	16	17	18
			22 Thirsty Thursday 	23	24	25
19	20	21	22 Thirsty Thursday	23	24	25
Committee Meeting 5.30pm 			29 Thirsty Thursday 	30	31	
26	27	28	29 Thirsty Thursday	30	31	
			29 Thirsty Thursday  Race 1 Winter Pursuit Series			