

1983

RUSSELL BOATING CLUB: END OF SEASON ROUNDUP.

The season just past has been characterised by an active and well supported sailing programme, a moderately active social programme and by season's end, an increasing tempo of work on the club-house and facilities.

TALL SHIPS RACE For most members of the club, the local community and even the Yachting world in general, the most attractive and successful club event was the annual Tall Ships Race and the social event that followed. It was the eighth year this event has been held, and more than forty vessels started. This race has now become well established as one of the greatest sailing spectacle in the country. The successful formula for the race attracted a large fleet including the square-riggers Spirit of Adventure, the former Monaco royal yacht Deliverance and Breeze. It also attracted many spectators and considerable news media interest.

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RACING PROGRAMME The contest over nine races to find the winner of the two top trophies produced a popular win for Ray and Keitha Tait with their H-28 Kristanje. After years of consistent participation and a particularly even season, Kristanje took the Duke of Marlborough Cup for points over the series, and the Patron's Cup for consistent performance. Kristanje also took the Fullers Trophy for the long distance race around Ninepin and Bird Rock. Another successful yacht this season was Macushla, a mullety, belonging to and crewed by Roy and Jill Hornell. This old campaigner, aged 47 years and still going strong, won the James Wright Scott Trophy, the Friendship Cup and the Ladies Race Trophy, donated by the late Jim Bruton. Two yachts won two trophies each to reward their owners and crews for fine efforts. The Russell Cup and Cater Marine Trophy were won by Toriti, owned and crewed by Dave and Joy Hallow. Kumara, owned and skippered by Club Commodore Roy Grant, won both the Little Ships Trophy and the Russell Hardware Trophy. The other yacht to distinguish herself by winning a trophy, the Hassall Shield, was Reremoana, owned and skippered by Ron Hope-Lewis, making his mark in the first race of the season.

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SOCIAL PROGRAMME Highlights of the Club's social activities included Club nights, picnics in beauty spots around the Bay of Islands, and the annual hangi that follows the Tall Ships Race. Club nights were generally well attended and often drew complimentary comments from visiting yachtsmen about the Club's specially friendly atmosphere. Once again, the event which put most demands on the Club's resources was the hangi. All credit for a huge success must go to the band of volunteers who worked throughout the day, including Joe Cotton's "Hangi Helpers" (although Joe couldn't be there). The picnics often proved highly popular with small bays crowded with club launches and yachts. The venue was decided after considering the weather on the day and the conditions were usually either excellent or at least tolerable.

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ODDS AND ENDS *The Club has obtained a change to its liquor licence: it now permits the bar to be open 3pm to 9pm.

* The Tall Ships Race could make an even bigger impact on Russell community activities next year: The Russell Business Association plans a festival to coincide with the event.

* One from My Most Embarrassing Moment Dept: An enthusiastic Joe Cotton and crew was first yacht home in the Fullers Trophy Race but it didn't count. Apparently even with mainsheet in the teeth and knuckles white on the tiller, there weren't enough arms and legs on board Macushla to keep effective control in blow near Ninepin and the lads sensibly accepted a tow home.

* Another tale of valour at sea: John Grant, freshly out of hospital and proudly exhibiting an alarming piece of stainless steel formerly embedded in his hip, put up a fine father-and-son performance to win the Little Ships Race, John on the helm and Roy obeying commands.

* Club Slip Master Alec Stafford would like it known that as Civil Defence Intelligence Officer in the Russell area he would like to know what boats and crews may be available in an emergency.

* Another Embarrassing Moment: Two keen lads in a small boat acquired a glamorous three-girl crew for an overnight picnic at Orokawa Bay. It turned out to be a rare case of low-level support for the occasion and there was not one other club vessel in the Bay. Cosy? Not likely. Reinforcements desperately needed.

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FURTHER OUTLOOK

Winter work now under way is bringing improved facilities and a facelift to the club. Work in hand includes the purchase and installation of a new cooler for the bar, and Vin Hill has master-minded the construction of the new gang-way and plans for a larger pontoon. Much painting is also being undertaken. These activities should make things easier for club members, organisers and volunteers in the coming season. The continued support of Club members remains vital to the future of the Club.

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