

#### August 2020

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#### FROM THE QUARTERDECK



A Report from The Commodore Geoff Evans

This is my final 'From the Quarter Deck' report for the newsletter as my term as Commodore ends at the Annual General Meeting on 18 August. As written into the club's rules; Flag officers serve two years as Rear Commodore, two years as Vice Commodore, and the final two years as Commodore. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Flag Officer and can confirm the club continues to be run successfully and is in good heart. And it is appropriate for me to thank those who make it so.

Firstly, a hearty thanks to Peter Strathdee, our president who despite living way up at Gulf Harbour, has attended most of our committee meetings, providing good advice and guidance on governance. And, thanks to fellow flag officers, vice commodore Hugh Pollock and rear commodore Blair Cliffe who have provided great support.

My special thanks to the club officers and their sub-committee members. Andy Mason and the sailing committee have steered us through another successful sailing season. Yachting is our core activity, our reason for being, and with good management and good calls Andy and team have run an enjoyable sailing programme with a great range of events, that has attracted good fleets, providing members with a lot of challenges and fun. My favourites are the cruising races, because it is neat to be out on the water, staying overnight in Hauraki Gulf anchorages and share a BBQ on the beach. It is heartening to see newcomers to the fleet and their crew. Of course, Covid-19 meant our sailing season was somewhat curtailed so we missed out on some of the later races, such as the Easter cruise. Because of the lockdown Andy and the Sailing Committee were unable to run the traditional style of prize giving, and this is now planned to coincide with the Fitting Out evening in October.

Thanks also to Emma Cliffe and the social committee for managing the social events programme throughout the year which support our yachting focus, such as the Rocky Bay Ball. New events this year have included Murray Forbes' Lockdown Virtual Quiz (using Zoom) and the Midwinter Dinner with carols! They have also run more raffles, particularly at the Friday night meals, catered so well by Matt at Platters and these evenings are very well patronised.

Special thanks go to our treasurer Grant Daniel who has managed our financial resources with skill and integrity and piloted us through Covid-19 lockdown. As you will hear at the AGM we weathered this challenging period with our finances in good shape. It's also pleasing to report our membership continues to be strong.

As a result of Covid-19 haulage was somewhat delayed but, thanks to Nigel Wilson and the haulage team, we now have 20 yachts up on the hard for winter haulage this year. It's intriguing to see their teamwork and ingenuity, and this often delights passers-by. Nigel says he is very happy with the involvement from this year's skippers. Haulage remains a big call on our repairs and maintenance spending, but it is important that this activity is well resourced.

The clubhouse has been ably managed by Tony Bullard, juggling maintenance, security, cabling, managing compliance issues and is overseeing the planned renovation of the clubhouse kitchen. Covid-19 has meant that local body funding has been curtailed. Despite this we're still hoping to go ahead with the project.

Our site master Ken Smith has kept the fixtures and fittings and the yard in good shape. He has managed two successful working bees in the year and the haulage

yard and buildings continue to look good and fully functional.

After many years Nelson Webster passed on managing the flag raising team. The team continue to hoist the flags (even through lockdown!) in the appropriate way ---ship shape and Bristol fashion.



(Photo - Geoff Evans)

DYC Communications has survived last year's retirements and has been able to get the weekly Latest News emails out and the Monthly Newsletters out in a reasonably timely fashion (as PDFs on the website). Sorry to say, getting hardcopies out via mail has recently become impossible. We're desperately looking for more help in this department!

We've continued to have excellent presentations at our monthly DYC Seatalks, and these are well supported, and much appreciated. It's rewarding to hear our presenters share their expertise, experience and passions.

And it was with great sorrow that we had to farewell our previous bar manager Tim Ridge

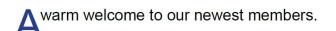
last September. Hugh Pollock has temporarily stepped in and has been ably assisted from bar staff business manager Kirsty McPherson who has continued to successfully manage the clubhouse bookings, events and the bar staff, and huge thanks to our caterer Matt and his team from Platters who provide such good fare every Friday.

Some of the issues our club expects to be facing in the coming year include planning for

the America's Cup; upgrading the kitchen, refurbishing the haulage trolleys, boosting our revenue in a challenging fiscal environment so we can improve the service and support to you, our membership. Thanks, and see you at the AGM.

Best wishes, Geoff Evans

#### DIRECTORY UPDATE





New Member	Member Type
Alec Brown	Associate Individual
Simon & Marie Webster	Associate Family

#### THE INTERVIEW

Kevin and Sue Johnson on the event of their semi-retirement

Kevin was born in New Plymouth and came to live on the North Shore the age of 7, went to the local schools then to Rangitoto College, and started sailing Frostbites and Sunbursts at Narrow Neck. Sue was brought up in Birkenhead, the eldest of 7, and went to local schools then Westlake Girls HS. They met when she was just 18 and he builders 19 at the Milford Hotel. He was then apprenticed to John Gladden at his boat yard in Milford and Kevin was building his own boat, an Alan Wright Nova, in his grandma's back yard in Devonport. At the time, Sue was working in a marine supplies shop in the city, and with the potential of getting some good discounts they were bound to get on! Kevin's tutor at Boatbuilding College was Alan Wright and they have remained friends ever since.



Sue, Kevin and son Andrew pictured at the decommissioning of Kevin Johnson's Boatbuilders yard 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020 (pic – David Barker)

Kevin and Sue were married 4 years later. Sue has a thing about dates, so Kevin never forgets their anniversary (on 20 Nov!), and they have in the same property on King Edward Parade (just down from Devonport Yacht Club) ever since! The newlyweds established Kevin Johnson Boatbuilders, initially in Wynyard St in the premises now occupied by Firefly, building Sterling 26 footers. As with the rest of the boat building industry they only just survived the Muldoon government's boat tax. Later on in 1981 they bought the land where their factory building is currently located in further down Wynyard St. The original house on the site eventually had to be demolished to get the boats out (see pic) and in 1993 the factory proper was built. Some of the launches Kevin both designed and built. One of the owners came back a couple of years later to say he had a problem with his boat...that it was too small and wanted Kevin to build a bigger launch, a 46-footer. This was twin engine, planning hull and cedar core to keep the weight down. There was a series of power cats designed by Angelo Lavranos, GRP hulls moulded in Tauranga, and trucked up to Kevin's yard for completion. Some of these were shipped overseas.

The business has been very enterprising, with new builds including power cats, power tris, a series of Lavranos keelers. The last new build completed was an Alan Wright Lotus 10.6, two skin kauri about five years ago. Kevin says it has been so satisfying seeing boats through to completion. Since then it has been mainly maintenance, refits and rebuilds.

They had been mulling over the decision to get out of the business. Son Andrew served his apprenticeship with them but he recognised there was a limited future for boat building in New Zealand and is now a police officer. Kevin says 50% of those in the industry have walked away from the industry.

So, Kevin and Sue have decided to rent out the factory building and will semi retire. He says he will have plenty of work on and he'll still do safety inspections for YNZ (Cat 1, etc.). He's been doing that since the inaugural *Two-Handed Round North Island Race* in 1977. The idea for the race was Sir Peter Blake's experience in the *Round* Britain *Race* and Martin Foster's experience of sailing around New Zealand in his yacht Truant). The boats had to be up to Cat 2. Still current! Back then he was one of the youngest inspectors, and today, he's still one of the youngest!

Kevin first joined DYC in 1968. He had a Hartley 18-footer that he raced with the club and hauled out each winter, then he had a Stiletto, John Spencer 25 hard chine keeler. Then he built an Allan wright Nova 28 which was when Sue came on the scene. Kevin served on the committee in the 1980s and was Commodore 1990-91 and has served as Safety Officer every year since 1977.

Sue soon became involved in the running of the club. She was young, a women's libber and in her view it was a pretty sexist establishment with women having little say in the management. She recalls women being rostered to make the teas and coffees for the men during winter haulage, and then being expected to do all the washing up afterwards! To stop her grumbles Alan Kemp persuaded her to come onto the committee and do something about it. So she became clubhouse captain and decided to change things. So on a haulage day she rang the bell, got all the men inside and taught them how to make tea and coffee. Some of the menfolk were not amused! John Woollacott used to call her the Mini Maggie Thatcher, the Iron Lady! Sue has since been on nearly all the sub-committees (except haulage!) and was then encouraged to become a flag officer.

Being a Flag Officer involves 6 years of service; two years as Rear Commodore, two years as Vice Commodore, and the final two years as Commodore. Sue remembers that she joined the Flag team was when Bob Jenner had just pulled out. This was the time when plans for the clubhouse renovations were being considered, and she knew she needed to have a strong and able team to finally get the project under way. David Stone was persuaded to re-join the Flags to chair, John Ford came in to replace Sue as Rear Commodore, Matt Kemp was in charge of the money, Donn Roberts the architect and Mark Sigglekow as project manager. Everyone worked well together and saw the project through to completion. Sue and Kevin became Life Members of the club in 2013-4 in recognition of their many contributions to the club.

Kevin and Sue had a series of sailing boats in the early years, but they've owned their present boat, Marie Therese, now for over 27 years. She was built in 1968, the biggest boat John Gladden had ever designed and built. She was rundown when they bought and they got her for a good price, particularly when the vendor understood that it was Sue that signed the cheques. She was berthed at Westhaven until the leases came up, then for a while she was up at West Park, but that marina became the worst investment the Johnsons' had ever made. She has been in Bayswater for quite a while and it's getting pretty pricey, and the reason why Kevin will carry on working! These days their sailing is mostly cruising round the Gulf, up to and sometimes beyond the Bay of Islands. But no plans to go further.

In earlier years Kevin managed to sail offshore a few times, crewing on the Noumea Races on Odysseus and then Fiji on a half tonner, which he said he would never do that again as the boat was too small. On that race

they broke a rudder and were 'missing' for a few days. Then they sailed the first DYC Devonport to Nelson race in 1986. This was inspired by a group of club members at the bar discussing plans to cruise the Marlborough Sounds that turned into a full-blown race including some real racing machines! Apparently, the reception by Nelson Yacht Club was amazing.

The decommissioning of Kevin Johnson Boatbuilders concluded last week. This included their garage sale. Kevin was surprised how many bought yachting gear such old anchors for their gardens rather than yachting. And there is still a lot of gear for Kevin to sort now stored in their garden! In contrast their Shed Party on Saturday was magnificent with a lovely crowd, apparently over 130 people over the afternoon. There was lots of drinks, nibbles and lively company to enjoy. David Barker kindly sent a couple of images (see above and below).

So, their hopes for the future include a long and happy semi-retirement, with the grandkids, and Kevin will his boatbuilding; but now working out of his van and mostly at Bayswater. With his skills he's guaranteed lots of custom, particularly from DYC club members.



(pic – David Barker)



#### STATE OF THE HAURAKI GULF

What effect did the Covid 19 lockdown have on the precarious state of the waters of the Gulf and hence the bird life? Clearly there were few if any of the swarms of highspeed fishers heading out at weekends during Levels 3 and 4.

A Herald article on 10 May covered a report from the Neureuter family, who own and cherish the Noises Islands. They were thrilled to see more little blue penguins come ashore, more birds nesting and more rays in the shallows.

Tom Logan reports a recent classic "boil up' east of Kawau, and no problem in getting a fair-sized limit bag.

Kirsty reports greater activity seen on her dolphin /whale watching tours; rays waiting in Westhaven for no fish cleaning scraps, Owha doing very well on her winter cruise to Whangarei and back, and even dolphins up at Riverhead.

Sounds like the old days. Just a few indicators of the effects of eased fishing pressure, also from the commercial sector??, or was that considered an "essential service"? Hopefully that message is getting through to the Ministries charged with the enactment of the Hauraki Marine Park Act 2000 and currently awaiting a report from the Ministerial group review of the 2017 Sea Change Report, Tai Timu Tai Pari which set out 16 well thought out Action points, since stalled.

Just before Lockdown the Hauraki Gulf Forum published its 2 prime goals, to get 20 % of the gulf under some form of protection e.g. Marine Reserves, and to get 1000 km 2 of Kaimoana seabed protected from dredging etc.

We await news on action on the Forums recommendations. If a country can be locked down for months, why not a Gulf? Did you know that the Marine Park extends round to Pauanui i.e the whole of the Coromandel peninsula, and that the Hauraki catchment and all its cows extends south to the latitude of Rotorua? (words - John N Duder)



And in an email received in July from Alex Rogers, Executive Officer, Hauraki Gulf Form:

You'll be pleased to know that at our May meeting (held over Skype due to the lockdown) we upgraded our goals for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. They are now:

- At least 30% marine protection
- Restoration of 1000sqkm of shellfish beds and reefs
- Riparian planting of the catchment
- Ending marine dumping near the Gulf





#### **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/roge
r-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.

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

#### Roger Giles service

Hilary, Sam and Emily are pleased to let our friends know about the celebration we plan for Roger. We have booked the Devonport Yacht Club for Saturday August 15th, with finger-food catering and a bar.

The evening will start around 7pm-ish with the New Orleans Joymakers Jazz Band as people arrive, then invited people will share an anecdote/song. If anyone would like to take part in this, please let us know.

Mainly though, we are hoping to keep things pretty informal and have a bit of a shindig and a whisky or two to remember Roger.

The evening will be videoed for the family overseas.

We would love to see you there. Indications of attendance would be useful to give us an idea of numbers.

If it will be difficult to attend this event, there are plans to hold a memorial concert at the Auckland Folk Festival in 2021.

https://devonportflagstaff.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/july17devflagsmall.pdf



#### ADDITIONS TO THE DEVONPORT YACHT CLUB LIBRARY

These books are from the library of Jon M. Foreman, a yachtsman from Auckland (*Aronui*) who collected them with passion over the years. They are now deposited in the library of the Devonport Yacht Club thanks to the generosity of his wife, Jennifer. The dates which follow the title of the book are those of first publication, while the date in brackets is the date of the edition.

First editions, therefore, show only one date.

List compiled by Ian Free.

Around the World in Wanderer III, 1956 (1966)

Atlantic Cruise in Wanderer III, 1968

Beyond the West Horizon, 1963

Come Aboard, 1978

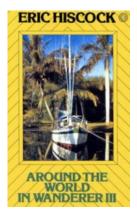
Cruising Under Sail, 1950 (1960)

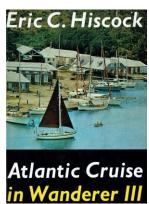
Sou'West in Wanderer IV, 1973

Two Yachts, Two Worlds, 1984

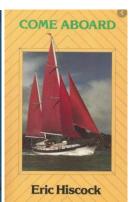
Voyaging Under Sail, 1959 (1966)

Wandering Under Sail, 1938 (revised and enlarged 1948)

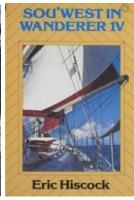


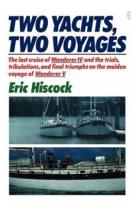










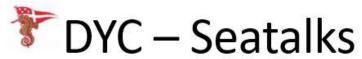




#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**



The 'One Outstanding' screening is at the clubhouse on Thursday 13 August at 7.30pm. This is a 60-minute documentary about the fierce battle between Steinlager 2 and Fisher & Paykel in the 1989-1990 Whitbread Round the world Race. Tickets are \$15 per person, to raise funds for the NZ Sailing Trust. This will be combined with a presentation of a Sir Peter Blake painting by Kevin Johnson, which is being donated to the club by DYC life member Colin Tubbs.





#### Classic Yacht Association New Zealand

The CYA is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. Back in the early 1990s few would have imagined that it would be the organization it is today. Back then, the "old clunkers" were changing hands for very little. Wannabe custodians were viewed as if they had lost their marbles and their friends suggested they enjoy recreational sailing on some other vessel; any vessel other than a tod old yacht. Today the CYANZ consists of 320 members and 250 of their yachts.

Devonport Yacht Club's Chad Thompson, one of the founders, and Rachel Orr, the Association's Vice-Chairperson, will be talking about the founding of the Association.

7.30pm Thursday 20 August 2020 All welcome. The club bar will be open



**BRING YOUR BRAINS TO** 

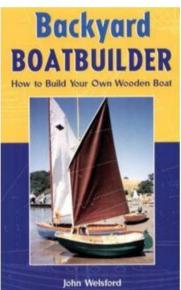
## THE DYC QUIZ NIGHT SAT 29TH **AUGUST**

**1900 HRS FOR 1930 START** PRIZES FOR BEST **DRESSED & BEST NAMED** TABLES + SPOT PRIZES

Join us for a fun night to raise funds for DYC social events. Tickets \$10 per person from the bar. BYO cheeseboard.

### TDYC - Seatalks





#### John Welsford - small craft design

Marine designer, past tutor in marine and automotive design at Massey University, boatbuilder, sailing instructor, boat show presenter, adventurer, liveaboard, river caretaker, author.

How did all that come about for a <u>pretty average</u> guy with a family and a mortgage?

"It was a hobby that got out of control!"

7.30pm Thursday 10 September 2020 All welcome. The club bar will be open

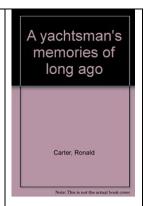
#### **DEVONPORT YACHT CLUB LIBRARY**

The books reviews below have been supplied by our club librarian, Colin Tubbs.

#### A YACHTSMAN'S MEMORIES OF LONG-AGO **RONALD CARTER**

The author has selected the best of the articles that had previously been published in SEASPRAY between 1946 and 1956.

All are written in a delightful style that exudes the joy of sailing and the feeling of a boat cutting through the waves in a brisk breeze.



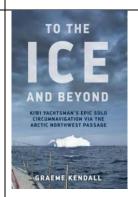
#### WING OF THE MANUKAU T. B. BURNE

This is the story of Thomas Wing, master mariner, cartographer, harbourmaster and harbour pilot. It also includes a comprehensive history of the maritime development of the Manukau and the key role wing played in that development.



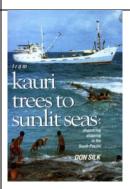
#### TO THE ICE AND BEYOND **GRAEME KENDALL**

This is the story of accomplishing a boyhood dream. A story of determination, meticulous planning and immense courage. Alone in his purpose-built yacht ASTRAL EXPRESS, he crossed 28,000 miles of 32 oceans and seaways, across the most terrifying seas. He became the first person to sail the northwest passage east to west solo nonstop.



#### KAURI TREES TO SUNLIT SEAS **DON SILK**

Shoestring shipping in the South Pacific recounts Silk's adventures when vessels were bought and sold, rebuilt and wrecked. Cargoes of coconuts and corn beef, pineapples and pearl shells were transported along with beach combers and Mormon missionaries complete with their bicycles.



#### **Stories from the Cockpit**

Over the coming months I will include some humorous old nautical sayings, which will intrigue all and offer an explanation as to their origin.

**Chock** - Sudden and usually unpleasant surprise suffered by Spanish seaman.

**Circuit Breaker** - An electromechanical switching unit intended to prevent the flow of electricity under normal operating conditions and, in the case of a short circuit, to permit the electrification of all conductive metal fittings throughout the boat. Available at most novelty shops.

**Clew** - an indication from the skipper as to what he might do next.

Companionway - a double berth.

**Course** - The direction in which a skipper wishes to steer his boat and from which the wind is blowing. Also, the language that results by not being able to.

**Crew** - Heavy, stationary objects used on shipboard to hold down charts, anchor cushions in place and dampen sudden movements of the boom.

**Cruising** - Fixing your boat in exotic locations.

CR Leech ED\*

Past Commodore



# Can you tell your J's from 12 Metres?

Winged keels from twin? Grinders from cyclors? Your Lexcens from Schnackenberg's?

With the America's Cup fast approaching we are on the look out for volunteer guides with a keen sense of history and an eye for the interesting plus a bit of story telling flair for our newly developed America's Cup Tour.

To find out more, pop in or email us at: volunteering@maritimemuseum.co.nz



#### Letters to the Editor

a belated thanks for your review of The Boat Drinks Book - and how I found it

Fiona Sims <fiona@fionasims.com>

16 Jul 2020, 22:26 (11 hours ago)

to me, webmaster

Morning Geoff,

Greetings from Blighty!

I am the author of The Boat Cookbook, and The Boat Drinks Book - the latter you kindly reviewed a while back in your newsletter when it was published (see link below)....anyway, how I came across your review should tickle you - and I wanted to pass it on, with a belated thanks, and say hi...I was researching my family history (well, what else to do in lockdown?!!) - my great, great, great grandfather was a boat builder in Devonport, establishing his business, Sims & Brown, in 1865...I was trying to find out more about the boatyard and the ships he built and just searched using key words 'Devonport' and 'Sims' and 'ship builder' together and your review popped up! My father, Peter Sims, a keen sailor all his life - and the inspiration for

my books - wanted me to drop you a line...it amused him greatly...so a wave from us both across the oceans!

Glad to hear NZ treating this pandemic correctly...it's all a bit of a mare in the UK, but at least living on the Isle of Wight throughout means we were shielded from the worst...

Best wishes,

Fiona





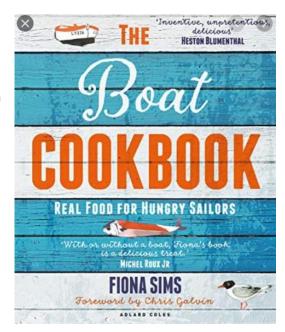
#### **Book review**

#### THE BOAT COOKBOOK.

By Fiona Sims. Paperback, 160 pages, colour photos. **2nd Edition 2019** 

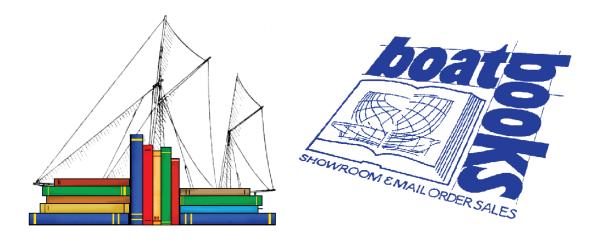
Subtitled "Real food for Hungry Sailors", this 2nd Edition of The Boat CookBook is designed for anyone with a tiny galley kitchen and an appetite for fresh, gorgeous food.

For anyone with a tiny galley kitchen, there's good news: no more bland leftovers aboard. These delicious and easy recipes, all made with minimum fuss and maximum flavour, will allow you to spoil yourself in harbour and keep things simple at sea – not to mention rustle up a mean rum punch. With handy ideas on setting up the galley, a lazy guide to filleting mackerel and tips for hosting the perfect beach barbecue, this is the musthave guide for sailors and seaside-lovers alike. Scattered throught this book are lots of hints, tips and bits of lore.



With wonderful photography and beautiful hand-drawn illustrations, this will be an invaluable addition to the food lover's kitchen or galley.

#### \$43.00



Boat Books Ltd 22 Westhaven Drive Westhaven Auckland 1010

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