

Chairman's Report

CYA Annual Meeting – Chairman's report

Good evening and again welcome to the Annual Meeting of the Classic Yacht Association of New Zealand Incorporated.

The last year appears to have vanished in about six months and already I am running out of time to complete the winter jobs list as I am sure many members are.

Firstly and most importantly, I wish to confirm thanks personally and on behalf of the CYA to all those who have so ably assisted the Association in many ways to further our aspirations and goals, and to conceive, administer and manage the events.

Thanks to Joyce Talbot, as an officer who works tirelessly to make me look better than I deserve. To the office bearers Michelle Khan, James Mortimer and Angus Rogers, all three of whom have thankfully agreed to give a further year at their respective posts. To committee members Jason Prew, Bruce Dunlop, Max Goutard, Rachel Orr, and Paige Marie Cook. Thanks for the commitment and contribution. Unfortunately for your committee, time that is spent on the CYA is time not spent on the water or on the boat in general.

The last year has seen a good number of very successful events including a great Classic Yacht Regatta, including a launch presence, with an after-match dinner, delightfully if irreverently MC'd by Tony Stevenson. The weather generally cooperated with our calendar well.

We have benefited from fruitful associations with other boating clubs who have assisted with race administration and complementary events, and in particular a strengthened relationship with the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron who have hosted both the Classic Yacht Regatta and all of our meetings. Thanks for this assistance.

This is, of course, a volunteer organisation. In my opinion a damn fine one too. It is an amalgam of a great deal of dedication and skill from a number of people. There is, of course, no shortage of work to do and there are several sub committees that have been used to progress our many goals. Thanks to all who have assisted in these areas too.

Special thanks to Nathan Herbert who has continued to produce the Classic Yacht Journal and to Tony Stevenson whose work with sponsorship

and fundraising makes the Classic Yacht Regatta possible. If you have the time and the will to contribute in any way, please do drop us a note.

There is a team also to be thanked for the Register which is now to be produced annually, and is a "must have" resource. Michelle, Nathan, Tony and Steve Horsley – thanks for an excellent job.

An American diplomat and lawyer E J Phelps is quoted as saying

"The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything."

I do not pretend that we have made no mistakes, on the contrary, however we **are** trying to do things and I think we can be reasonably confident that mistakes will continue – but with of course, the very best of intent.

We have, during the year worked to be more inclusive and to remove unnecessary segregation between sailing, and motor vessels, in doing so we have adopted the European interpretation of "yacht" being an attractive vessel usually with a sharp end (or I suppose at least one of them) used principally for leisure purposes.

Membership numbers have increased during the year and the average age has reduced slightly. I am very pleased to see that the monthly club night at here at Squadron in the Members Bar has continued and is often well attended. I would like to move the committee meeting a bit to provide more clear air for this comradery.

We have some new initiatives in planning stages for the years ahead that we hope will build on this improved trend with the membership.

We have initiatives around the Americas Cup, a proposed Wooden Boat Festival, and an "Under 20 ft" event focusing on smaller boats – and potentially younger members.

There remains an issue to address with vessels being uneconomic to restore and as a result there remains a danger that vessels of note will continue to be lost. We have engaged with central government over the heritage issues that stem from classic boats and hope that some progress can be made following the general election.

The new Incorporated Societies Act is expected to have some impact on the CYA and is likely to require changes to our governance documentation. The new committee will need to put a plan in action to address, and, in all probability, seek approval from members for changes to governance documents.

Finally to the many of you who have encouraged, assisted, and calmed the chairman during the year. In particular Jenni, Nathan Herbert, Michelle Khan, Tony Stevenson, and Ian Cook. A huge vote of thanks from me personally. After a year as chairman please remember that -

"Experience is what causes a person to make new mistakes instead of old ones." anon