



## **2019 Chair's Report**

It is a pleasure to present my first Chair's Report to members of the Classic Yacht Association of New Zealand.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge Jason Prew and Nathan Herbert who are both departing the committee. Jason has had a very long association with the CYA and has served in various roles over many years. He now has another challenge running 'The Slipway' yard in Milford. Nathan has been a strong advocate for all things launches and has done an outstanding job of producing the bi-monthly *Classic Yacht Journal* and the *Vessel Register*. Thanks to you both.

I would also like to thank the two Bruces (Dunlop and Tantrum) who continue to manage the Heritage Landing marina berths and contribute to open days, and CYA events. My thanks also to Andy Ball, our Yacht Captain, for stepping into this role with ease and helping organise a great sailing calendar. And as always, we couldn't do what we do without the assistance of Joyce, our Secretary-Treasurer.

I am delighted to welcome four new people to the committee this year. We will have a full complement of members which is fantastic as we plan for a couple of big years ahead of us. I am particularly pleased that Rachel has volunteered to stand as Vice-Chair. Rachel has been instrumental in dealing with a very large number of supporters and sponsors as we brought the organisation of the Classic Yacht Regatta back 'in-house' this year. She is a great advocate of the A class gaffers and the camaraderie that their large crews bring to the fleet.

The 2018-19 year has been both challenging and rewarding. Our classic boating community continues to evolve and change which on the whole is very positive.

First, the highlights. Apart from unfavourable weather for the Patio Bay before Christmas we have again been blessed with wonderful conditions for most of our events. For me personally, the Mahurangi Regatta weekend and the Classic Yacht Regatta were the two standouts. Mahurangi is going from strength to strength, and is building a formidable reputation as the largest wooden boating event in New Zealand. It is quite something to see a parade of fifty or more classic launches gliding through Sullivan's Bay, followed by some fantastic close-range sailing, and an always-memorable evening ashore. I urge any members who have not been to Mahurangi to give it a go. Sadly I missed both the Rocky Bay and Kennedy Bay events, which have been added to the calendar specifically to connect our two fleets – both launches and yachts. However I hear they were both a great success, and they will be repeated next year.

The winter series is very well represented and shows a strong desire from skippers and crews to sail almost year round on a regular basis. A couple of classics have competed in this year's SSANZ Lewamar Triple Series. This is excellent sailing and I would like to encourage more classics to compete next year. I am also cautiously optimistic that in 2019 we will see the



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largest classic and modern classic yacht fleet turning up on the start line of the Coastal Classic race since its inception in 1982.

This year we sought to have more on-land events in acknowledgement of that fact that a large number of our members do not own a classic. Whether a speakers evening here at RNZYS or a visit to the *Daring* in Hobsonville, these have all been well attended and we will do more of this in the year ahead. We have been fortunate that a number of wooden boats are being restored currently which gives a great excuse for a weekend yard visit. Lastly, it was a real privilege to be able to award Life Membership of the association earlier this year to Robert Brooke. Robert has made an outstanding contribution to our maritime heritage and for that we thank him.

Membership has stayed stable at around the 320 mark. We welcomed around 40 new members, but about the same number did not renew their membership for various reasons. Financially we are in a sound position, having posted a substantial surplus. This puts us in a good place for a busy couple of years ahead.

Now, to look forward. In May next year, we will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this association. It is also the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RNZYS, and of course, Auckland will host the 36<sup>th</sup> America's Cup. Together, this presents the CYA with a very unique and potentially once in a generation opportunity to both celebrate our successes but more importantly to showcase our classic boat fleet to the world and raise the profile of New Zealand's maritime history. The committee is working actively on a programme of events and initiatives to do just that. Most significantly, we are working on a concept to host the first New Zealand National Wooden Boat Festival in Auckland in 2022. There will be more detail on these events in the coming year – I urge all members, friends and family to support them. A measure of success for me would be to see a large increase in the number of younger people getting involved with wooden boats.

Like my two predecessors in this role, I want to repeat the message that this a volunteer organisation. Everything we do, we do for the benefit of our members, even if sometimes we make mistakes, or the communications are a bit amiss. You can help by giving us feedback (constructive of course) on what we are doing well and what we can improve on. Likewise, if you have ideas about the future of our wooden boat community, don't keep them to yourselves.

I wish all members well for the year ahead. Happy boating.

-James Mortimer, CYA Chair