

2016 Commodores Report

PART ONE - YESTERDAY

There are two items that stand out for me when I look back over my time as your Commodore this past year at the Russell Boating Club. I have been constantly reminded at the slow speed of bureaucracy, and the high costs of compliance. Maybe it is that the two go hand in hand. Those bureaucrats do need to be paid, but some of these new rules and regulations that they are now making us comply to, leave us wondering whether or not they have nothing better to do other than to ensure that they continue to get paid, which in some cases is way over the top.

That said, your Committee has had some considerable success's. The Slipway upgrade team has done so very well with the upgrade of our Slipway. Overcoming the hurdles that the powers that be have put in front of that team has been a tremendous accomplishment. It is proposed that this Slipway facility will be operational by the 9th of July, dependent on Regional Council sign off. We are now awaiting the arrival of an Engineers report. My congratulations to that team.

Our mast Gantry is operational with temporary restrictions in that we are limiting the size of vessels to those with a maximum weight of 6 tonnes. When the water warms up a bit we will add the extra bracing and then be able to accommodate larger vessels.

As to the pathway across the reserve to our Clubhouse, I personally, am very disappointed that we did not complete that mission. It was the one project that I particularly wanted to accomplish, but time has not allowed.

A very full Yacht Race calendar saw the yachting members of our Club have a very good year. The split in the Wednesday and Friday evening races to a before Christmas and after Christmas series proved very worthwhile. Even though we must have a handicap system, it was amazing just how close the results were after the handicapper had waved his wand over the fleet.

Those who ran the Tall Ships Event excelled as usual. Doesn't she do well. A little short on wind for the on water activity, but otherwise, a great day to be out there enjoying the Spectacle of Sail. The Hangi that evening (How do they do it?) was a great success. We got a bit panicky about the dry weather, but the rain man came a few days before and it was all on. Our Patron, Roy the boy, was on hand to see that all was as it should be. His final duty. It is the spirit and dedication that all of you in Russell, RBC members or not, that makes this event the success that it is. To all of you who gave their time, no matter how insignificant that you thought it might have been, from the on-water team, the breakfast and registration teams, the Hangi team, the Bar and merchandise and ticket / raffle sellers, whether in the Marquee or not, I, on behalf of the Russell Boating Club, salute you.

At this point I would like to thank all of our sponsors for their continued support. The principal ones being Cater Marine, Willis Sails, Omata Estate, Duke of Marlborough Hotel, Northland Spars and Rigging (Weekly Sailing), and Far North Holdings (Tall Ships). Their contributions have greatly added to the success of our past season.

We have seen this past season the successful running of the Short Ships event. An event that was conceived by our members and one that resulted in a different group of members, other than the everyday Sailing group of members, enjoying what our Club has to offer. It is events such as this that will ensure a positive future for the Russell Boating Club. The

Short Ships event saw those members with various forms of dinghies, waka's, and kayaks, have a great day. Again, many thanks to all the sponsors.

We have been very fortunate this year to have had the “soon to be World famous” Kororareka Ukulele Orchestra grace us with their presence. They have done this on a voluntary basis and we have assisted them in their purchase of a new sound system by collecting a koha for their time. We have a great rapport with this Orchestra and they enjoy their time with us. It would be great to see this relationship continue and I would request that the membership of the Russell Boating Club records their gratitude to the Kororareka Ukulele Orchestra

This past year your Committee identified a raft of maintenance the needed to be carried out. Immediate maintenance has been carried out but preventative maintenance has not been done for many years, and we are now suffering from that oversight. I would suggest that there is a real need for a Building Sub Committee to be added to Rule 10 of our Russell Boating Club Rules, such is the importance. Your Committee has appointed members to a Building Sub-Committee in the meantime. A complete closure of the Russell Boating Club is proposed and approved for the period 11 July through to 31 July this year to carry out urgent remedial repairs. Repairs cost money, and we have budgeted for the more immediate ones. We have further identified that there is going to be a requirement for considerable work to be carried out under the floor of our Clubhouse especially the replacement of some flooring, some joists, and reinforcement of some bearers. And with the forecasted increase in the tides about New Zealand, there is the need to at sometime raise the Clubhouse above its present position. We have been extremely fortunate that a member of the RBC has come forward to offer her expertise in Corporate Funding and to assist the Club in its activities to raise an amount of \$40,000.00 for the Building Fund that will go someway towards a final expense of much more. By raising this amount we are hopeful that it will prove to a prospective backer that we are serious in our endeavours.

PART TWO - TOMORROW

The upgrading of our Clubhouse must continue, and, with the formation of the 40K Building Fund now well under way, we should succeed. Time and Tide waits for no one, and it is my opinion that the rise in the sea level is surely going to rise.

For many years now, and I could suggest that from the very beginnings of the RBC, the RBC has been managed from Members from the Sailing fraternity. It has been these members who have steered our Club to be a predominately Sailing Club, and we have a highly successful and proud history as a result of this management. I particularly refer to the Tall Ships Regatta and those who have steered this event to the success that it is. The name of our Club is the Russell Boating Club. It is not the Russell Sailing Club. It is referred to locally as the Boating Club.

We now need to open up on the Short Ships initiative and look at events that would involve those with other interests in the Boating world. Those with runabouts, those with launches, those who would like to see some cruising options, or those who just like “messaging about in boats”. What about fishermen and a Fishing Contest?

For too long our Club has existed solely on the participation of those sailing members who race their boats on Wednesdays and Fridays with the occasional weekend race thrown in. This past year the Club has relied on those 17 Sailing members to keep our Club active. Your General Committee now appeals to all of our members, especially those whose interest in boating is other than just racing their yacht, to assist our Club's Management team by coming forward and offering their expertise and enthusiasm, and steering our

Club into the future and ensuring that the next 40 years will be as progressive and successful as the last 40 years.

Now that we are awaiting an influx of Power Boat members, I would request that all members are considerate and keep the outer side of the pontoon clear for the loading and unloading of transiting craft. We do have a sign requesting this, now is the time to observe this request.

On closing, I must ask members to consider what it would be for them to make themselves available to spend some time serving on the General Committee or one of the various Sub Committee's of the Russell Boating Club. Serving on these committee's need not be an onerous task. We all have our own lives to lead, we have work commitments, we have family commitments, but we should not forget our social commitments. They say that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Should there be a time in our "play" that we feel that we would like to see more people enjoy what we are doing, and at the same time, feel that we are able to contribute more to assist those people to enjoy what we are doing, then getting onto a Club committee is for you. You do not have to be an expert in what the Club is doing, but you will have expertise in something else that you do or have done. And to have a group of people like yourself with their considerable combined expertise and enthusiasm is what is needed for a Club to flourish.

Please also consider that you may have joined a Club for what it did and what it stood for, and because you liked what that Club's members were doing. You also may have joined so that you might enjoy the fellowship of others who have similar likes to you. And consider too, that when you joined that Club, that there was a committee running that Club to ensure that what you liked about that Club would continue. It is for that reason that you joined the Club, that every member of a Club should at some time of their membership of that club, consider serving on a committee of that Club, so that others too could appreciate the attributes that attracted you to the Club, and to ensure that the Club succeeds, just as all committees before you ensured.

PART THREE - TODAY

So it is with those thoughts from above in mind that I must thank all of those who have served this past year on the General Committee or various Sub Committees of the Russell Boating Club. Even though some had more time to offer than others, or less commitments than others, all had positive contributions to give and I appreciate their time and efforts. This General Committee was made up of a group that typified what I mentioned above, in that all had expertise in something else that they did or had done. Their diversity and their enthusiasm has made my time as Commodore that much more pleasant.

I have specifically left names from my Report in the fear that I may omit someone who deserved a mention. But it would be improper for me not to mention two members in particular. To Andrew Riddell and Simon Taylor, the Russell Boating Club is so much better off for what the two of you have done over this past year. Thank-you seems so insufficient, but on behalf of the Club, I do sincerely thank you. My sincere thanks also to Trish, Maddy, and Alice, for your patience and tolerance.

To those of you who I have not specifically named, but who have done so much to ensure the smooth running of the Club, and there are many of you, my grateful thanks to you all.

Antony Hanlon