

Mainsheet

RUSSELL BOATING CLUB (INC) NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1985

Now that the festive season is over, we can reflect that the Boating Club has come through it's busiest period with colours flying. The event of the year must have been the Tall Ships Race. Not having had anything to do with organising it I feel at liberty to say it again turned out exactly as intended: A well run fun race with a well run feast to follow.

The sea breeze was working efficiently and the sun was shining in a similar manner when 38 starters, countless spectator craft and TVNZ's helicopter (it has become something of a media attraction) obeyed the starter's pyrotechnic and headed for Brampton Bouy. For the record, Cygnus was first across the line and first on handicap followed (on handicap) by Double Take, Tern, Hokianga and Spirit of Adventure. It's worth mentioning that the Spirit of New Zealand Trust benefited to the value of the race entry fees.

Without going into details, it can be fairly said that the social events were an equivalent success. To name names of the many willing workers would lead to an injustice: Someone would certainly be missed. But being a Boating Club, the names of willing boats may be permissible: like Hope for looking fine, dressed over all, starting and finishing the race, Tosco for scrutineering/handicapping, and Viscount for fitting in with Radio New Zealand all day. Thousands of hours were devoted to making it a successful day ... the race organisation, the hangi, the bar and the cleaning up ... all voluntary. Excellent music also.

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Les Paulding kindly donated a large quantity of chandlery which was sold to benefit the club. Many thanks to him, and to Bram Cone who gave the bricks used to beautify the inside fireplace.

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We wish Macushla well in her efforts to find fame and glory in the Lipton Cup race to be run by the Ponsonby Cruising Club on 9 March.

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A few reminders: Future activities include Kerikeri's Epigless weekend on 9 & 10 February, an overnight picnic at Urupukapuka Bay on 16 & 17 February, a social on Saturday 23 February, not forgetting the small boat races on 13 and 27 February. Ladies Race is on Sunday 3 March. It's usually lots of fun.

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The Small Boat Races remain popular and there's a good reason for it: They're fun too.

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The same applies to the picnic at Bamboo (Waipao, Frenchman's) Bay. About ten boats turned up and a fine afternoon was passed pleasantly. There would have been more present, except that C followed R into the wrong bay and wondered why so few had turned up in such sunny weather! I hope they had as good a time as we did!

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