

NEW AVENUE FOR KEELBOAT SAILORS

Match racing to replace fleet racing as women's Olympic keelboat event

Made famous by the America's Cup, match racing is mentally intense, physically challenging and a sport we Kiwis are naturally good at. Now Women's match racing has replaced fleet racing for the 2012 Olympic Games, opening up a new era of ambition for New Zealand's top female keelboat sailors.

For the first time ever, ISAF selected a Southern Hemisphere country to host its World Championships. This event, organised by the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, gave two New Zealand teams – skippered by world number 20 Jess Smyth, and current NZ champion Jan Dawson - the opportunity to race on their own turf, finishing 8th and 13th respectively.

The input of New Zealand women into sailing is across the spectrum of the sport, says Sara Roberts, Sailing Manager at the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron. "More women are sailing than ever before," she says, "But you're more likely to find them taking part in mixed fleets, racing with men and other women, at all levels."



Jess Smyth and crew celebrate breaking into quarter finals at the World Champs in Auckland this April. By Ivor Wilkins, © RNZYS

Sara says the ISAF Women's World Match Racing Championships were an opportunity to inspire New Zealand's female sailors to go further. "The competition is intense and as several of our competitors demonstrate, you aren't limited by anything other than commitment and natural talent. Women's match racing now has a strong presence in Australasia, and with its inclusion in the 2012 Olympics I really encourage more New Zealand women to aim high – match racing is an area where we have the potential to be very strong."

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Got your 406 EPIRB?

Anyone requiring a new safety cert will need a 406MHz EPIRB. Supplies are already tight, and skippers are advised to plan ahead for acquiring this essential safety item.

Year end reminder

IRC, PHRF and ORC Club certificates will roll over on 31 May 2008. Visit our website, www.yachtingnz.org.nz and click on 'Keelboats'.

BEST OF THE BEST

IRC Champs rescheduled for early summer

The victim of a crowded race calendar, the 2007-2008 season IRC National Championships has now been confirmed for the weekend of 4-5 October 2008.

When the concept of BMW Auckland Regatta Week was originally proposed, organisers anticipated the IRC National Championships would be a vital part of the event. But opting to race in the IRC Nationals forced skippers out of their preferred divisions for the entire regatta, and following consultation with sailors, the IRC Nationals was removed from the BMW Regatta programme. For six weeks, the date

of the IRC National Championships has been on hold, leaving boat owners and crews frustrated while an alternative date was found.

About the scheduling delays, Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron Chairman of Race Management Ross Markwick says: "This is a vital event and the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron is 150% behind IRC. We explored, discussed and worked with YNZ to reschedule the IRC Nationals in the April /May period, but short timelines and prior commitments by skippers to other events had to be acknowledged. (Continued next page)



'Chattan' in the Bluff Yacht Club's Annual Oyster Regatta

“The BMW Sailing Cup in Dubai is an international amateur regatta series in which the winners of national regattas progress to a nail biting international final. “



Divisional winners from BMW Auckland Regatta faced off in the local version of the BMW Sailing Cup aboard MRX yachts. Photo © RNZYS

IN BRIEF

Ponsonby Cruising Club is holding fortnightly racing especially for women over the winter season, from Sat 24 May through to Sat 30 Aug, starting at 1pm. The club's winter series starts on Sunday 11 May.

The **Auckland to Musket Cove, Fiji race** is shaping up to be a great one, with 19 confirmed entries to date. The first official activities commence on Tuesday 27 May and the cruising division departs on the 28th, followed by the race divisions on Saturday 31 May. The passage race finishes off with festivities and further racing in Musket Cove.

Ten young sailors were released into the ranks of professional and semi professional racers following a graduation ceremony for the **RNZYS Lion Foundation Youth Training Programme**. This marks the end of the 20th year of the programme, which has to date graduated over 360 sailors, many of whom are now household names.

The **Yacht Systems Race Management Program** - a Windows-based software package for clubs hosting keelers, trailer yachts and/or dinghy fleets - is now available to all Yachting New Zealand affiliated Clubs free of charge. Interested clubs

should make enquiries to Barry Davies at Yachting New Zealand.

Yachting NZ Chief Executive Des Brennan took some time out this March to sail with Anders Jagvik aboard his 24ft Gazelle trailer sailor, Chattan, in the **Bluff Yacht Clubs' Annual Oyster Regatta**. The regatta is hotly contested by Otago and Southland sailors, racing in everything from Optimists through to javelins, trailer sailors and keelboats. As Des discovered, the course is a challenging one, providing strong tidal currents and unpredictable weather, which are more than made up for by the southern hospitality and local seafood fest.

Reigning champion Jan Dawson won the 2008 **Zenza NZ Women's National Keelboat Championships** this 26-27 April. Olympian Melinda Henshaw placed second, and Sally Garrett third. Exciting conditions resulted in two MOB incidents including a successful recovery just a boat-length from the finish of one race. www.rayc.org.nz

The crew of the Farr 40 Bobby's Girl, skippered by John Melville, placed third in the world final of the **BMW Sailing Cup in Dubai** - an international amateur regatta series in which the winners of national regattas progress

to a nailbiting international final. The crew from Bobby's Girl were selected from the best of the best to come out of the BMW Auckland Sailing Week, where the winners of each division proceeded through to the local BMW Sailing Cup, a series of windward leeward races in MRX class yachts over two days. Each team of five crew members consisted purely of amateur sailors.

The **North Island Trailer Yacht Championships** were combined with the **Noelex 25 National Championships** in Taupo this Easter. Days were warm and sunny but very light on the breeze, and National Race Officer Gerald Martin was credited with getting the scheduled races away. Fourteen Noelex 25s, six Sports Boats and nine divisional entrants competed, coming from all over the country.

New Zealand's biggest and probably our most famous yacht race, the **Coastal Classic** will take place this Labour Weekend, starting in Auckland on the Friday morning at 10am, and finishing 119nm later off Russell Wharf. Meanwhile, the theme of the New Zealand Multihull Yacht Club's official race party remains a closely guarded secret.

www.coastalclassic.co.nz

IRC Nationals (continued from page 1)

...We want to put the regatta together in a manner that is responsive and proactive and not reactive. Getting crews for boats these days is a major issue for skippers and all alternative dates in late summer clashed with other significant events. We want to put regattas together in a way that allows the skippers and

their crews to get the best out of all the sailing opportunities, and not have to pick and choose, which diminishes the value of all events.”

Des Brennan, CEO of Yachting New Zealand says, “IRC is progressing very strongly in this coun-

try. It is now part of many of our major events, and through the South Pacific Cup is one avenue for our top boats to compete internationally. The IRC National Championships are a highlight of the race season.” A NOR will be released in May, www.rnzys.org.nz

EPIC JOURNEY

Two Handed Round North Island delivers it all

The late Sir Peter Blake founded this incredible race and not surprisingly, the names engraved on the winner's trophy read like a who's who of New Zealand sailing.

"Just to complete the race is a great achievement in itself," says organiser Cameron Thorpe of the Short Handed Sailing Association of New Zealand. "The New Zealand coastline can be a very rugged

and inhospitable place, to travel over 1200miles with only two crew while staying close to the coast and rounding notorious weather blackspots (like North Cape, West Coast, Cook Strait, Cape Palister, Wairarapa Coast, East Cape and Cape Colville) is a great challenge."

And its spirit is unique - unlike virtually any other event everyone helps out their fellow competitors

with any repairs needed to ensure they complete the race. In this year's race, rival sailmakers worked together right through the night just to ensure everyone could make it to the restart.

The 2008 event was distinguished by a cycle of delayed starts, terrible forecasts, and tedious patches of little or no wind, a full account of which is on www.ssanz.co.nz



At 8.5m, Waka was the smallest of 24 competitors in the Two-Handed Round North

SOUTH PACIFIC CUP

Last minute determination makes international teams trophy a reality

It had to happen this year, and it had to happen at the last minute. But it's definitely going to happen, albeit in a slightly modified format. That's the verdict on the South Pacific Cup – a new international teams trophy event hosted as part of the 25th Audi Hamilton Island Race Week in Queensland this August.

The concept was first mooted by former New Zealand Yachtsman of the Year Ray Haslar earlier this year. Ray approached the Australian organisers (PR man Rob Mundle and Race Director Denis Thompson) and suggested a teams event.

"They leapt at it, and within a week they had a trophy organised," says Ray.

However, squeezing a last minute selection regatta into a busy race calendar was nearly impossible to organise on both sides of the ditch, so for the first event, the countries will be

unofficially represented by teams sailing for their home clubs of Hamilton Island Yacht Club and the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron.

"We said, let's get this year underway and in two years time when we do it again, we will have official national teams and it will be great," says Ray, who as the force behind Bay of Islands Sailing Week has already proven his ability to create successful major events out of thin air.

The boats sailing for the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron and hoping to bring the cup home in its inaugural year are Carrera (Marten 49), Wired (Bakewell-White 52) and Pussy Galore (Cookson 50). Carrera, with an IRC rating of 1.252, will likely be the smallest boat in its division.

Ray says adding to the international spirit of the regatta, at least one crew is coming down from the

United Kingdom, and another is possible from Hong Kong. Both will sail chartered boats.

Australian Olympic and world championship winning yachtsman, Iain Murray, who is the commodore of Hamilton Island Yacht Club, said the decision to establish the South Pacific Cup came in response to increasing international interest in Audi Hamilton Island Race Week. He said that the design of the trophy will be symbolise the prestige that will be associated with the contest.

"This is another very exciting development for Race Week," Murray said. "This year we are going to see a return of the great Trans Tasman rivalry Australian and New Zealand sailors have enjoyed so much in the past, and in the future there will be other foreign teams competing.

www.hiyc.org.au

"The South Pacific Cup is a new international teams trophy hosted as part of the 25th Audi Hamilton Island Race Week in Queensland."



Pussy Galore is one of the Kiwi boats sailing for the first South Pacific Cup in Australia this August.

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BACK PAGE PHOTO

Speedboat Project



With nearly twice the downwind sail area of Maximus, the 30m Speedboat is the latest supermaxi built here in NZ. But there weren't many photo opportunities: she was shipped to Newport, Rhode Island, just a few days after launching. This picture by Gautier Sergent, at North Sails.

Major Events

28 May 08	Auckland to Musket Cove www.rnzys.org.nz
Jul-Sept 08	B&G SIMRAD Triple Two Handed www.ssan.z.co.nz
24 Oct 08	Coastal Classic www.coastalclassic.co.nz
26 Dec 09	Rolex Sydney-Hobart www.cyca.com.au
20-23 Jan 09	Bay of Islands Sailing Week www.bayofislandssailingweek.co.nz
Feb 09	Port Nicholson Line 7 Regatta www.rpnyc.org.nz
Feb/Mar 09	BMW Auckland Regatta Week www.rnzys.org.nz / www.bbyc.org.nz
Easter 09	Auckland to Tauranga www.yacht.org.nz

Planning your race calendar? With dozens of clubs around the country holding events there is more happening than we can list here, so look no further than your regional yachting association or local clubs' websites for event listings – full details at www.yachtingnz.org.nz, click on 'club directory'

Yachting Quarterly

Reaching over 2,000 boat owners, Yachting Quarterly is the official newsletter of the Keelboat & Offshore Racing Committee (KORC), incorporating keelers, multihulls, trailer boats & motor yachts.



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