

## **Pohara Boat Club**

### **Commodore's Annual Report, 2019**

It is my pleasure to present my third - and final - annual report as Commodore of the Pohara Boat Club (PBC). Having served as commodore for the past three years, it is time to hand over the wheel to a new commodore, with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. In doing so, I feel proud of the achievements of the committee over the time I have been at the helm.

In my 2018 report, I recorded the purchase of the first three of our proposed fleet of 6, O'pen BIC class sailing dinghies. With the generous support of the Golden Bay Community Trust, the Golden Bay Lions Club, and the Pupu Hydro Society Inc., I am pleased to report that the full fleet of 6 dinghies has been acquired. The grants from community organisations were supplemented by very successful fundraising efforts of our own, particularly the second annual PBC fishing competition, our popular bar and catering operations on Sunday nights operated by Amy Ashford, and from donations and payments from members of the NZ Motor Caravan Association. Following the purchase of the fleet of 6 O'pen BIC yachts, we were left with sufficient funds to purchase a new, RS Feva 2 person sailing dinghy. As the O'pen BICs provide a greater challenge and more exciting experience than the Optimists, so too the RS Feva provides a step up in excitement and skills from our ageing Sunburst dinghies. I expect our sailing dinghy fleet will continue to be rationalised and modernised over the next 2-3 years.

Our Learn to Sail Level 1 and Level 2 training courses continue to attract a steady number of applicants, and we have also had a further visit from the Volvo/Yachting NZ 'Have a Go' program. As I noted last year, we need to find ways to turn these introductory sailing experiences into lasting, longer term commitments to sailing, but there are indications that the opportunities presented by the O'pen BIC boats are starting to be appreciated by some of the students who have graduated from Level 2. One opportunity open to us, that I encourage the incoming committee to pursue, is the introduction of sailing to the local schools, as a formal school sporting activity.

The maintenance of the yachts and the organisation and running of the Learn to Sail program is now largely in the hands of our sole Yachting NZ certified sailing instructor, Mark "Sparks" Laycock. Mark continues to give generously of his time and knowledge, to the extent that the PBC committee considered it appropriate to recognise Mark's efforts through the award of Life Membership of the Club. I would like to thank Mark for his commitment to our sail training program, and for the many hours of work put into the organisation of courses and the maintenance of our dinghy fleet.

I cannot leave the subject of sail training without commenting on the passing in September last year of club stalwart Garth Bray, a Life Member of the club and an outstanding supporter and coach of our junior sailing program. Garth leaves a huge legacy of young people who learned to sail under his guidance. Garth's passing has left a gaping hole in our already limited team of youth

sailing coaches, and we need further volunteers to assist Mark Laycock in this task. If you have enthusiasm, commitment and some sailing skills and basic knowledge, you may be the person (or people) we are looking for, so please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of the committee.

Our main fundraising event, the fishing competition, saw record entries this year. Held over the weekend of 2-3 February, the popularity of the event was reassuring given the time and effort put into organising by Amy Ashford and her team of helpers. The event is sure to continue next year, although in my opinion we need to move towards a competition format that serves the conservation of fish stocks, while providing a challenge and enjoyable time for all entrants. I would like to acknowledge the support given to this event by a significant number of local businesses and individuals, who generously provided sponsorship and prizes for the many contestants.

The popularity of the fishing competition has highlighted for me the invisibility of power boat owners and fishing enthusiasts in the affairs of the club. We are a general boating club, and while much of our fundraising and administration has been directed towards youth sailing, I suspect that power boat owners dominate our membership. Issues such as the boat ramp, sufficient space for car and trailer parking, and ramp fees will assume greater significance as TDC's plans for port development advance. To help ensure a future for *all* boating activities at Port Tarakohe, I would encourage power boat owners to become more involved in the running of the club.

Participation in waka ama continues to grow and members of Onetahua Waka Ama have been successful in regional competitions. OWA are currently raising funds for the purchase of a new boat to provide for growing interest in the sport. The growth within waka ama should bring corresponding growth in PBC membership, but regrettably the PBC is yet to see a strong commitment from waka ama members to participation in the wider activities of the PBC.

Keel boat racing has become a regular Sunday event once more, thanks to the enthusiasm shown by Alan Kilgour. However, for the past year their Sunday racing has been outside the auspices of the club, and we are yet to see any positive change in the participation of keel boat owners and their crews in club activities. Annual keel boat races from other centres continue, and this year we were again pleased to welcome crews and supporters from the Waikawa Boating Club (Waikawa Bay to Tarakohe race) and Tasman Bay Cruising Club (Nelson to Tarakohe race) to our clubrooms. It remains my hope that before too many more years pass, we may see a Tarakohe yacht competing in the Nelson to Tarakohe race.

In late February we were pleased to receive advice from TDC that resource consents for our three club moorings (Tata Island, Taupo Point, and Mutton Cove) around Abel Tasman National Park have been granted. These consents remain effective until 28 February 2034. There are conditions placed upon the length (12m) and weight of vessels that can use these moorings, and I referred to these in a notice to members that was sent out in March. In strict terms, the conditions of consent preclude vessels belonging to club members who may have used these moorings in the past, from using them in future. Our moorings can be upgraded to accommodate vessels up to 15 metres, but at some cost.

Whether we should aim to do this is a matter for discussion by the incoming committee. There will be an ongoing annual cost for inspection and maintenance of the moorings, but an opportunity to offset some of this cost has come in the form of a request from the Motueka Yacht Club to have access to our moorings in return for financial assistance with their upkeep. I support this approach. I can provide a copy of the TDC mooring consents to anyone who is interested.

The Club's relationship with TDC has steadily improved over the past 3 years. I have continued to represent the club on the Port Advisory Group, which meets 4 times a year to provide a forum at which TDC can liaise with port users. Many promised developments have been very slow to be realised, but we are now entering exciting but challenging times as TDC plans for the future development of Port Tarakohe to accommodate projected significant aquaculture expansion in Golden Bay. In my opinion, the very future of recreational boating at the port is at stake, as TDC attempts to balance the needs of commercial fishing and aquaculture with the role of the port in providing for the recreational and leisure needs of the people of Golden Bay. A public consultation process funded by the Provincial Growth Fund has been conducted over the past few weeks as TDC prepares a business case for future development. The club's committee has contributed to this process, and together with Martin Potter I have also contributed as a member of the Marina Association. I am sure some members of the club have also contributed comments in a private capacity, or through membership of other community organisations. I urge all members to follow this process closely and to give feedback at every opportunity to help ensure the continuation and growth of recreational boating opportunities through the port.

I am optimistic that the role of the PBC in the future of the port is secure, as we have recently commenced negotiations with TDC regarding the renewal of our lease. We have been given strong indications that the lease will be renewed, although the terms are yet to be discussed. I regard the club as pivotal to the future of recreational boating at Port Tarakohe, and I encourage the incoming committee, and members generally, to continue to lobby in support of the club's role at the port, and the role of recreational boating generally.

As well as a change in the commodore's position, I am sorry to inform the club of the departure of our long serving Club Manager, Graham "Ash" Ashford. Graham has been associated with the club for more than 50 years, and has served the club selflessly and in many capacities over many, many years. Ash's long and outstanding service to the Pohara Boat Club was recognised in 2018 by a Service Award from Yachting New Zealand, and I was pleased to be present with Ash and Andrea at the Royal NZ Yacht Squadron when the annual Yachting NZ awards were given in November last year. On behalf of the Pohara Boat Club, I wish Ash a well deserved, and relaxing retirement. I would also like to acknowledge Andrea's support for Ash in his demanding role, and her contribution to making our Sunday club nights so popular.

It remains for me to acknowledge and thank all members of the committee for the valuable roles they have played this past year. It has been a stable and productive committee over the 3 years I have been commodore and we can be proud of what we have achieved, particularly in the area of

fundraising and the acquisition of new boats. I have mentioned the very significant roles played by Ash, Amy, and Mark, but I would also like to thank our minute secretary Suzie, and Steve du Feu (the incoming commodore), for his efforts in encouraging greater waka ama membership. Paul Bastin's work as treasurer has been outstanding, and has ensured that we once again end our year in a healthy financial position. Finally, I would like to thank Kevin Winter - he was largely responsible for landing me in the commodore's position, but he has always been available for sound advice and support.

I wish the incoming commodore and committee all the very best for the coming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Steven', with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

Mike Steven

Commodore

Pohara Boat Club

Tuesday, 28 May 2019