



The Turn of the Tide BYC Newsletter – Sept 2025

Welcome to the Bluff Yacht Club 2025/26 season. We hope you've all had a restful winter break and are looking forward to getting back out on Bluff Harbour. This winter your committee

have been working away at a few things. We are excited for what this season will bring for our club, and feel this is a good time to congratulate and remind you that BYC currently holds the cup for the best performing yacht club at the Southland Champs! See you on the water.



BYC Strategy

Thanks to all those that attended our club strategic workshop, held 18 May 2025. The 2010 club strategic plan had been successfully implemented, and the committee were keen for a full refresh. Since May, a few committee members (James, Michelle, Roger, Bruce and Anke) have been reviewing the workshop feedback, notes from our weekend with Eric in February as well as last year's club survey. The draft strategy was considered by the Committee at their September meeting and adopted as a living document.

Strategic Outcomes

Fun, supportive, family focused and loyal
Assets are maintained and improved
Risk is proactively managed
Strong and successful training programmes
The future of Bluff Yacht Club is secure

Boat ramp

You may be aware that as part of ICC's upgrade of the Bluff boat ramp, fees are now being charged for its use (since 1 July 2025). BYC are currently in the process of seeking an exemption to these charges for BYC club-related activities. Hopefully we will know whether we have been successful in gaining an exemption, prior to the beginning of our sailing season.



Clean club update

We have been on our journey with Yachting New Zealand Clean Club programme for awhile now. This winter we submitted our report on what we've been doing to make a difference in our community and for the ocean. This includes using reusable kitchen plates etc. during shared meals, splitting our waste streams (recycling and chicken scraps), locally sourced seafood and potluck for our events (reducing plastic), reducing energy use in the off season, paperless communication (where appropriate), repurposing old sails into new creations, having a guest speaker sharing her academic

knowledge on the voyages of Tohorā and we encourage collecting rubbish when found in the harbour. We have now been recognised for our efforts and awarded our first star! This season we will be installing rat traps in the yard and we hope to install a visual icon for our boat wash down drain. If you've got ideas of what BYC can do as a club to do better environmentally, talk to your Clean Club reps, Keith and Grace.

BYC fleet and Adult Learn-to-Sail

Exciting news – Bruce and James have been working at putting together a 6-week Adult Learn-to-Sail programme and a new club sunburst has been purchased for this purpose. Named 'Karaka' it is a side seat model, which will make it much easier for some of us to duck under the boom when tacking and gybing! A pilot programme for a few keen club members who are keen to participate as 'guinea pigs' will be organised on a different weeknight starting late October. If you are a keen club member who would like to know more, please talk to Bruce or James.

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

BYC Open Day – Saturday 11 October

Come along for the first club sailing of the season – starting 10am, Saturday 11 October. A working bee will be held the previous weekend, Saturday 4 October to make sure the club rooms are 'spik n span' and the boats are all 'ready to roll' in the wind and waves again. Please encourage any potential new members to come and join us for a sail and a social bbq afterwards, bring a plate to share.

The committee is looking forward to seeing everyone again after winter ☀️

2025/26 BYC Sailing Calendar

Mark these dates in your diaries now 😊

BYC	Pre-season working bee	Sat 4 October
BYC	Club Open Day	Sat 11 Oct
BYC	<i>RUNA – Te Tipua school</i>	<i>Thurs 16 Oct</i>
BYC	First Thursday Club Night for the season	Thurs 16 Oct
MYC	SYA Coaching Weekend in Te Anau	Sat 18 / Sun 19 Oct
BYC	<i>William Pike Challenge – Verdon College</i>	<i>Sat 15 Nov</i>
BYC	Bluff One Day Dinghy Regatta (Traveler series Part 1)	Sat 22 Nov
MYC	Open Dinghy Regatta (Traveler series Part 2)	Sat 24 / Sun 25 Jan
WYC	Wanaka Regatta	Dates TBC
OYC	Campbell Regatta at Owaka	Dates TBC
BYC	Oyster Regatta and NZTYA Champs	Sat 14 / Sun 15 March
MYC	Southland Champs in Te Anau	Sat 28 / Sun 29 March