

BAY of ISLANDS SAILING WEEK 2023

Chairpersons Report

Firstly, welcome to everyone who has taken the time to come to the Annual General Meeting for 2023.

Well, what can I say. What a year, to take over as chairperson of New Zealand's biggest multi-day keelboat event along with Cath standing down as our very hard-working administrator. Cath has put so many hours into making this event what it has been over the last number of years. She was the person who went out and hunted people and organisations for funding. Without this money we would not be here at present. Cath also went out and found her own replacement, Evita Zarina. Evita is a local from Russell, and has a background in event management. Welcome aboard Evita. Thank you so much Cath as you hand over, but we know you will still be around as a volunteer.

It was the worst weather we have experienced at this event in 20 years, but we did get at least two days of sailing in. Everyone did their utmost to make sure that we could produce on two of the days. Unfortunately, we were not able to sail on the Friday, but we did manage to have a prizegiving.

Thanks to the committee team and others who managed to gather a great number of items for a "lucky draw" each night. I feel that this brought competitors and volunteers back to the bar area after sailing each day.

Lessons were learnt from the incidents that happened during racing this year. The committee, as well as Yachting New Zealand and Maritime New Zealand have undertaken a full debrief of all the incidents and how we went about managing them.

From the debriefs, the committee is producing a new "Emergency Safety Plan", which will be published before next year's event.

The biggest news I have at present is that the event headquarters is moving to a new home base.

I approached the Marina Company, to see if they had any vacant land that could possibly use to base the event from. Because of this, I am pleased to say that next year the event will be based on the grass area in between the launching ramp and the children's play area.

As they are upgrading the ramp, and installing a new pontoon next to it as well, they thought it would work very well. The committee has also discussed making the event a four day sailing event. But with the current economic situation the country is facing, it has been decided to take small steps, and start fresh with a new location first.

We are looking at a new focus on a social aspect in the evenings as well.

At present, all I can say is please watch this space and if anyone has any ideas, please approach a committee member with your ideas.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the sailing teams, hard working committee, volunteers and sponsors. Without people like yourselves, the event wouldn't happen

We are looking forward to the next event at a new base and more activities in the evenings.

We want to make this event not only New Zealand's biggest keelboat event, but one that everybody wants to come back to because of the party atmosphere and the comradery and hospitality after racing all day.

Ian Clouston

Chairperson