



Mainsheet

27 August, 2017

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Commodore's Letter – August 2017

Hi everyone,

We've been managing to keep things reasonably active at the Club for a Russell winter, with solid turnouts for the recent Italian night, movie nights and club pool tournament, which was won by Simon Taylor. Coming up, we have more activities lined up to help pass the remaining winter days – make sure to check out the "Coming Up" section of this newsletter. One special mention here - for those that enjoyed Italian night, we have Sicilian night on the 1st Sunday in September, along with open mic – bound to be a big hit! Earlier this month, we sent out annual membership renewal notices. If you did not receive your notice, or have questions, please contact me. Prompt payment is appreciated, as this saves volunteer time following up with members.

While things have been mostly quiet on the water, there are a few things happening in Northland that affect boaties and the club. First, Northland Regional Council has sent out annual mooring invoices that now include a new \$79.50 biosecurity fee. I have had recent discussions with other northland boat clubs about this fee, and understand the Northland marinas are delaying payment of the biosecurity fee while they evaluate legal options. The new fee is just now being publicly notified, and there is a 15 day period where appeals can be filed. I have also had a couple substantive discussions with NRC over the past few days on

this topic as detailed in the separate “NRC Biosecurity Charge” section below. The Club is delaying payment of this new fee on our five moorings while we further evaluate the situation, and I am also personally delaying payment of the fee on my moorings. I welcome input from members on this topic.

Second, I attended the quarterly meeting of the Northland Yachting Association (NYA) last week. Prior to the meeting, and based on consultation with a number of others, I submitted RBC’s resignation from NYA based on the high annual association fee (approximately \$700), and lack of historic participation by the Club. Shortly thereafter both Kerikeri Cruising and Opua Cruising Clubs also submitted resignations. This resulted in a reconsideration of the purpose and structure of NYA, and a new, flat annual affiliation fee of \$50 per member club. This is appropriate as NYA does not need to have a significant cost structure. Also at the NYA meeting, Rob Heilkema of BOIYC was elected chairman. These are both great outcomes and I hope that RBC can become more involved with and supportive of NYA over time.

So many of you will be asking what NYA does? This is really determined by the member clubs and will likely evolve over time. From my brief perspective, there are several important roles that NYA provides:

- A common voice and shared efforts for Northland clubs in matters that affect all Northland boaties. Addressing the recently implemented marine biosecurity charge is an example where NYA should be involved in representing northland clubs.
- Facilitating Northland interclub regattas. Historically this has primarily focused on centreboard regattas. Opua Cruising Club will be hosting a **NYA BOI keelboat regatta** on 28-29 October.
- Helping support youth sailing programs in Northland.
- Helping support northland sailing competitors in national competitions.
- Providing a collaborative forum for northland clubs.

Lastly, on a personal matter, I have just had to leave for the US due to a sudden family medical emergency (outcome looks very good). This highlights how thin the current committee is, and the importance to the Club of filling the substantive committee roles. Lack of a vice commodore, rear commodore, permanent secretary/treasurer, etc, is not a sustainable state.

Well, I think that’s enough for now....except if you have any content for future mainsheets, please send my way.

Best
Jay Howell
Commodore
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Coming Up

Every Friday night	Game night at the Club
Thurs, 31 August	Bowling club hosts interclub games
Saturday, 2 Sept, 9 AM	Working bee, lunch provided

Sunday, 3 Sept	Sicilian night & open mic night
Wed, 6 Sept, 7 pm	Birds of a Feather – Seagull Motor Documentary
Thurs, 7 Sept	RSA hosts interclub games
Thurs, 14 Sept	Swordfish club hosts interclub games
	Your event here – suggest / plan a club event
Sunday, 17 Sept	Winter series race 4, noon start
Thurs 21 Sept	Bowling club hosts interclub games
Sunday 24 Sept	Special Performance by Bella A'Capella
Wed, 27 Sept	1 st Evening Race
Sunday, 1 Oct	Open mic night
Sunday, 15 Oct	James Wright Scott Cup & Annual Prizegiving
Sat & Sun, 28-29 Oct	NYA interclub keelboat regatta, BOI

Sicilian Night



The only thing better than an Italian dinner is a Sicilian one....

... Take an offer you can't refuse: Good home-made food with the flavours of Sicily and wines from the Mediterranean Sea

All welcome on Sunday 3rd of September for a Russell Boat Club Speciality Dinner and Open Mic Live Music Night

MENU

Mains

Pasta alla Norma gratinata -	Gratin Pasta with Ricotta, Mozzarella, Eggplant
Cozze alla Siciliana –	Mussels Gratin with Cheese, Anchovies, and Nuts
Bracirole di agnello con olive –	Lamb Chops with Olives, Anchovies, Fennel, Wine

*** Plus Arancine di riso , Cuscus, Sicilian Salad, Spicy Tomato Sauce...

Dessert: Tiramisu' Tradizionale – Home Made Tiramisu

Choice of Main+Dessert: 20 NZ\$ Kids' menu: 10 NZ\$

Plenty of Chianti & Limoncello at the bar (separately priced)

Join us from 5 pm for a drink, dinner at 6 pm – MATAUWHI BAY, RUSSELL

Working Bee – Saturday, 2 September - Lunch Provided

Install power stand in kitchen (electrical talent)

Install towel / soap dispensers

Secure flooring with nails

Inspect 1st aid kit – someone with 1st aid knowledge?

Research plumbing pressure knock – anyone with plumbing experience?

Install glasswasher – anyone with plumbing experience?

Make plug for drain hole behind bar

Bar chiller - mop floor

Wash ceiling, walls and oven hood in kitchen

Clean windows and dust

Re-arrange back store-room – swap fridge and freezer

Clean bar cabinets around glass washer

Reserve tidy-up

Haul any rubbish to tip

Clean attic

Set and maintain rat traps (traps needed)(see Russell notice board)

Pressure wash decks – someone with pressure washer?

Remove piling wood from dinghy dock

Fix pot holes

Wash Club Lasers & covers and inspect

NEWS FROM THE HIGH SEAS

Steven and Louise Dews reporting from their schooner "Wolfhound" (www.sywolfhound.com):

We are in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia at the moment.....we will be back in The Bay in October, hopefully. Meanwhile we have been enjoying the sailing up here even had a schooner race sailing against such wonderful schooners as Columbia...

We will be laying her up in Long Island NY for the northern winter.

We had some serious engine problems earlier and that took a big chunk out of our cruising budget and seven weeks out of our itinerary whilst it got fixed.

Through this, we had an enforced stay in New Bedford MA but the upside of the experience was that it showed we had been rushing our trip as we really got to know some great people there. We are now slowing down our schedule to allow us to absorb the flavour of the towns we visit. The further north we have sailed the friendliness, hospitality and warmth of the local people increases.



NRC Biosecurity Charge

Earlier this week, I had a lengthy call with NRC to discuss the new biosecurity fee being assessed on mooring owners. Copied below is the text of the introductory email to the NRC summarizing my thoughts with respect to the fee. Following this email, I have summarized some of the key points made by the NRC our discussion.

Text of Email to NRC:

As commodore of the Russell Boating Club, I have been getting questions from members and have been involved in discussions with other northland clubs about the new charge, and am trying to formulate what if any further position our Club should take. Also, the Club owns five moorings in Matauwhi Bay, and I personally own two moorings in the area.

I support implementation of preventative measures to stop the further spread of fan worm into Northland waters based on the following:

1. Potential the fan worm represents for irreversible damage to Northland's marine environment.
2. Expectation that the implemented preventative measures are more likely than not to be effective in the medium to longer term at preventing fan worm from becoming more broadly established in Northland's waters.

With respect to the above, I believe additional ongoing research and efforts to enhance public awareness are both important.

Needless to say, Club members I have spoken with are generally opposed to the new biosecurity charge and feel disaffected by the NRC on this topic. While I appreciate that NRC did make a change to a cost share structure, the resulting fee to mooring holders is still a substantial portion of the underlying cost of the program. I do not believe a reasonable case has been made by NRC on why mooring holders should bear a high portion of the cost. Considerations in this regard include:

1. The current emphasis on inspection of existing northland boats does not appear to be aligned with the risks posed by these boats. The majority of recreational boats kept in waters north of Whangarei stay in the local waters and are not moved in and out of fan worm infested waters. I understand that boats located in the Bay of Islands can become habitats for fan worm spreading into the area by other means, but think this is true of any underwater structures, and not just boats. It seems to me that once fan worm is identified on local boats that have not left local waters, then the battle has been lost, because it is likely established on other underwater structures.
2. The greater risk is from boats moving north from Auckland and Whangarei and boats coming into northland from overseas. Here, NRC needs to make a decision about the best approach. Options include some combination of certification prior to entering Northland waters, and inspection and/or cleaning upon arrival. Note that this only impacts the Northland boaties that choose to move their boats into and out of fan worm infested waters. The cost of this certification and inspection routine should primarily be borne by some combination of the boats travelling north and by the general public.
3. There has been increasing pressure for some time on the ability of the average northlander to keep and maintain a boat. While the new biosecurity fee is not so significant to the total cost of maintaining a boat, it does have considerable symbolic impact in this regard. It is important to support and not further undermine local boat ownership as an important longstanding part of northland culture.

Requiring mooring holders and marinas to pay for a substantial portion of the biosecurity cost sends the wrong public message about who is responsible for looking out for our environment. The message is that this is a boatie problem, as opposed to being an issue concerning all Northlanders. I do not think this is the message that should be sent with respect to protection of northland's marine environment.

The goal we are trying to achieve is to preserve New Zealand's natural environment for future generations. While I am generally sceptical of analogies because of the susceptibility to mislead, I suggest that analogizing to national parks is an appropriate way to consider the issue. To me a national park is an area that is set aside for preservation for future generations, and the public at large should generally pay the majority of the cost of the park system, whether they choose to visit the parks or not. However some of the

costs are also paid through user fees. The marine environment is a similar national resource in this regard.

Best

Jay Howell

Commodore

Russell Boating Club

Key Discussion Points Raised by NRC related to the above:

- Council has already heard arguments on all sides and made its decision for this year. Each year, Council reviews all fees, and to the extent there are ongoing concerns about the fee, these can be raised in conjunction with next year's fee review. Staff stated the fees for this year should be paid.
- NRC stated that their divers found fan worm in Matauwhi Bay on a boat that had not been out of the area. I mentioned that I had heard this had been a false find, but they stood behind the claim. I also mentioned that I thought finding fan worm in BOI should be a newsworthy event, but had not seen any news about this. They agreed. I would like to get more details on this apparent find as I have heard conflicting reports.
- NRC's biosecurity program is addressing more than just prevention of spread of fan worm. They are also focused on other invasive marine organisms already in the Bay of Islands, and on stopping these from spreading further afield.
- NRC is considering what they can do to make things easier for boaties. They suggested the possibility of trialling their inflatable in-water cleaning pool in Matauwhi Bay. It uses chlorine, which then naturally evaporates. Boats would take 4-hour turns in the pool which would kill all fouling. It accommodates boats up to 16 meters.

For more info see this [boaties-guide-to-marine-biosecurity](#)





Kitchen Assistant

Russell Boat Club is looking to hire a paid kitchen assistant to help in the kitchen on Club nights. This is a great opportunity for someone to get training and experience under the guidance of our chef, Shane Prescott. If you or someone you know is interested in this opportunity, please contact either Shane at the Club or Jay Howell at commodore@russellboatingclub.org.nz or 09 403 8537.

Secretary

The Club is also looking for a longer-term secretary as well as another committee member or two. Contact Jay Howell.

There are also many smaller ways you can assist the club. See our [“Volunteering” flyer](#) for details.

Club Historian - to write a history of the Russell Boating Club for our Club website (and maybe Russell Lights?)



Short Ends....

- Trip Advisor - Russell Boating Club now has a [listing](#) on Trip Advisor, so please comment on our food to help spread the word about Shane's wonderful cooking.
- Free internet inside the Club house now for members. Get the code from the Bar.
- The new NRC tide calendars are out - there is a stack at the entrance to the club, so don't forget to pick up a copy.
- If someone has spare garage space to store a hobby cat for the Club for few months, please contact commodore@russellboatingclub.org.nz
- Any spare garden fruit or vegies - let Shane know as he might be able to transform it into

something tasty!

- Interesting [report](#) on using magnets to keep birds away from a boat.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Our club house is a great venue to rent for parties, weddings, anniversaries. If you are interested in renting it. Here is [a form setting out the terms and conditions](#).

We offer a **CLASSIFIED AD SERVICE** for members wanting to buy or sell or rent anything nautical. Cost \$5 for up to 30 words, \$10 for 31-50 words. Images extra. For enquiries or to place an ad in the next Mainsheet email info@russellboatingclub.org.nz

We also repeat below ads from the calendar -- please support our advertisers.

Thanks to our race sponsors:		
	 Cater Marine Northland Spars & Rigging	 

From your Committee: Jay Howell (Commodore) commodore@russellboatingclub.org.nz; David Nicolson (Club Captain); Sandra Scowen (Secretary) info@russellboatingclub.org.nz ; Annah Evington, Barry Newland, John Seal, Kiki Nicolson, Steve Southworth

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