



## News from the Commodore

### Auckland Fleet IYFR

Dear Mariners,

We have experienced an interesting lead into summer enjoying a lovely calm weekend on the water in late August followed by the seasonal strong winds that we have come to expect during spring. Our sail to Kawau last weekend on "Compass Rose" was a record for Vivienne and myself averaging over 8 knots in 25 to 30 knots of Westerly, 1 hour 45 mins from Gulf Harbour to Bon Accord. Busy!!

Since our last newsletter in June we have enjoyed some excellent fellowship and I will briefly report on each of these events to remind those who were able to attend and to update those who weren't.

### Pot Luck Lunch at the Rowell's on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July

It was again a great privilege for Vivienne and myself to host twenty six of you to this third annual midwinter event in our home. Thank you so much to those of you who came and for the delicious food you brought along for us all to enjoy.

### Maritime Rescue Centre at Mechanics Bay 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Vice Commodore Wayne coordinated this event with twenty four of us in attendance on the day. First we visited Coastguard headquarters and enjoyed a presentation from Coastguard Northern Region. We learnt about the workings of Coastguard and of the volunteers who man the craft that keep us safe on the water 24/7. Then it was on to the Westpac Helicopter Base and an outstanding presentation from the helicopter crew describing their operations which are carried out in almost all weathers. A \$250 donation was made from the Auckland Fleet to each organisation. Thank you VC Wayne for this well organised visit.

### Auckland Fleet AGM 11<sup>th</sup> September

This was planned to be held on board Pacific Mermaid however when she became unavailable PIC Ken and Bente kindly invited us to hold the meeting in their beautiful apartment on Princess Wharf. Thank you again Ken and Bente. I have previously circulated the minutes of the AGM, which was followed by a most enjoyable dinner, arranged by Ken and Bente, at the Buffalo Restaurant on Princess Wharf.



The highlight of the AGM for me was listening to Freya Paramenter, the young lady from Waiheke Island we sponsored on a 10 day Voyage of Development on the Spirit of New Zealand, speak of her Voyage and of the confidence she has gained from the experience. She told me she couldn't even imagine speaking to such a large group of strangers prior to this voyage. Freya intends to Study Veterinary Science and we wish her well.

### Lunch Cruise to the Riverhead Tavern 9<sup>th</sup> of October

Twenty two of us enjoyed a cruise from Westhaven to the Riverhead Tavern on PC Gary Ardern's launch "Amico Vero". Along the way Gary was ably assisted by our chief stewardess Helen Parkes and our nimble deck hand Guy Parkes. The cruise went to plan and we arrived on schedule at the Riverhead, where the staff looked after us so well and the meal was superb. I can totally recommend The Riverhead as a great dining destination.

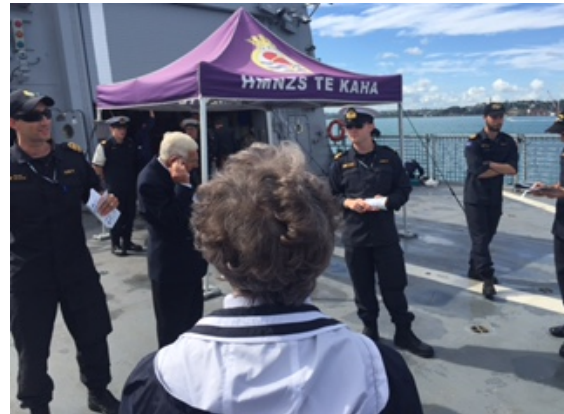
We were lucky with the weather it was fine when we boarded "Amico Vero" at Westhaven, it rained on the cruise upriver then it was fine when we disembarked. It rained heavily while we were at lunch then fined up for our re embarkation and return to Westhaven. Thanks so much Gary it was a great day out. Since then Gary has had a second knee replacement, which he tells me has gone well, he is presently recuperating at home.



## Visit to Devonport Naval Base and the Frigate "Te Kaha" 1<sup>st</sup> November



The arrangements for this visit were put in place by RC David Hansen, prior to his departure for Vanuatu, and Lt Commander Warren McLuckie, Weapons Officer on board the ANZAC Class Frigate "Te Kaha". Warren and his fellow Officers warmly welcomed us on board and then showed us around. It was an extensive viewing covering every aspect of the vessel. Warren said it was a rare opportunity for them to show members of the public the place where they work and live and it seems that they enjoyed the experience as much as we did. "Te Kaha" was deployed to Asia on the Monday following our visit. We wish her and her crew a safe voyage and a speedy return home.



### Coming events

**Christmas Dinner RNZYS 7.00pm Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> of December.**

I will email you in the next few days with details of our Fleet Christmas Dinner and inviting your reservation.

**A Summer Weekend on the Water.**

Weekend of the full moon 10<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017, details to follow.

With kind regards,

Peter Rowell

Commodore

