CHAIRPERSON REPORT 2022

Covid 19 dominated the headlines and events throughout 2021 and the Bay Week committee continued with planning for the next regatta in January 2022. This would be the 20th regatta and time for a celebration. In the final few months of last year more and more events were being cancelled, and in November the committee decided that the 20th regatta would have to be postponed. Options were discussed as to how the regatta could be run as a racing only event with no shore-based activities. We also had to think of our many volunteers as we did not want to put them at risk. New Zealand is now living with Covid and recently more restrictions have been lifted so planning for the next regatta will start gaining momentum after our AGM in June.

We are extremely grateful to our valued sponsors who have supported us over the years, particularly CRC who has been our naming sponsor. Sadly they will be moving on elsewhere and we wish them well for the future. Bay Week relies heavily on sponsors and funding from other sources. This has meant that we have been able to keep our entry fees at a reasonable cost. Everything is increasing in price – fuel costs, hire equipment, security, transport to name a few, and as a result the committee will be increasing entry fees for 2023.

Without our many volunteers the regatta would not happen. Some have been coming back year after year to help on the water and behind the bar. There are also some who come and help set up the marquee – assembling the bars, putting out tables and chairs, hoisting flags, putting up banners etc. The regatta owns all the racing equipment needed and this is stored in a 20ft container which has to be emptied ready for use. Setting up for the regatta takes place on Monday and Tuesday before racing, and help is always gratefully received if only for an hour or so. Saturday morning is pack up so again help is always appreciated.

Lastly the regatta is not possible without my dedicated committee. Nine of us meet every month, usually via Zoom, to plan and make sure that all is ready for January. However no one is going to stay on the committee for ever. We are always looking for new people to come and join us. That way the load is spread and new faces bring new ideas. John Grant has decided to step down at the AGM. For many years he has had the task of finding committee boats, chase boats and the 24 or so volunteers to run these boats and help the race officers. Thank you John for all you have done. Tony and I have also been on the committee for many years. 2003 – 2009 when we set up the regatta and saw it grow from 37 boats to over 100. We then took a break for a few years and came back again in 2017. There are now other things that we would like to do and so will not be seeking re-election at the AGM. If you would like to be more involved with the regatta and see it continue to grow and ensure its future please get in touch. Bay Week needs you.

Once again thank you to everyone who has supported us and seen the regatta grow into one of the largest and best in the Southern Hemisphere