



# Turn of the Tide

## February 2026

Welcome to the new year, it is great to be back and hear all the sailing adventures that people have been having over the summer.

Club nights kicked off on 22 January, with heaps of people making the most of perfect sailing conditions that evening. It was so much fun to finally be back on the water and we hope it is a sign of more good club sailing sessions to come.

Some pics on the right, with lots of really keen teens out on the water and also Geoff having a go with his new toy!! 😊

As we may continue to experience unsettled weather on Thursdays, please keep an eye on your email, facebook or join the BYC group chat (on messenger) to make sure you stay up to date if there is a change of club sailing night, or an additional session is organised as the weather allows. Just reach out to anyone on the committee to join the chat.



## What a Whakatu Regatta! 10-11 January

While holidaying in Nelson in January, both Kobe and Gage jumped at the opportunity to enter in the Rainbow fleet of the annual Whakatu Regatta. What an amazing experience to sail somewhere completely different. Apparently the Rainbow fleet was the biggest the Nelson Yacht Club had entered in a long time (11 entries) and the locals seemed quite chuffed to have entries all the way from Bluff.

Kobe helmed a fusion with his mate Wylder (from Auckland) crewing with him. Gage was sailing in an optimist.

*Kobe's report: There was a steady wind 10-15 knots and it was great fun sailing against 5 other fusions. I had met Wylder earlier in the week and we were blasting it in the wind, hiking out until our heads touched the water. On the first day of racing, our start could have better in the first race. We got out in front but there were multiple lead changes. We were pretty stoked to win that one. We managed to start better in every race and became hard to beat.*

## MYC Ladies Skipper Race – 18 January



Anders kindly supported a BYC entry into the first local event for 2026, the Ladies Skippers Race in Te Anau in mid-January. Eloise and Anke were the two keen ladies crewing Chatton IV, thankfully with Anders aboard to show the ropes and make sure the ship didn't sink that day. It was a perfect summers day, requiring repeated layers of sunscreen. There was a patchy breeze, but enough to sail three good races and with a little help from the handicap, a third placing was achieved. Thank you so much Anders for your patience, it was such a FUN day and great opportunity for ladies to show their skills on the helm.

## Te Anau Plumbing Open Dinghy Regatta – 24/25 January



What a great turn out of 'Bluffies' competing in the Open Dinghy Regatta hosted by Marakura Yacht Club, 24-25 January and what a fun weekend!!

Full of enthusiasm tempered by a little patience required due to a delayed start, things quickly turned into a rescue operation as many keen sailors realised the gusts were overpowering and Saturday's racing was abandoned. This did not stop our BYC teenagers though, who instead sought permission to run their own 'optimist regatta' with two teenagers per optimist, providing light-hearted entertainment for the rest of the afternoon.

Sunday's racing conditions were much better, with a reasonably steady wind building and some really happy sailors coming back to shore after three races.

## Auckland Anniversary Day Regatta – 26 January



The Auckland Anniversary Day Regatta is a birthday celebration for the City of Sails. Hundreds of vessels head out on the harbour under sail, steam and paddle, in one of the biggest one-day regattas in the world.

Craig sailed in the regatta on Rainbow, a classic yacht built in 1898. A Gaff Cutter designed by Arch Logan and built by Logan Bros. Dave Glen, a member of BYC who moved back north to Auckland recently, is one of the partners of the yacht. Dave skippered her, along with his crew into first place in the A Classic division of the regatta.

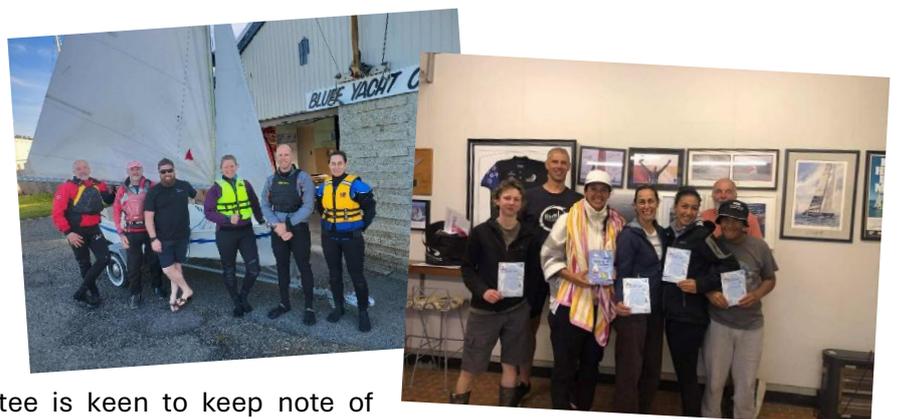
A great day out on the water with friends.

## BYC Adult Learn-to-Sail

The first Adult Learn-to-Sail course at the end of last year was a huge success. Five participants graduated with their YNZ Level 2 certificates.

The intention is to run more Adult Learn-to-Sail courses, as instructor availability allows.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in joining the next course, the committee is keen to keep note of expressions of interest – contact Anke on 027 334 4765 for more information on when the next course might be happening.



## Coming up: The Bluff Oyster Regatta

Are you ready for the biggest event on our sailing calendar – the Bluff Oyster Regatta!! This year we have an extra special double event, as BYC are also proudly hosting the New Zealand Trailer Yacht Association Championships. It will be a full weekend of fun – 14 and 15 March.

Registration opens at 9am Saturday morning, with briefing at 10am. This event is renowned for its 'wild foods' catering, as well as entertainment on Saturday night by our very own famous Michelle Reynolds and family. If anyone would like more information about this event, please get in touch with James.

## BYC upcoming travelling opportunities

Here's a few nearby events that a BYC contingent could attend:

- The **Southland Champs** are being hosted by Marakura Yacht Club on 28-29 March, in conjunction with their "Not-the-Easter Regatta" in Te Anau. It would be great to get as many Bluff entries in as possible for this one. Please let James know if you are interested, on 027 250 7318.
- The annual **Manapouri Classic** races are being run by STYS on 11-12 April. BYC is promoting this two-day event as a fun family weekend away, staying in Manapouri (or Te Anau), and sailing a series of races on trailer yachts on Lake Manapouri. Any families who are keen to experience trailer yachting, please contact Bruce on 027 577 3111.

## Introducing: **Gregor the Sailor**

We had a unique visitor to our club at the end of last year, with a massive mission aiming to break the record for the smallest vessel to solo sail around the world, non-stop and unassisted!

Here we are catching up on Greg's adventures on *Hummingbird*!

**Motivation:** After doing a deep blue ocean passage years back, I always knew there would be a return to open water sailing. In 2021 my Dad jokingly sent a picture of this boat on sale. I bought it. At the end of that year I started refitting her to take on a voyage from South Africa to The Netherlands. During that voyage the idea of circumnavigating with her came to mind. I had done a little research and found she would be the smallest boat, should we succeed, to circumnavigate solo, non-stop and unassisted. I've always wanted to sail under the 5 Great Capes but never anticipated doing it on a boat so small. It was all about timing.

**Boat:** A Flicka 20: which is 20 feet (6.09m) LOA; Beam 2.43m

**Sailing route:** Around the world heading East from Falmouth, UK back to Falmouth, UK under the 5 Great Capes (Southern Ocean Route)

**Sleep:** It all depends on the circumstances. In storms or heavy traffic, very little. Roughly 1 hour sleep to 1 hour awake at night. During a normal night (conditions allowing) 3.5 hour sleep to 1 hour awake to 3.5 hour sleep.

**Routine:** My mornings and evenings have the most routine... wake up, check adjust the sails/course, breakfast and coffee, use the head (open sea), cross off a day on the calendar, pump the bilge, check the deck... begin the day – repairs, maintenance, reading and a number of random items... The end of the day is almost reversed... reducing sail... running the bilge... brushing teeth, checking that the hatches and port holes are closed.

**Favourite treats on-board:** Caramel and salami

**Passing the time in light winds:** Normally the most tiresome sailing... adjust sails and course regularly. Check and adjust rigging... if extremely calm, pack away the sails and rest.

**Most memorable moment so far:** Too many memories to recall... the main highlight is getting through each Low Pressure... out of the storm and in the clear... Euphoria every time!!

To keep up with these adventures on *Hummingbird* – you can follow [gregor\\_the\\_sailor](#) on Instagram!



## BYC Clean Club update

Has anyone spotted our new fish? Installed at the wash down drain to remind us that everything that goes into our drains ends up in the oceans. Whenever we hose down the boats after sailing this fish will watch our water drain into the sea that we sail in.

If anyone else has ideas for how to make our club an even better 'clean club' get in touch with Grace and/or Keith 😊



## 2026 BYC Sailing Calendar

Make sure these dates are marked in your calendars so you don't miss any sailing fun 😊

BYC	Working bee to tidy up before the Oyster Regatta	Thurs 12 March
BYC	Oyster Regatta and NZTYA Champs	Sat 14 / Sun 15 March
BYC	Special General Meeting	March – TBC
MYC	Southland Champs in Te Anau	Sat 28 / Sun 29 March
MYC	Manapouri Classic in Te Anau	Sat 11 / Sun 12 April
BYC	Annual General Meeting	June – TBC
BYC	Open day for the new 2026 season, yay!	October – TBC

## Sailing opportunity: Kawau Island – December 2026

Each year yacht clubs from around New Zealand are invited to send a youth crew to share in the intensive sailing experience sailing Elliott 7 training yachts at Kawau Island. The week of training gives young sailors the opportunity to receive theoretical and practical instruction in the various aspects of competitive keelboat racing. Teams stay on location at Kawau Island (camping), with everything provided during the week.

It has been many years since we have sent a team from Bluff or the wider Southland region and we are currently on the lookout for keen young sailors who might like to be part of a crew for December 2026. Teams should consist of 4-5 sailors (helm, main, trim & bow), aged between 14 – 20 years and have a reasonable standard of sailing competency and experience.

If this opportunity sounds like something you would like to know more about, you can look up: <https://rnzys.org.nz/youthtraining/youthtrainingweek/> and if you are interested, please let Anke know.

## Ready for the next issue of 'Turn the Tide' – it is due April 2026!

Have you had any cool sailing adventures lately and do you have a cool sailing story to tell? Get in touch with Grace and/or Anke, as we would love to hear all about it in the next issue!



## Updated Bluff Yacht Club website

Did you know that the Bluff Yacht Club website has had a refresh!

Make sure you go to: <https://bluffyachtclub.co.nz> and check it out!!

### BYC Committee members:

James – Commodore      Grace – Rear Commodore  
Anders – Treasurer      Craig – Youth Learn to Sail      Bruce – Adult Learn to Sail  
Geoff, Ron, Tony, Anke, Michelle, Annaleise, Roger