

**April 2020**

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## FROM THE QUARTERDECK



**A Report from  
The Commodore  
Geoff Evans**

My apologies for the delay in getting the DYC Newsletter out to you. What a month! There has been so much change. At the time of writing, it's Day 11 of the lockdown and with the change in routines, the days are somewhat blurred. So, here's a summary of some of the events related to helping run DYC in the Covid-19 Alert Level 4 environment.

At the time of our latest committee meeting (17 March) government closed the border, requested all people over 70 to stay at home and limited gatherings to under 100. The committee discussed the

possibility of temporarily closing the Clubhouse but elected to keep running and monitor the situation closely. We thought that the single-handed race scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> April would be an ideal opportunity to self-isolate!

Two days later the DYC Seatalks went well, though to a much smaller audience. We sailors were focussing on preparing for the 3- Handed Gulf Rally running over three days from Friday that weekend. Jane and I had decided to race this year. However, with rapidly escalating concerns about Covid-19 my school decided to start online teaching that Friday, and I had to be on hand to help the teaching team. Instead, I volunteered to be on duty at the club for Friday night meals (20 March). It was a lovely evening, plenty of good cheers, lots of meals ordered from the caterer, though many of our regulars and visitors were in the over 70s category. That Sunday evening the Flag Officers with the agreement of the committee decided to temporarily close the club. It was upsetting to inform the membership by email. Then, the next day the government announced the escalation to Covid-19 Alert Level 4.

This has upended so many aspects of life and led to an uncertain future for many of us. So, there is a lot to work through. We've temporarily closed all Clubhouse



operations, sailing and other events, contacted all our suppliers, and had painful discussions with Kirsty who manages the bar staff, clubhouse bookings/ functions and so much more, and with Matt our caterer from Platters Restaurant. We've also put on hold some of the other initiatives the committee were working on. Nevertheless, we continue to fly the flags. The Flag officers are managing this for a while and will invite the under 70s on the roster back into operations soon. This morning the flags were flying magnificently!



*(Photo – Geoff Evans)*

We hope you received the Latest News email message from Emma Cliffe and Mark Clough who are leading the club's efforts to reach out to all our members, especially to our older or less connected members. We are keen to offer any help we can, be it as simple as keeping in touch or going to the shops, etc. (see the letter in full just below).

Our household bubble consists of Jane and me with our two cats. I'm teaching online using Zoom meetings and Jane

has contract education work so we're busy weekdays. Our daughters Emily and Melissa are living in their own bubbles with their (expanding) families just up the road, so we meet on Narrow Neck beach once a day (of course keeping our bubbles at least 2 meters apart). The fabulous weather has somewhat softened the blow from the loss of some of our personal freedoms as it has provided more opportunities for runs, walks, enjoying the beaches and friendly smiles, and cycles down to check the boat (now discouraged by the Bayswater marina management). We've been very impressed with how well the local New World continues to provide service; thanks John Ashton (DYC member, supporter and sponsor)!

The DYC management committee will continue to meet regularly on Zoom and will actively plan for the reopening of the club at its earliest opportunity. We could even contemplate virtual club nights for members using Zoom Meetings.

As the well-worn expression, 'every cloud has a silver lining' implies, there are some benefits to the environment resulting from the current lockdown. The bird life seems to be enjoying the peace and quiet it's easier to hear their song. The fish life will benefit from the reprieve and increased life span, and the Hauraki Gulf should benefit from less sedimentation, fishing effort, and those mussel beds should get an opportunity to multiply!

Stay in your bubbles, keep well and enjoy the golden weather while you can. The forecast for the Easter weekend looks less clement!

Best wishes,

Geoff Evans



# DIRECTORY UPDATE



A warm welcome to our newest members.

New Member	Member Type
Gary Paton	Ordinary Membership

## Stay at home but don't be alone.

Dear valued member of the DYC. Well it's fair to say that we are currently living in unprecedented times and we are conscious that everybody will be trying to cope with it in their own way, day to day. As members of the same community, and in fact the same Yacht club, we have a duty of care to check in with our friends and members and ensure that everybody is safe and well.

With this in mind, members of the general committee have offered to 'touch base' with our members **and particularly with those in the higher risk categories.**

If any of you need help in any regard, then please make contact.

Maybe you'd rather have someone do your shopping because you don't want to risk a supermarket trip?

Maybe you're living on your own and would just like someone to have a nice chat to occasionally?

Maybe you're feeling a bit anxious about the whole situation and sharing your feelings would help?

Whatever your reason or need we'd like to offer you our assistance.

Emma Cliffe and Mark Clough will be coordinating these requests so please feel free to either email or call Emma or Mark on their contact details below.

Don't be too proud to reach out, we're all in this together!

Stay safe and kindest regards  
DYC General Committee

Contact:

Emma Cliffe e: [emmaaw@me.com](mailto:emmaaw@me.com)  
m: 021 172 8454

Mark Clough e: [mark@platform29.co.nz](mailto:mark@platform29.co.nz)  
m: 021305707



## Keep in touch on Facebook

Keep in touch through our Facebook page! While we're all in lockdown and not able to socialise in person, it's a great time to follow us on Facebook. Here's how: sign up to [www.facebook.co.nz](http://www.facebook.co.nz) if you haven't already, then search for 'Devonport Yacht Club Social Committee' and either 'like' or 'follow' the page. We'll be posting updates, photos etc, plus you can make comments too - so we can all keep in touch.





## Club Financial Management

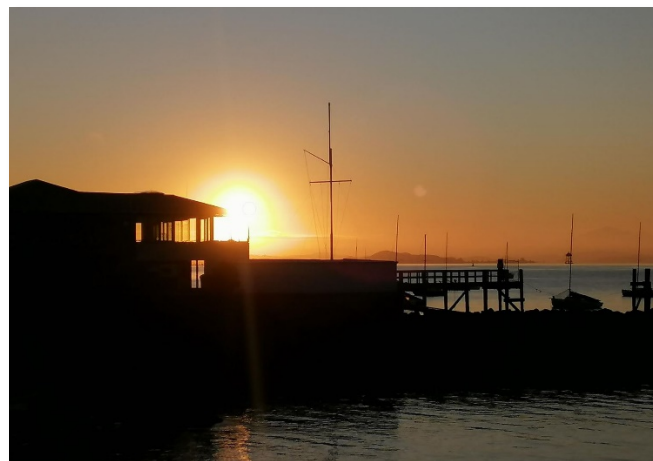
Many members might be wondering how financially secure the club will be while it is shut down during the COVID19 pandemic. The good news is the balance sheet is strong with current assets of approximately \$150,000 versus current liabilities less than \$10,000. The current assets include approximately \$140,000 in cash. We have no long-term liabilities.

Our Treasurer has completed an estimate of all the "fixed costs" expected to eventuate in the next 12 months, i.e. utilities, insurance, consent and licence fees, administration, costs, etc. These arise regardless of whether the club is active or not and are estimated to be approximately \$50,000, which is easily covered by our existing cash reserves. So even if we had to shut the club for a whole year, we would still be solvent.

Instructions have been issued to our non-essential service providers to suspend their services. A bar stocktake was completed prior to the national lockdown and no further stock will be ordered until we resume trading.

Grant applications for the proposed refurbishment of the club kitchen are being progressively submitted. A decision on whether to proceed with this project will not be made until the outcome of these applications is known - around June this year. The committee will take into account the prevailing COVID19 situation and our trading position before making a decision to proceed or defer the project.

From the treasurer Grant Daniel



Sunrise at DYC (Photo – Mike Strong)

## Report from the Clubhouse Captain

As you are aware, the clubhouse is closed and will remain so until the Covid-19 pandemic is over. Internally, the downstairs hall area has recently been painted and the Sir Peter Blake lounge area rearranged to provide both lounge and bar stool seating. The lounge area is very limited in terms of space and so we are looking at further options to maximize the best use of this area.

Design plans for the kitchen upgrade and costings for the upgrade have been finalised for grant funding purposes. Four grant applications have been made to various organisations. We expect to hear back from these organisations in the next few months – providing of course that they are still operating. Thank you to everyone who provided input to the kitchen upgrade plans including at the club's open forum late last year.

The upgrade option the committee has chosen, considering the feedback received at the open forum, is to upgrade both the main kitchen and the kitchen annex. This includes new stainless-steel benches, new wall, floor and ceiling linings, lockable shelving, a new dish sterilizer and new fridge/freezer appliances. These works are necessary as the kitchen is "shabby" and overdue



for renovation with the appliances nearing the end of their life expectancy. The total costs of the upgrade works will be \$98,000. The committee resolved that this would be paid out of a combination of grants (\$30-\$40,000), existing club funds (\$40,000) and additional fundraising activities (\$20-30,000). It is important to note that whether the kitchen upgrade proceeds is dependent on grant funding and the unfolding pandemic. No final

decisions have been made by the committee and are unlikely until approximately June at the earliest. If all goes to plan, the works would be undertaken in September this year – in time to serve the new sailing season and events associated with the America's Cup.

Tony Bullard

## Notices to Mariners



### **Local Notice to Mariners:**

#### **Notice: 19 – 20 Covid-19 – Important information for mariners**

This local notice to mariners is issued in line with government guidance regarding the Covid – 19 Level 4 restrictions.

All mariners are advised that **all non-essential boating must cease** while the level 4 restrictions are in place.

In addition, please be advised that:

- All on-water events (such as yacht races and swim events) have been cancelled.
- The Harbourmaster's office has reduced capacity to respond to maritime hazards whilst the level 4 restriction are in place. Therefore, all mariners are asked to navigate with extreme caution during this time.
- People living on vessels are subject to the same Level 4 lockdown requirements as those living ashore.
- Vessels at anchor must remain in the same location during Level 4 unless it is unsafe to do so.

This notice is valid until further notice.

If it becomes necessary to conduct a rescue at sea for someone not complying with these requirements, Coastguard volunteers are placed at unnecessary risk and an additional strain is placed on emergency services. Please don't be selfish!

The Harbourmasters office thanks you for your cooperation in these unprecedented times.

Andrew Hayton  
**Auckland Harbourmaster**



## Stay at home and off the water!

Here are two links to interesting Radio New Zealand discussion programmes related to the issue of boating in Great Barrier Island in the lockdown.

[https://www.rnz.co.nz/audio/player?audio\\_id=2018741360&fbclid=IwAR0W\\_HQPiL0Djaw\\_XZu7tx8GpKACvmzoH\\_RKVNgphZwVH4fWfYWYnRSOry4](https://www.rnz.co.nz/audio/player?audio_id=2018741360&fbclid=IwAR0W_HQPiL0Djaw_XZu7tx8GpKACvmzoH_RKVNgphZwVH4fWfYWYnRSOry4)

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/sunday/audio/2018741576/off-the-grid-life-on-great-barrier-island-during-lockdown> from RNZ.



(Image supplied by Grant Daniel)

The image above shows some of the AIS plots of craft in Great Barrier Island





Rear Commodore Blair Cliffe and Social Officer Emma Cliffe maintaining suitable dress standards on the last day of opening 22 March 2020



*(Photo – Geoff Evans)*

## **Police managing social distancing on Cheltenham beach**

The scene below was witnessed by two of our Yacht Club members on day before the lockdown. This is calling out for a caption competition!



*(Photo – Geoff Evans)*

## Roger Giles - RIP



Long time DYC member Roger Giles died on 14 March 2020, aged 78, after a short illness with cancer. In 2010 the Variety Artists Club of New Zealand granted him its Unsung Hero Award. But to many, not just the DYC and folk club communities, he was an unsung hero. To all who knew him, the great kauri of Takarunga – Mt Victoria – had fallen.

For nearly 50 years Roger Giles was a virtual godfather of the Auckland folk music scene. His masterly MC work and support of the Devonport Folk Club and the Auckland Folk Festival was legendary, as was his Devonport community work and his dedication to the environmental care of Mount Victoria/Takarunga.

*(Adapted from*  
<https://www.audioculture.co.nz/people/roger-giles>)

Here's the death notice from the NZ Herald

GILES, Roger. Passed away peacefully on March 14th 2020. Much loved by his partner Hilary and family. Loved father to Sam and Emily and grandpa to Nina and Selma. Loved and always fondly remembered by his family in England. Roger lived life to the full, was a friend to all, and will be sadly missed by old and new friends. The family are planning a wake in Roger's honour at a time to be advised.

<https://notices.nzherald.co.nz/obituaries/nzherald-nz/obituary.aspx?n=roger-giles&pid=195735691>



## Dismasting 101 A Re-Master Class



*Spray II* was cheerfully reaching north on the Friday afternoon of last year's Coastal Classic, about five miles north of Cape Rodney, under reefed main and No 2 jib, when after a loud bang aft most of the mast appeared alongside. A steady 30 knot breeze preceded a gust which others elsewhere reckoned approached 40 knots.

'All hands on deck!' brought up a bemused crew from below, one brandishing a hacksaw. After half an hour of bobbing uncomfortably in the short chop, all rigging, sails and spars were secured without damage to vessel or crew, and we started motoring toward Omaha Cove/Leigh, fortunately on starboard tack as *Spray's* prop is offset to port.

The cause? In hindsight, over-canvassed for forty knots and the plate holding the bumpkin bobstay under the counter had pulled out; yes, I should have checked the signs of movement in the five screws, which proved to have been inserted in the join between the after ends of the garboard planks. You live and learn.

A Coastguard vessel from Kawau was alerted by Lisa's phone, VHF seemingly out of range. With the choppy seas making a tow too dangerous, they kindly stood by to give us a lee. A few hours later we thankfully picked up a buoy in Omaha

Cove. It could have much worse, say at midnight off the Cape Brett light. The Saturday was spent in Leigh untangling and then doing 'jury service' a la Peter Blake. Mike Strong rigged temporary ratlines up the remaining lowers to fit rope fore and back stays, along with halyards.



Grandson Mukai re-joined ship on Sunday and we set off for home via Kawau. Mike and Mukai enlivened the voyage by trying combinations of smaller sails upside down and we finally made about two knots before the northerly died on Monday afternoon.



The remnant mast was plucked out in, of all places, Milford Creek, courtesy of Jason Prew of CYA and his team. A mast trailer borrowed from Yacht Spars of Kumeu got the pieces of mast to Kevin Johnson's workshop in Wynyard Street. Suggestions of a new aluminium and shorter mast from certain quarters were studiously ignored. Kevin located a source of scarce oregon pine in Whangarei, just sufficient for him to skilfully refashion the hollow central section of mast with I Chad Thompson came to the rescue with a short length of mainsail track from *Prize* to make up a mystery gap. Mark from Allardino in Wynyard Street produced a new and wider plate for the bumpkin bobstay. After a few challenges refitting the spreaders, we proceeded with some twelve coats of ALLWood [Euroxys] varnish.

Mukai's concerns about cracks in the bowsprit were confirmed by exhumation of fist-sized rot. Extracting the 'sprit after decades of paint and varnish required a sustained pull from an electric winch across D pier, thanks to Bruce. Kevin did a masterful dished scarf on the top of the bowsprit with the last of the oregon. He was not impressed with my proposal to walk the mast along to the club slipway, so we mobilised Boat Haulage's truck to back into the workshop and used the Hyab crane to lower the stick into *Spray* on the eastern slip. I was grateful that several club members turned up to help with the rigging setup.

I also took the opportunity to renew the main halyard, foretopmast stay and though somewhat unnecessarily, the main shrouds; the later are in good condition and are free to a good home. Thanks to this fantastic team effort, we launched mid-January in time for a shakedown sail and a successful Anniversary Regatta and the Classic Yacht Regatta in March. Yet another lesson learned the hard way, and great examples of the support and goodwill offered by fellow yachties and our clubs.  
John Duder

## Images from 3-Handed Gulf Rally



(Photo – Grant Daniel)



(Photo – Grant Daniel)



(Photo – Grant Daniel)

## Greetings from the Starting Team



After the start of the Rocky Bay race on March the seventh, the starting team helped long-time member and ex-long-time Starter, Glenn Graham enjoy his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday, which was on that day. Organized by Marge Ward, she proved some cupcakes, including one with some candles for Glenn plus some fresh coffee for all. A pleasant half hour followed.

Glenn served the Club as Starter for many years, when we were starting races from Devonport wharf, and he and his assistant, Fran Webster, had to carry a flagpole and flags from the Club down to the wharf and back, every race. He retired from the Starters position some years ago, handing over to the current Starter, Bill Cole. However he still regularly comes down to assist, and it is Glenn who watches the line for any early starters!

So, we all owe Glenn a big vote of thanks for his years of volunteering. Thanks Glenn!

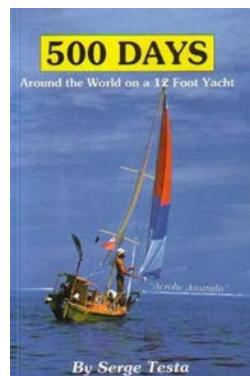


## DYC library

The books reviews below have been supplied by our club librarian, Colin Tubbs. We hope to be back in business as soon as possible!

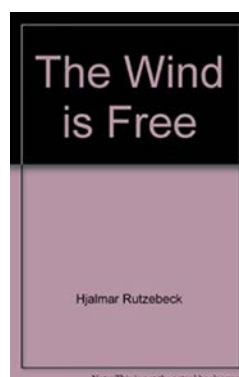
### 500 DAYS AROUND THE WORLD IN A 12 FOOT YACHT      SERGE TESTA

This is an account of an epic solo voyage around the world, a story of remarkable courage, skill and endurance.



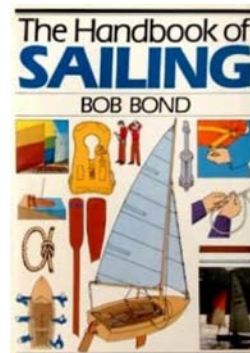
### THE WIND IS FREE      HJALMAR RUTZEBECK

The autobiography relates to his ten years spent aboard square riggers - Danish, German and Norwegian clipper ships. The authors astounding adventures are fraught with danger. It almost appears that he courts trouble with shipmates, officers and women of all types.



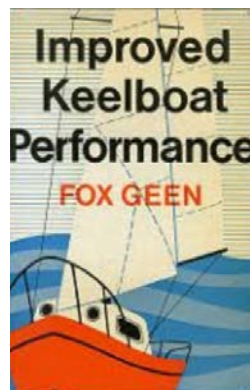
### THE HANDBOOK OF SAILING      BOB BOND

This is an invaluable source of reference for the more experienced sailor who may need to improve and update his technique, as well as those who are thinking of taking up sailing .



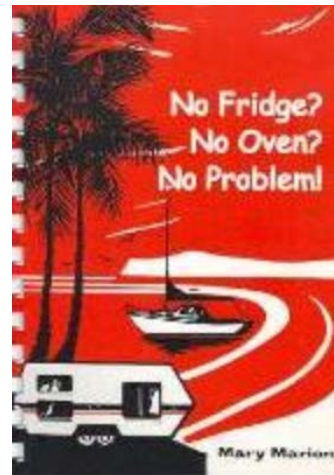
### IMPROVED KEELBOAT PERFORMANCE      Alfred FOX GEEN

The author offers a comprehensive range of practical hints on improving keelboat performance by attention to and modifications to sailing, rigging, hull trim, rudder, keel and propellers.



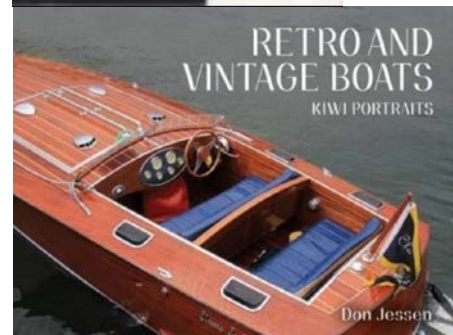
THE SAILING AND CAMPING  
COOKBOOK MARY MARION

One can produce a roast beef dinner, bake a fruit cake and bread, all on a two burner stove, once you have read this book.



RETRO AND VINTAGE BOATS – KIWI  
PORTRAITS DON JESSEN

New Zealand has an incredibly rich maritime history and many old boats are alive and well and are still plying our coasts and inland lakes, from time honoured clinkers, picnic boats, steam launches, runabouts, cabin cruisers, jet and speed boats of our earlier years to a small selection of vintage and replica launches.



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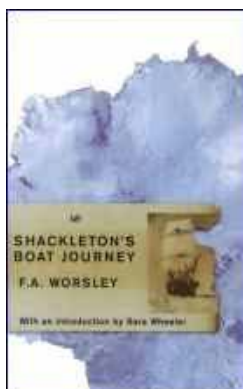
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HOURS: 7 DAY BREAKFAST / LUNCH 7:00AM - 4PM  
DINNER: WED - SUN 5PM - LATE

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## Book review



### SHACKLETON'S BOAT JOURNEY

By F. A. Worsley. Paperback,

This boat journey has been described as the longest and most arduous small boat journey on record.

Captain Frank Worsley was a New Zealander who was also the Captain of Shackleton's ship Endurance. He was selected to accompany Shackleton and three others on the 800 mile boat journey because of his superior navigational ability, his considerable experience in sailing and handling small boats, and his great stamina, strength and positive attitude.

It is a miracle that the journey succeeded, concluding as it did with the crossing on foot of South Georgia to summon help from a whaling station. This has only been accomplished once since then, by expert climbers using modern equipment and starting from a fitness base of rest, excellent health and proper feeding.

Worsley was known as an excellent storyteller and his book is an absorbing narrative.

**NZ\$40.00 + Delivery**

