OPUA CRUISING CLUB

FREE MAGAZINE

THE FRIENDLIEST CLUB IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

tell tales

Solitaire *in challenging conditions.*
2025 WOW (Women on Water) Weekend.
(Photo courtesy of Great Escape Sailing.)

JUNE 2025

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 store in Waipapa 5 years ago and our new store in Kaikohe opened in June last year; 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 TERRY DUNN

A busy month in the Club, racing has finished but all the South Pacific cruisers in town created some great social nights.

The Island Night Party had *Mike Preece* playing his 70s vinyl classic collection complete with strobe lights and smoke machine. Awesome fun night with great dancing and a great send off to all the cruisers delayed by unstable weather.

The *Ōpua Business Association* with *BOI Marina* kindly subsidised a twice-a-day taxi shuttle service to Paihia to make it easier for crews to get supplies. It was greatly appreciated and there was some good feedback on what a friendly, helpful community Ōpua is. Hopefully, they will all return in November.

The Club Prize Giving Party was a week later with music from *Charlotte Rockstar Jones*. Good turnout and many thanks to Cees and Luke from *Romeyn Woodcrafts* for the lovely trophies. There are still some that haven't been collected so they will be in the trophy cabinet.

The *Marina Café* also sadly closed as the cruisers left. David and his team will be seriously missed. I don't think we quite realize how important this café was for Ōpua. Thanks David for the great food and coffee, but also the central meeting point in town you provided.

Some very happy cruisers at the Club!

The Club AGM is coming up next month and we desperately need people to step up and help either on the committee or with the sailing / social side. ***"Remember, the happiest people are those not getting more but those giving more."***

The Club is in great shape but having more people involved makes it more fun. Please give me a call if you would like to bring some energy.

This is the first online *Tell Tales*. We plan to spread the word a lot further than we were reaching with the printed publication and will no doubt need to keep making changes. Please bear with us and any thoughts/suggestions and interesting articles will be greatly appreciated .

Nice to have the dry weather back too.

See you in the Club.

Cheers, Terry commodore@opuacruisingclub.co.nz

JUNE RACING REPORT

Some of the WOW fleet at anchor. (Photos courtesy of Great Escape Sailing.)

Summer sailing has concluded, thank you again to all the sailors, volunteers and sponsors that made it such a success. The prizegiving on 10th May was a fun night with *Charlotte Rockstar Jones* hitting just the right notes for the crowd. Huge thanks to Cees and Luke of ***Romeyn Woodcrafts*** for creating the fabulous trophies.

Winter Racing
Winter racing has commenced, and we have two series running over winter the ***NZ Yacht Services Sunday Racing*** once a month, **Race 2 – Sunday 15th June, 1.00pm start.**

And our ***BOI Auto & Marine Winter Pursuit Series***, the first race **Friday 30th May** then the next race is **Friday 4th July** – remember to check the calendar for dates and the website for your start time, it is suggested we start the first boat at

3pm so we finish in daylight. Please check the website or noticeboard for your start time.

Ōtehei Bay Cup
Although a distant memory, it was great to remember our fantastic Club Day on the Sandbar. The beautiful ***Ōtehei Bay Cup*** was awarded to Bill and Rose at the prizegiving, and we hope it will be tightly contested next year.

WOW Women on Water Weekend
The eighth annual ***Great Escape WOW Weekend*** was held the first weekend in May. Friday night was buzzing at the Club with old and new friends catching up. Forecasts were consulted and a passage plan determined. Saturday was gusty, and a bit challenging, but all nine boats made it safely down to Waiwhapuku (Army) Bay for a delicious shared meal ashore. Sunday was a real late season treat, sunshine and a nice breeze for an easy reach home. The weekend's format means most of the sailors get to stretch themselves a little bit, for some it was their first time skippering and for others it was their first time away on a boat. Thank you to ***Great Escape*** for organising the event and for all the women who participated.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!
OCC AGM *– For those of you who want to help run the racing next season, now it the time to put your hand up and get on the sailing committee for next year. If you think you might be interested chat to Terry or any of the Sailing Committee, we'd love to have you aboard. If you have any ideas or want to run a specific event please put your hand up.* ***The AGM will be held Tuesday 24th June, commencing 7pm.***

Stay Connected
Keep up with all OCC sailing and racing news via:
- OCC Website
- FacebookPage
- WhatsApp Group
- Email: racingopuacruisingclub@gmail.com

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

Winners of the ***Ōtehei Bay Cup****, Bill Kidman and Rose Loveridge.*

Our Final Overseas Voyage on *Noridiam*

We had a dream-run from Apia, Samoa, to Wallis Island. We decided to go via the northern side of Savai'i and had a great sail close by the coast as there is no reef. We had glorious sunsets and sunrises and made the pass into the lagoon anchoring before dark.

A Wallis anchorage..

Arriving at the weekend we had to wait till Monday to clear customs.

We went ashore and walked into Matu Utu passing the Cathedral of Our Lady of Assumption. It was built of coral blocks and resembled a Norman church. Lights were blazing inside but no one was around. We walked onto a fairly large supermarket where everything seemed rather costly. The people of Wallis and Futuna Islands are French citizens and there is a strong reliance on subsidies and remittances, proof of this were the huge utes on a small island.

On the 15th August, was Assumption Day and Wallis is mainly Catholic so it was a public holiday and a big religious festival.

An army of pigs.

We decided to go and see the festivities, hitching a lift into town fairly early so as not to miss anything. We hadn't far to walk to the seafront where it was all happening. The sight that confronted us was probably one of the most grotesque we had ever seen. In front of the Government building were all the dignitaries and before them the chiefs of the villages with a huge kava bowl. Behind them in neat rows were enormous cooked pigs on their backs with their stomachs slit and legs in the air. They were mostly balanced on coconut baskets full of taro. There seemed to be an army of approximately 75 pigs. There was certainly going to be a feast.

The ceremony seemed to go on and on, there were speeches and then the making and drinking of kava. Afterwards there

was a procession of brightly dressed women, some looked enormous. They were wrapped in layers of tapa cloth, how they didn't faint in the heat and all the weight? Behind them came various people carrying rolled mats, baskets of vegetables and live pigs. All these were deposited in front of the dignitaries.

Live pigs are carried to the celebration.

The females proceeded to unwrap some of the cloth and sat down crossed legged in front of a row of males and the music began. There were interesting hand movements and singing, before long spectators started fastening money to the entertainers' hair. Some looked to have plenty of notes in their hair which we expected to start flying in the wind but it never did. By this time we needed to stretch our legs and wandered off, returning later to find it still continuing. Goodness knows when they all got fed. We were getting hungry and returned to the boat.

In the afternoon it started to rain and continued on into the evening, there were more celebrations going on but we decided to give them a miss. The weather continued to deteriorate for the next few days until the day we decided to clear customs and sail to Futuna. On trying to retrieve the anchor we found our chain had wrapped around a small sunken boat, no wonder we hadn't dragged in the blow.

Sigave, Futuna anchorage.

We had a lovely sail to Futuna and hove to for the night entering early morning. We were greeted by the sight of a large Canadian ketch on the reef, it had dragged in the recent blow. The owner had left to avoid the hefty fine. The anchorage in Sigave is very small and open to the south. We were there a couple of days and watched the ketch being stripped by the local chief and tribe, followed by the crew of a nearby yacht taking the roller furling and mast.

Time to head to Fiji.

HOW TO SURVIVE 6 WEEKS AT SEA WITH 4 CHILDREN

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.)

Lego mania!

Lego was something else we were glad to have aboard. Over the years we've collected quite an amount, kept in a large drawstring bag. For those cruising families with young *Lego* fanatics aboard, I have found that the best way to keep it under control is to cut a 1.5m (5ft) circle of strong material and put a drawstring around the edge. This then doubles a *Lego* mat.

We also had our fair share of rain. Who would have thought that we would be wearing oilskins in torrential rain so near the Equator? The mainsail proved an excellent raincatcher and I kept busy finding plastic food boxes and saucepans for the children to fill. The watertanks could hold no more and the cockpit was full of containers of all shapes and sizes.

Rebecca and Tom having fun in the cockpit.

Give children water and they will be entertained for hours; Rebecca and Tom spent a very wet and happy hour sitting opposite each other in the cockpit, dressed in their waterproofs, with a mug and a straw.

The most worrying part of the trip was probably the thunderstorm we got caught in. We'd been watching rain squalls and lightening all day, and had managed to avoid them, but late in the afternoon our luck ran out. The black clouds closed in and

we had torrential rain, thunder and lightening, though at least there was hardly any wind, so there were no big seas.

"Will we get struck by lightning?" The children kept asking, as they watched the flashes outside. With quite a lot of forked lightening around, we discussed unplugging the aerials. "Hurry up, Dad, before we get hit!" They were obviously concerned.

Tony disconnected the aerials from the VHF and LORAN, and hung our short length of dinghy anchor chain over the side from one of the shrouds in the hope that, should we be struck, the current would follow that course. It did help to allay some of the children's fears. The only thing that did happen was that we had *Saint Elmo's Fire*. It's rather alarming to see the top of the mast glowing in the dark, but we came to no harm.

When the weather improved and the sun came out, they often tied our No 4 Genoa to the guard wires and made a bath in which to cool off. Tony and I just had to stop them from overfilling it. I didn't think they were very aware of the extra weight they were bringing on board with all the buckets of sea water.

The No 4 Genoa made a nice bath to cool off.

We had quite a few special occasions on the long passage. The boys had their birthdays, we crossed 90°W and then 120°W, marking a quarter and then a third of the way on our circumnavigation.

And, of course, we crossed the Equator; this occurred at 22:41h on 29 April, and unfortunately, no one was really sufficiently awake to meet King Neptune. In fact, the children were all asleep and wanted to be woken up so they could watch the GPS change from North to South. Rebecca decided to stay in bed. Next day she wrote in her diary; "I was the first one to cross the Equator because I was further forward!"

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

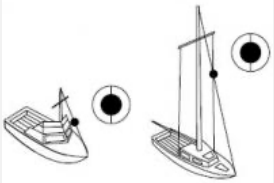
1. When should you limit your speed to 5 knots (pick 2 answers)

a. Within 50m of another vessel or swimmer
b. Within 200m of the shore, any structure, or vessel displaying a dive flag.
c. Within 100m of the shore any structure, or vessel displaying a dive flag
d. Within 100m of another vessel or swimmer

2. Where or when can you discharge your holding tank or flush your marine toilet straight into the sea?

a. At night time
b. Further than 500 yds off the shore or in water over 5m deep
c. When the tide is going out
d. 200m away from the nearest boat

3. When would you display this day shape?



a. When I'm motoring
b. When I'm drift fishing
c. When I'm anchored
d. When It's time for sun downers

4. Navigating in a channel, which side of the oncoming boats should you pass?

a. Upwind
b. Their starboard side to your starboard side
c. The side with most room
d. Their port side to your port side

5. …….tides occur when the sun and moon are at 90° to each other. This results in lower tidal ranges.

a. High b. Low c. Spring. d. Neap

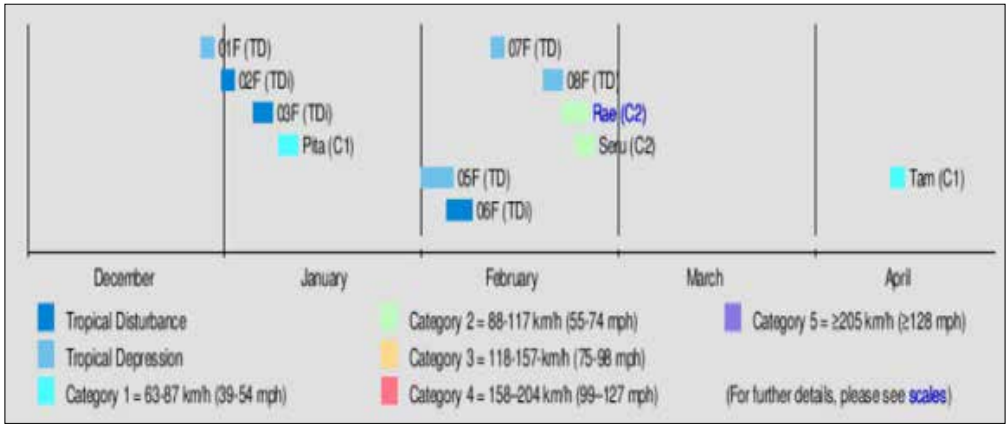
If you struggled with any of the questions or you want to expand your knowledge of sailing theory take the free eLearning courses at International Yacht Training.
https://www.iytworld.com/courses/course-types/elearning/

A REVIEW OF THE CYCLONE SEASON

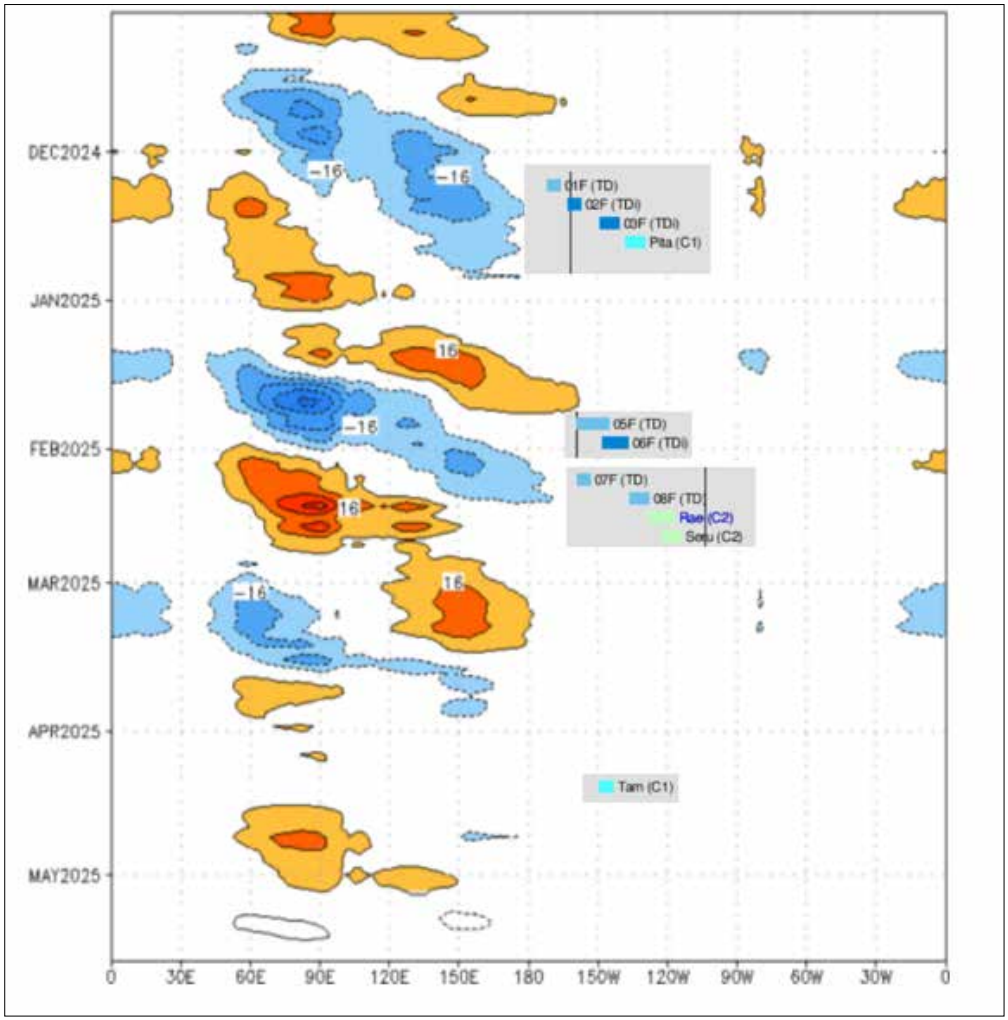
Cyclone *Tam* was the highlight of the recent cyclone season as far as New Zealand was concerned, as it deepened when it left the tropics and brought wind and rain damage, with severe power cuts especially around Northland.

And yet the 2024–25 South Pacific cyclone season was notably one of the least active seasons ever recorded within the South Pacific Ocean, specifically in the region to the east of 160°E longitude. The season, which spans from November through April, witnessed significantly reduced tropical cyclone activity when compared to historical averages. In total, only four named storms developed throughout the season—considerably fewer than the long-term seasonal average of seven named systems.

What made the 2024–25 season even more remarkable was that none of the four named tropical cyclones intensified into severe tropical cyclones, defined as systems reaching Category 3 intensity or higher on the Australian scale. This marked the first time since the 2008–09 cyclone season that the South Pacific basin failed to produce a single severe tropical cyclone. Historically, even relatively quiet seasons tend to feature at least one system reaching severe status, making this an exceptional and statistically rare occurrence.



The Madden Julian Oscillation MJO is a parameter we can follow to watch a pulse of extra convection as it travels eastwards across the tropics. We can compare the timing of these cyclones with the active phases of the MJO on the South Pacific which are shown here in Blue.



As you can see there is indeed an association between the active phase of the MJO and the occurrence of tropical cyclones. Even in a “quiet” year. Another adage that seems true is that a quiet year is followed by a busy year (due to the Quasi-Biennial stratospheric Oscillation, QBO).

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ANSWERS TO QUIZ - June 2025 (p 11):

1. a. Within 50m of another vessel or swimmer and b. Within 200m of the shore, any structure, or vessel displaying a dive flag.
2. b. Further than 500 yds off the shore or in water over 5m deep
3. c. When I'm anchored.
4. d. Their port side to your port side (stay on the starboard side of the channel)
5. d. Neap

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

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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 MAY WINNER is: Lee Deverell : "Yot hidden in 'Moorings Northland' advert. I enjoy being updated as to calendar events at the Ōpua Cruising Club."

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

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 2025

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

	Time	m		Time	m		Time	m		Time	m
1 Su	05:21	0.9	**9** Mo	05:50	2.2	**17** Tu	05:35	0.9	**25** We	00:30	0.9
	11:28	2.3		12:06	0.9		11:36	2.3		06:42	2.4
	17:32	0.8		18:35	2.3		17:44	0.9		12:54	0.6
										19:24	2.5
2 Mo	00:01	2.4	**10** Tu	00:28	1.1	**18** We	00:11	2.4	**26** Th	01:28	0.8
	06:16	0.9		06:34	2.2		06:25	0.9		07:38	2.5
	12:22	2.3		12:48	0.9		12:27	2.2		13:49	0.6
	18:25	0.9		19:17	2.3		18:34	0.9		20:16	2.6
3 Tu	00:54	2.4	**11** We	01:11	1.1	**19** Th	01:01	2.4	**27** Fr	02:23	0.8
	07:10	1.0		07:17	2.2		07:16	0.9		08:33	2.4
	13:17	2.2		13:29	0.9		13:23	2.2		14:41	0.6
	19:20	1.0		19:57	2.3		19:29	0.9		21:07	2.6
4 We	01:47	2.3	**12** Th	01:53	1.0	**20** Fr	01:54	2.4	**28** Sa	03:17	0.8
	08:04	1.0		07:58	2.2		08:09	0.8		09:25	2.4
	14:14	2.1		14:10	0.8		14:23	2.2		15:31	0.6
	20:16	1.0		20:36	2.4		20:28	0.9		21:57	2.5
5 Th	02:39	2.3	**13** Fr	02:35	1.0	**21** Sa	02:49	2.4	**29** Su	04:08	0.8
	08:56	1.0		08:40	2.3		09:05	0.8		10:15	2.4
	15:12	2.1		14:50	0.8		15:27	2.3		16:19	0.7
	21:11	1.1		21:16	2.4		21:29	0.9		22:45	2.5
6 Fr	03:30	2.2	**14** Sa	03:18	1.0	**22** Su	03:46	2.4	**30** Mo	04:58	0.8
	09:47	1.0		09:22	2.3		10:02	0.8		11:04	2.3
	16:08	2.1		15:31	0.8		16:31	2.3		17:06	0.8
	22:05	1.1		21:57	2.4		22:30	0.9		23:32	2.4
7 Sa	04:18	2.2	**15** Su	04:02	1.0	**23** Mo	04:45	2.4			
	10:36	1.0		10:04	2.3		11:00	0.7			
	17:01	2.2		16:13	0.8		17:32	2.4			
	22:56	1.1		22:40	2.4		23:31	0.9			
8 Su	05:05	2.2	**16** Mo	04:48	1.0	**24** Tu	05:44	2.4			
	11:22	1.0		10:49	2.3		11:58	0.7			
	17:50	2.2		16:57	0.8		18:29	2.5			
	23:44	1.1		23:24	2.4						

Times listed are N.Z. Standard Time

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June 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2 King's Birthday	3	4 Darts	5 Thirsty Thursday	6	7	8
9	10	11 Darts	12 Thirsty Thursday BINGO	13	14	15 NZ YACHT SERVICES Race 2 – 1pm Winter Series
16 Committee Meeting 5.30pm	17	18 Darts	19 Tradies' Thursday QUIZ	20 Matariki	21	22
23	24 OCC AGM 7pm	25 Darts	26 Thirsty Thursday BINGO	27	28 School Holiday Starts	29
30						

Please note, the calendar entries are correct at the time of printing; please check www.opuacruisingclub.co.nz for any changes.