



Mainsheet

11 January, 2018

Commodore's Letter

Happy New Year Everyone!

It's been a busy holiday season at the Club with lots going on. We were delighted to host St Johns' annual volunteer Christmas party this year, with good cheer had by all. Then we hosted the children's Christmas party and a kids fun sailing day - wish I were a kid again. And New Year's Eve was hopping with great tune: and a special roast dinner.

Tall Ships was a big success again this year with a just right breeze - read all about it in the two accounts below. Thanks to the many volunteers who make this event possible each year, and a special thanks to the Hangi team for their amazing efforts!

The storm that came through on Thursday before Tall Ships and right on top of a spring high tide was rather interesting, but luckily the inside of the clubhouse stayed dry. Check out the photos below which underscore the importance of our 40K fundraising efforts.

We launch our updated summer menu this Friday, with a new special kids menu as well.

See you all at the club!

Best
Jay

COMING UP

Sunday, 14 January	Kids Nautical Fun Day – 4 pm, Details Below
Sunday, 21 January	Russell Ukulele Group & Two Handed Race
Wed-Fri 24-26 January	RBC Hosts Millennium Cup & BOI Sailing Week
Sat-Mon 27-29 January	Russell Hell Hole
Sunday, 4 February	Club Birthday Party & Open Mic Night
Tuesday, 6 February	Waitangi Day

Sunday, 11 February	Russell Cup Race
Saturday, 17 February	Club Cruise-out
Sunday, 25 February	Laser Regatta & Russell Ukulele Group
Saturday, 3 March	Short Ships Kayak / Rowing Dinghy Race

43rd Annual Tall Ships Regatta



Friday's big storm blew itself away, leaving a moderate sou-westerly for Russell Boating Club's 43rd Tall Ships Regatta, held Saturday 6th January. The sky was mostly cloudy but the sun peeped through now and again.

By 10am there were already pirates slinking aboard a certain square rigged ship tied up to Russell wharf.

The number of yachts manoeuvring for the mid-day start made us wonder how there would ever be enough food for so many hungry sailors and pirates, despite the vast quantities of hangi food the volunteers had prepared the previous day.

The most notable difference between this event and any other yacht race in the country was the variety of rigs competing. From the tiny clipper-bowed schooner - the American Lake boat Night Raider, through several junk-rigs, gaff-rigged sloops and schooners, ketches and yawls, right through to the terrifying presence of the gaff-rigged, square tops'l schooner R Tucker Thompson having her timbers well shivered by a motley crew of pirates, complete with hand-hooks, eyepatches, cutlasses and many a skull and crossbones. Under full sail their vessel was, as always, a breath-taking sight as she charged away on a course that took the fleet out past Tapeka point, around the Black Rocks, around Motuterahiki, then back across The Bay to pass between Motuarohia (Robertson Island) and Moturua, before turning for home via

Tapeka Point.

Among the most interesting of the rigs competing was the fascinating yacht Zebedee which has been visible cruising local waters recently. Zebedee is a thirty four foot plywood epoxy sailing dory. This may not sound so special, but the boat is also a junk rigged schooner with no engine and an inspiring history of single-handed globe-cruising voyages.

The spectacle created by all those characterful craft charging downwind together after the start, sent spectators time-travelling backwards in mind, to an age when all yachts sailed to the sound of creaking timbers and the smell of Stockholm tar.

The breeze remained useful all day, with gusts exceeding 20 knots at times, although some encountered a slow spot in the lee of Motuarohia.

And yes there was plenty of food for the hungry sailors afterwards. Clearly the organisers knew the culinary ropes as well as they knew the nautical ones.

As darkness fell and the party cranked up to the band in the big marquee, the volunteers who'd worked so hard at preparation phase, were already continuing their long list of post-race tasks, by shovelling earth back into the monstrous hangi pit with all the energy of a rugby team in training.

For this first time observer, the entire event was as much a symphony of community teamwork, as it was a celebration of traditional sail.

Tui Allen, Jacks Bay, Russell

[Race Results Here](#)







Tall Ships - A report from Happy Spirit II

Extracts from the log of Happy Spirit II

Sail number GB8323T, Master Captain Clive Carrington-Wood

Designed by (New Zealander) George Stead at Southern Ocean Shipyards in Poole, Dorset, UK, built 1984, launched 1988, GRP Schooner, length 60'

Wednesday 6 December 2017

Hurrah! We arrived on board and everything is shipshape and we are so happy to be back in NZ and our lovely home on the water. We're especially excited as we have a month to get ready for the #1 event in our sailing racing calendar – the Tall Ships Race at Russell Boating Club. Earlier this year, Saturday 7 January 2017, we came second in the Tall Ships class, and now we are “defending our title”. We first watched the race in 2014, just as we were buying HAPPY SPIRIT II, as guests of Steve and Sue Western. In 2015 we entered the race, which was the first time we actually sailed our boat – we hadn't even put the sails up before. We came last in our class, but we finished, and we have a Jim Beam bourbon cap to prove it. By 2016 we had worked our way up to the middle of the fleet – no prizes this time – but last year we had a good blow and we managed up to ten knots and stormed through the fleet. If only we can keep this up...

Monday 18 December 2017

Haul-out at Opua at high tide and OMG – we have a huge shag-pile carpet on our bottom. We can't possibly race like this! A really powerful water-blast got rid of about 90% of it, but there were still lots of pesky barnacles we had to scrape off. Ten hours later, as it was getting dark, we started looking a bit racy. Phew! Then we emptied the water tanks and used up the fuel, to be lighter and faster. We are taking this seriously

Thursday 22 December 2017

Another aspect of our preparation for the race – a Christmas drinks party, especially for the great and good at Russell Boating Club. We always heard that if you would like to do well in a yacht race, you must buy lots of drinks for the Commodore. It has worked for us in the past!

Tuesday 2 January 2018

Things are happening – we saw the Commodore and lots of helpers building the hangi in the field by the clubhouse. Exciting!

Thursday 4 January 2018

Bit scary. Wind came up. Was around 45-55 knots over-night. Was very hard to sleep and our boat was rocking around alarmingly. I even packed a grab-bag with my passport and smart phone and credit cards in case we sank! But after much praying we survived – I think?!

Friday 5 January 2018

Back in the club to go ashore and meet friends from UK flying out to join us for the race, and we saw half a dozen ladies packing hangi food; the marquee going up; and the portable toilets being moved into position. Mounting excitement!

Saturday 6 January 2018

Race day dawned and we were glued to the weather forecast on Russell Radio. We were afraid the wind was dropping too much, but luckily it was expected to be 20-25 knots – this would suit us fine – and get us back on the winners' podium! Our nine crew/guests assembled on board, bringing Coronation Chicken sandwiches, Cornish pasties and Summer Pudding tart, with gallons of wine and beer. The boat's master attended the race briefing and brought back the course details and notes. We checked our charts and everyone put on our Happy Spirit polo shirts. Again, no-one could accuse us of not taking this race seriously!

Then, just after half past ten, disaster struck! We started our engines and left our mooring – at Mill Island, near race start line, and headed towards the fleet assembling off Russell. As Captain Clive wrote in his log: "left the mooring only to discover that the steering was jammed. Went full astern and managed to re-secure the mooring. Dived to search for an obstruction, none found. Brute force and ignorance seemed to free the steering. Then set sails and let go the mooring, but quickly discovered that the steering remained obstructed. Might have been connected with the bad weather we had just experienced. Around 11.30 made the decision to abandon the race and returned to the mooring", as the boat was heeling dramatically and the four ladies on board were showing distinct signs of distress.

We then radioed LADY CROSSLEY and regrettably informed the Committee that HAPPY SPIRIT II was no longer racing.

Postscript - subsequent investigation discovered that the constant banging and flapping of the rudder during the recent storms caused the bearings at both the top and bottom of the shaft from the steering wheel down to the rudder arm to disintegrate! Owing to the age of the now obsolete rudder system on board HAPPY SPIRIT II the process of dismantling it is currently proving problematic... But thanks to help from club members - Adrian, Steve, Simon and Tommo - who rallied around to help - we are getting there!

Happy Spirit II (Steve Westin)





Nautical Fun Day



Knot Tying & Games

Free Event

**Russell Boating
Clubhouse Deck**

Sunday 14 Jan18 @4pm

*Food for young
pirates available*

**Bar Open
Sunday Roast
Dinner \$15 or
Full Menu Available**



Spring High Tide on Thursday, 4 January





Kids Fun Sailing Day - 31 December
We pulled our club opti's and lasers out for the kids to enjoy....









Club Open Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from 5 pm

* Visitors Welcome *

FROM THE GALLEY

From 6 pm - Summer 2018

BAR SNACKS

* Baked Mussels Gratin	\$ 9
* Seafood Chowder Cup	\$ 8
* Bowl of Fries or Fresh Chips	\$ 5
* Seasoned Wedges with Sour Cream	\$ 7

MAINS

* Fish and Chips	\$14
* Seafood Chowder Bowl with Garlic Bread	\$14
* Bakers Dozen Baked Mussels Gratin	\$15
* Mussel Fritter Stack with Sour Cream & Sweet Chili Sauce	\$15
* Chef's salad - Prawn or Roasted Vegie	\$16 / \$13
* Risotto - Prawn or Vegie	\$16 / \$13
* Fish of the Day with Burnt Butter Sauce and Seasonal Vegetables	\$15
* Baked Salmon with Coriander Crust	\$18
* Oven Roasted Lamb with Potato Mash	\$18
* Twice Roasted Pork Belly with Mashed Potato and Pickled Vegetables	\$18
* Scotch Fillet Steak with Mushroom or Green Pepper Sauce, Potato and Vegies	\$24
* Sunday Roast Dinner (Commodore's portion + \$5)	\$15

DESSERTS

* Sticky Date Pudding with Ice Cream	\$8
* Vanilla Ice Cream with Choice of Sauce	\$5



Lost and Found

Lost - one green and pink gennaker belonging to Commodore in 8 meters of water of the Russell Wharf a couple weeks ago.....

Found - Big thanks to Justin for successfully fishing it up with a grapple hook.

Other Events

Bay of Islands Swim / Run Race - 15 April

Check out this cool swim / run [course from Waitangi to Otehei Bay](#) being put on by [BRECA Bay of Islands](#). They are looking for local boats to help with the event - see [further details here](#).

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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.

Hi I am looking for a boat doing a passage to Great Barrier Island who will have room onboard for a 3 metre dinghy. Happy to do a trade If interested, to discuss further please contact Michelle, sailingholidaysnewzealand ph 0272067580.

From your Committee: Jay Howell (Commodore) commodore@russellboatingclub.org.nz; David Nicolson (Club Captain); Ros Kelly (Secretary); Barry Newland, John Seal, Kiki Nicolson, David Scoffham, Annah Evington, Jack Dustin

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