



Yachting Fellowship News



Newsletter by the Auckland Fleet of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotary (IYFR)

March 2012

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March event.....

Volvo Ocean Race is coming to Auckland and Downtown will be "alive" from the 8 March till 18 March.



Invitation to watch the race

See page 2 for more details

Saturday 17 March invitation.....

The Volvo yachts, stop-over, in New Zealand, will have a race in the Auckland harbour and the best viewing point is at the end of Princes Wharf, in front of the Hilton Hotel.

As such Ken and Bente Winter have made their apartment available, that afternoon, to members of the Rotary Yachting Fellowship.

Start gun is 2.00 pm, outside Winter's veranda.

Feel free to arrive at 1.00 pm and have lunch with other members, of IYFR.

BYO Lunch.

Tea and Coffee provided by Bente.

RSVP to Bente Ph. 357 0171



Race in action



Viaduct Harbour Events Centre

Dates for the dairy.....

Saturday 17 March

Volvo Yacht Race at Princes Wharf

Saturday 28 April

11.00 to 4.00pm

Fun day at Colin Pauling's Place

Mid May

Trip to Warkworth and a sail on
Jane Gifford

more information to come

25 May

6.30 pm Dinner

at Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron,
more information to come

November

A week-end to Rotorua Island

Good news.....

Auckland Fleet Successful, in Grant Application,

A grant from IYFR International has been approved and this will assist in the restoration of the scow, Jane Gifford, based in Warkworth.

It is a Youth programme and will greatly assist this venture.

We salute and say thanks to Vice Commodore David Hansen for his work in submitting the application, and seeing it through.

The grant was US\$1,000 and after exchange rate input, the sum amounted to NZ\$1,140.00.

At our recent Bridge meeting it was agreed to increase this to \$1,500

We will present the gift to the Jane Gifford Trust during a visit to "The Jane" sometime in May.

More info to come in April News letter

Visits from abroad.....

The Commodore of the Seattle Fleet Dick Salogga and his partner Dorothy visited New Zealand in November 2011.

Gill and Grant Cossey looked after them, met them at Orakei Marina, with their boat, sailed to Takapuna and back, and in the evening had a delightful dinner at the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron in Westhaven

Gill is catching up with Dick and Dorothy, in Seattle later this month when her GSE team visits Seattle and hopes to have a reciprocal sail, weather permitting.

Thank you to Gill and Grant Cossey, for being good IYFR hosts.

And in January this year, Meryl and Terry had visitors from Canada.

Otto Reive (Vancouver, Canada Fleet) and partner Margaret were on a motorcycling tour of New Zealand and came to Auckland for a couple of days.

Otto is well known to many members of the Fellowship. We met him several times at Rotary International Conventions.

He was a guest at our home, along with a few other IYFR Auckland fleet members, for a BBQ.

We dined under the stars, good food, fine wine and lots of good humour.

A few days later Don and Roxene Kelloway also from Canada – Red Deer, Alberta, and members of the Hawaii Fleet, were also holidaying in New Zealand. They contacted us in the hope of going sailing. We took them on our yacht, Taranui. Had a good sail to Islington Bay for lunch and then to our home for a BBQ with a couple of other Rotarians. The following day Don and Roxene's friends from Canada arrived to join them for a motorcycling tour of New Zealand.

We really enjoy meeting fellow IYFR members from around the world – this is what the Fellowship is all about.

Use the website if you are travelling and make contact with members in the area you will be in.

*Regards,
Terry and Meryl Stretton.*

And from England, we were honoured to have Past IYFR World Commodore Bryan Skinner and his wife Chris, as visitors in February.

(see article on page 4)



Bay of Islands Event.....

In February 2012 a week-end, in the Bay of Islands were the feature of the IYFR calendar and superbly arranged by the Fleet Commodore Roger Toplis.

The Saturday cruise to Robertson Island was a treat and 75 members and guests joined the Motor Vessel Pacific Mermaid for the day.

A special thanks is extended to the volunteers in the galley, Jill Toplis, Chris Skinner, Lorraine Lewis, Meryl Stretton, Margaret Linkhorn and Bente Winter, likewise Ken Linkhorn and Terry Stretton in the bar.

Due to these folks and prudent provisioning, in Paihia, a surplus of \$ 600.00 was generated.

This was donated by the Bay of Islands Fleet to the Youth Training Ship R. Tucker Thompson.

See full report on pages 4 & 5

Report of the February weekend in the Bay of Islands

by Past International Commodore Bryan Skinner

Friday 17 February 2012

Past International Commodore Bryan Skinner and his wife Chris from England are visiting New Zealand and were delighted to attend the events in the Bay of Islands, as organised by Roger Toplis of the Bay of Islands Fleet.

Skinner's were accompanied by Warwick Lewis and his wife Lorraine – family members, and members of the of Auckland fleet.

During our stay in New Zealand, Ken and Bente Winter invited us to join them on their beautiful boat, Pacific Mermaid, and share in the visit of the Auckland Fleet to the Bay of Islands. We were delighted, and travelled to Paihia and were welcomed aboard at Opuā.

The first function was 7.00 pm dinner at the Waitangi Yacht Club, where we met up with the many people from both Fleets, and many visitors from around the world.

After welcome drinks and much chatter, we sat with different friends and met new people and enjoying great fellowship. The meal was delicious and the company great.



Enjoying fellowship on Pacific Mermaid

The Commodore of the Bay of Islands Fleet, Roger Toplis, introduced members and guests, introduced a German member of IYFR, Dr. Herwig Paretzke, and his crew member Fred Koch.

They made a stop-over in New Zealand in their Round the World sail, and sailed to Paihia in order to join us.

They informed us, that they had found another couple of Iyforians, to join them for the next leg of the voyage, Robin and Maggie Cooter from England. They were on holiday here. What excitement for them, as they continued their journey to Sydney, via the Tasman Sea, on the 60ft. sailing Catamaran, Jonathan.

Herwig told us all he had been on his voyage for 18 months and planned to be another year before he will be back home in Germany. He does pop home every couple of months to see his wife and Family!

The next day, was a beautiful sunny day.

At 2.00 pm 75 members and guest were welcomed onto Pacific Mermaid, for a cruise to Roberton island, where we laid anchor in a sheltered bay.

Many were swimming, fishing, chatting, and exploring the beautiful surroundings. A super tea was served by Bente and her crew.

Time flew, and before we knew it, 'Happy hour' was upon us. The men worked the bar, and the noise level rose somewhat quickly!

Dinner was sumptuous and everyone found a seat, so they could enjoy their meal in comfort. The evening concluded with fantastic sing song, with Commodore Roger Toplis playing his guitar, and Ian Faulkner leading the singing. What a climax!!!

The next morning when everyone surfaced, we all made our way to Butler Point, at Hihi Beach, where we joined a tour around the old homestead, and the whaling museum. It was very interesting indeed.

Roger and Jill had prepared a picnic lunch for us all, and a really super weekend drew to a close with many farewells, and promises of future events. We were all so very grateful to those who worked hard, organizing the event, and the people who 'home hosted' the members of the Auckland Fleet.

For Chris and I, we were lucky enough to continue our stay on Pacific Mermaid for a few extra days, and there were happy days fishing and swimming round the Islands.

*Bryan and Chris Skinner
Past International Commodore*

February Event.....

*by Terry and Meryl Stretton,
Past international Commodore*

The Auckland Fleet's visit to Bay of Islands Fleet was a resounding success and made possible by the great organisation of BOI Commodore, Roger Toplis and Auckland Fleet Events Coordinators, Ken and Bente Winter.

Some of the members lived on Pacific Mermaid for the week, and other IYFR members were being generously 'home-hosted' with members of the Bay of Islands Fleet.

Ken and Margaret Linkhorn, Terry and I travelled north on Thursday 16th February. That evening 65 members and partners and the Rotary Club, of Bay of Islands, came aboard, for an evening cruise. It was great to meet so many from the far north and also to see Herwig Paretzke again, from IYFR Germany. He is sailing around the world in his catamaran Jonathan. We first met Herwig at Rotary Int. Convention in Birmingham, where he told us of his 'dream' voyage – to sail around the world, and now he is living his dream and accompanied on this leg by fellow German, Fred Koch from Munich.



Herwig's boat "Jonathan"

Friday morning, Ken Linkhorn, Bente and I went to Paihia supermarket, to stock up for Saturday evening's event, aboard Pacific Mermaid.

In the afternoon we all welcomed PIC Bryan Skinner and Chris with Chris' brother Warwick Lewis and his wife Lorraine – members of Auckland fleet.

Friday evening was dinner at the Bay of Islands Yacht Club – 75 members and guests attended. A great evening, good food, lots of fun and fellowship.

Saturday was "a buzz" of activity aboard Pacific Mermaid. We prepared the ship and food for the influx of 75 members, for a cruise to the beautiful Roberton Island.

Some went swimming, walking, fishing, then 'happy hour' before dinner and return to Opua at 10pm. Another fabulous evening.



Happy hour

Sunday morning, we headed north, by car, for Butler Point at Hihi Beach for a tour of the Whaling Station and historic homestead.

Lunch was by courtesy of Jill and Roger Toplis, under the trees in the extensive garden. We admired the largest and oldest Pohutukawa tree in New Zealand – 900 years old and 10.9m circumference.

This is where we all said our goodbyes and headed for home, but for those aboard Pacific Mermaid we still had a few more days of cruising in the bay with swimming, fishing and relaxation.

Thursday 23de February

After all the rain this morning it finally cleared and as we sat down for our farewell dinner, and who should pull up behind us, Herwig on Jonathan. He had cleared customs and was on his way again, with Fred and two members of the BOI fleet – Robin and Maggie Cotter. They live in England, but spend many months a year in New Zealand. They joined Herwig for a sail to Norfolk Island, Lord Howe Island, Sydney and Brisbane on Herwig's round the world sail.

Friday 24th February

Today we have an early morning start.

7.00 am we pulled in to Opua Wharf, for Margaret and Ken and Linkhorn, Chris Skinner and Bente to disembark and drive back to Auckland, leaving Bryan Skinner, Ken Winter and Terry and myself aboard Pacific Mermaid, for the 120 nautical mile voyage along the coast, bound for Auckland.

There was quite a roll as we rounded Cape Brett heading into the Pacific Ocean. It sent us scurrying to the galley, to make sure everything was tucked away and safe. However the 2 meter swell soon dissipated to a gentle roll.

First port of call was Whangaruru.

Anchored for lunch, and as the weather was great, we decided to continue to Kawau Island for an overnight stop.

It started to roll again, with 2 meter swells, but as cupboards and drawers were taped up safely nothing went flying around.

Within an hour it eased off, as we cruised close to Sail Rock, with its many birds, diving for fish.

At 21.00 hours we approached Kawau, in total darkness. Thank goodness for the chart plotter as it was very difficult to see.

Anchored in Bon Accord Harbour, for the night, and had a most enjoyable dinner.

Saturday.

40 knots winds are gusting off Tiritiri Island, so we decided to stay put here till tomorrow.

As predicted there was work for Terry and Ken, in the engine room, with Bryan and me doing some 'housework'.

Sunday 26th February.

This morning we have an early start, after a calm night, and now heading back to Auckland's Orakei marina, in a beautiful calm sea, and brilliant sunshine.

*Meryl Stretton
1st March 2012*



Past International Commodore Bryan Skinner and his wife Chris, enjoying hospitality on board Pacific Mermaid