



2020 Chair's Report

Firstly it is a pleasure to welcome you to the 25th AGM and to present my second and final Chair's Report to members of the Classic Yacht Association of New Zealand.

At the outset, I would like to acknowledge those committee members who are retiring and not standing for re-election at this AGM – Emily Dimmock, and Andy Ball. Both have done a fine job serving members and I am grateful for their input. My thanks also to all other committee members who have chosen to stand again for election – they have all played a role in guiding the Association through what has been an unusual year.

The 2019-20 year has been both challenging and rewarding for the CYA. Like I said in my report last year, our classic boating community continues to evolve and change and overall this is a positive thing. However, the world is clearly a different place today compared with 6 short months ago. By the time we had wrapped up the Classic Yacht Regatta in the first weekend of March, it was becoming clear that a major global crisis was unfolding which would mean that life, both on and off the water, would change dramatically. For the CYA this meant we cancelled the remainder of our events calendar following the start of lockdown.

Prior to March however, the CYA hosted a number of successful events. The standouts for me personally were the Kennedy Bay event (again, thanks must go to Andy and Bruce), Patio Bay (for which the weather was again fantastic!) and of course the Mahurangi Weekend launch and sailing events. I also repeat my thanks to Rachel and Joyce for their organisations of this year's Classic Yacht Regatta which was a great success.

Behind the scenes, we have made considerable progress this year and I want to highlight a couple of items.

- We have moved to permanently secure the future of Heritage Landing with a draft new agreement with Panuku, in no small part to outstanding efforts from Chad Thompson, Bruce Dunlop, and Andy Ball. In addition, a group of members are assisting the CYA in exploring options for a greater presence of vessels on the waterfront.
- The Association is in sound financial shape, having posted a healthy surplus for the year. The committee has approved a budget for the coming year, which includes an allocation for initiatives for our 25th anniversary.
- A new CYA website is under construction and is due to go live this month. This will be a huge improvement over the existing site and should enable us to engage with members and the wooden boat community more effectively.
- Lastly, we have revamped the membership categories to include a new membership category called 'Crew'. This is aimed at anyone who wants to join or support the Association but who is not a boat owner.

The one substantial area in which we have let down our members this year is engagement with our launch members. Our launch captain unfortunately resigned mid-season and we never really got a series of events underway. Alan Houghton has been very successful in setting up a series of 'Classic Woody's Weekends' events through Waitemata Woodys website and I commend him for doing so.

However it is a concern that there is now a perception the CYA is focused on 'sailing' events only, while leaving Waitemata Woodys to organise 'launch' events. As far as I'm concerned, this is really unfortunate.

I don't pretend to have all the answers on how to address this, however we must do better in engaging with launch members, in fact with all members including cruising yachts and non-boat owners. I am pleased that Jason Prew has been nominated to take the role of launch captain. In a previous life he was the CYA yacht captain. Jason has already put together a plan to organise and lead a small number of high-quality events aimed at re-engaging with our launch members. I stress that the CYA is for all wooden boaties, not just the 'stick and rag brigade'.

As I noted, tonight is the 25th Annual General Meeting of the CYA. This is a milestone worth reflecting on and particularly to acknowledge the founding members of the Association and the work of both members and committees over the last 25 years to continue to help develop a successful wooden boating movement in New Zealand. It is timely then, to highlight the objectives of the Association, as laid down in our constitution, and in particularly the first three:

- a) To promote and encourage the restoration, preservation, research, knowledge and ownership of classic yachts
- b) To organise, promote and hold events of any and all descriptions for classic yachts or their owners, former owners, crews or former crews and families
- c) To promote and increase public awareness of classic yachts and their history

(I do note that 'classic yachts' are defined as yachts, launches, dinghies, boats, vessels of all sizes, description, ages, whether powered by wind, steam, combustion or otherwise)

While we do organise a number of events throughout the year, I feel we don't do enough to fulfil the other two objectives. I know there are a large number of passionate people out there who have something to contribute to the wooden boating movement – in fact approximately 25% of our members do not own a classic – but perhaps they are not sure how they can get involved. I would urge the next, and future, committees to do more in this area.

To mark the 25th year of the Association, we have a number of initiatives planned already such as the new website, a 25th anniversary publication being led by Steve Horsley, a birthday bash (including a live band!) at Kennedy Bay, a new CYA online library project, and an off-water function at the end of the season. There are more items in the works but we need to firm these up before they are announced. I urge all members to get behind these events, attend, and contribute in whatever way you can to make them a success.

Lastly, I am delighted that Rachel has accepted the nomination to take on the role of CYA Chair. Without Rachel I would have struggled to chair the Association over the last two years. She has been instrumental in forming relationships with a large number of CYA sponsors and supporters, and she is a great advocate of both on-water camaraderie between yachts, launches, and their crews, and of off-water events. I am certain that Rachel will steer the CYA soundly through the coming year with the support of members.

I wish everyone well for the year ahead. Happy boating!

James Mortimer

CYA Chair