

Bilgewater

July 2019



In memory of Kevin Bolton (57)



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Committee Members

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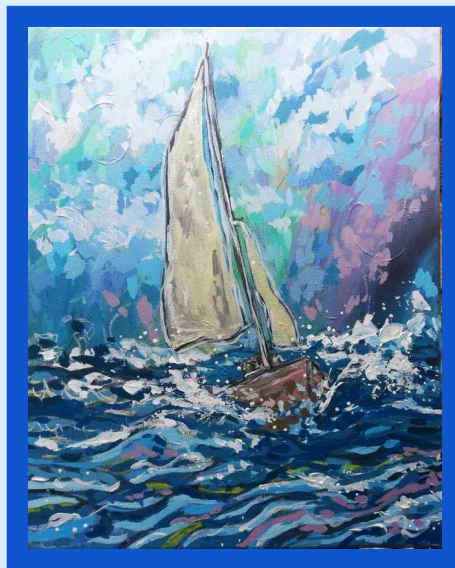
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Editor's Note

As the new editor I could not be more aware of the large shoes/spinnaker bag I am stepping into. In my brief membership the Bilgewater has been a community builder, full of fun and passion, salty sea stories and tips and tricks for new sailors and timely reminders for veterans alike. There will be a few stylistic changes as I find my groove and test the limits of the grammar checker.

Rummaging through the editors dropbox account it is clear that we have been very fortunate to have had Dustin at the helm, navigating the Bilgewater with skill and enthusiasm. If the midnight timestamps on the completed editions is anything to go by there is plenty of work ahead. Please send through any content or suggestions they will be greatly appreciated. Finally join with me in tipping the hat Dustins way and I look forward to seeing his Youtube channel fill with a fresh wind.

Mark



Sea of Dreams

<https://www.reddit.com/user/behappyandfree/>

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Commodore's Report

For those of you who couldn't attend the squadrons AGM in June, below you will find the Commodores report.

*Presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Waikato Yacht Squadron
Held at the Hamilton Yacht Club on 25 th June 2019*

Introduction

I can't help but laugh to myself when I look back to the AGM in 2018 when I happily accepted the nomination to be Vice Commodore. Little did I know, that I would be filling much bigger shoes by the end of the night..... thanks Dean.

The last year has been a VERY steep learning curve for me. One that has taken me out of my comfort zone many times. In case you were not aware, public speaking is NOT one of my favourite things. However, I must say it has been a privilege and an honour to represent this Squadron and I thank you all for giving me this opportunity.

Committee

There's a surprising amount of work that goes on in the background to manage the 'business' of a Yacht Squadron and it takes a team of dedicated people to get that job done.

I was fortunate enough to have the best committee anyone could hope for, by my side. Jim, Nigel, Murray, Brett, Keith, Russell and Wayne - I can't thank you enough for the tremendous effort you have all displayed over the last year. We have all spent time in each other's homes working our way through the meetings desperately trying to stick to the agenda. At times, opinions and emotions would run hot but nothing that coffee and cake couldn't fix.

Subject of course to re-election, committee is planning further developments, two of which (Handbook, and constitution) we'll introduce under general business.





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Events

Once again we were all treated to a full calendar of events running from the Kawau island race in October through to the Prize giving dinner on the 15 th of June.

I think there was something for everyone to enjoy, whether you're a hard-core racer, a cruiser or simply enjoy a catch up with friends on an island beach.

I'd like to thank Dean Herrmann for organising and running the Safety tuition classes both here at the yacht club and on the water. These classes are fantastic for new sailors and are always well attended. Each year the feedback from attendees shows that the format is spot on and of course it helps that Dean REALLY knows what he's talking about.

Without a doubt the standout event of the year for me was the Gulf Classic. Mother Nature decided to intervene with some brief but spectacular wind and rain which tested both yacht and skipper.

We also ran the Mercury Bay Cruise which gave everyone the chance to expand their sailing ground knowledge. It was certainly nice to be able to finish each day with a sundowner aboard Royal Flush.

The '2 nd Annual Waikato Yacht Squadron fishing extravaganza and beach BBQ' also appeared to be a hit with a great turn out and a huge selection of fish for dinner.

Membership

The club is in good health, with over 80 active members. The fleet includes 19 keelers and 55 trailer yachts. We also welcomed a dozen or so new members, with their families, several of whom featured in the prize giving evening for various achievements. New Members keep our club healthy and yachting growing, and we look forward to welcoming more families in the coming year.

Bilgewater

As many of you will be aware, Dustin will be stepping down as editor of the Bilgewater after a two year reign. I wanted to take this opportunity to recognise his efforts and thank him for all he's done to upgrade and modernise the publication.

Change is never easy, but I believe the new format and medium is change in the right direction. Distribution via email and using .PDF has reduced costs, made for quicker delivery and allows for more sophisticated content. We did float the idea of moving all content from the Bilgewater, to purely online using Facebook but the feeling from the club was to leave it as is.

Conclusion

I believe the club is in a good position moving into the next season. We have a strong membership that continues to grow, the compound remains at near capacity and we are financially stable. We are delivering on our objective to "encourage and support safe family sailing - both cruising and racing".



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I'd like to once again thank the committee and the club members for their support and patience and I look forward to sailing with you all in the future.

Thank you.

Paul Weaver
Commodore

