



Queen Charlotte Yacht Club

Shelly Beach, Picton. PO Box 47, Picton 7250. Ph (03) 573 6984.

COMMODORE'S REPORT 2016-17

Richard Gifford

Well it's been another very enjoyable year at Queen Charlotte Yacht Club which is more like a family. It was around this time last year that while in Dublin with Alastair at the Youth Worlds that I got a call from Sam to tell me that the club had suffered serious damage in a high tide weather event. Seems a strange start what I think will have to go down as one of the most exciting and best seasons at the club for quite some time.

Sailing wise we had Alastair at the Laser Radial Youth Worlds in Dun Laoghaire Ireland, Nick and Nick were doing us proud in Long Island USA competing in William I Koch International Cup Regatta – they won this prestigious regatta and also went on to be awarded Tasman Sports Team of the year. Oliver sailed in the Starling Nationals been placed third; Harry and Suede made the Asian team at the Optimist Nationals; River and Louie have been selected to go to New Caledonia with the Optimist Development squad and Alice and Emily sailed well at the 420 Nationals in Wellington. We sent sailors to the P Nationals and Starling match racing.

In Team sailing we had the three colleges up at the Nationals with Marlborough Boys coming 6th Queen Charlotte 7th. Marlborough Boys are now off to Melbourne to compete in the Inter Doms after receiving an invitation to this event after also winning the Lower North islands and South Island Regionals.

Sailors from our club won the Elliott South Island Fleet Racing Regatta and went on to come second in the New Zealand Secondary School Elliott Fleet Racing Nationals in Auckland. This gives them an entry into the Elliot Match Racing later in the year where they'll get to sail with the best sailors in New Zealand Olympic classes and hopefully the Americas Cup winners.

Meanwhile Rob and Pete represented us at the Master Games in Auckland which they both thoroughly enjoyed.

While all this was going on we employed a coach from England Zac, who fitted into our family Club very well.

We held three very successful learn to sail courses and have a go days. Regatta wise we hosted the PT nationals, a great success. Once again the Interislander was a great success with Sam remodelling the boat shed and turning it into what would have to be one of the best regatta cafés in the country. I think of all the regattas I've attended nationally and internationally over the years the Interislander would have to have the best atmosphere of them all. We also hosted the regional team sailing regatta which was one of the biggest team sailing we get in the country with 14 teams from as far as Dunedin competing and this was also a great success.



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This success doesn't happen by itself, it happens because we have a great club with great members that work well together and give the club a great family atmosphere.

On the clubhouse front as I mentioned earlier the club suffered major damage just before the beginning of the season. This meant that other community groups that used the club had to cease as the club was no longer rent-able. The building committee has been working hard and the great thanks must go to Ian Gardner it's chair and Deb Lee, we have been able to secure \$270,000 in this years Marlborough District Council's annual plan. This is very exciting as it brings our building plans into reality. There is still a lot of water to go under the bridge and a lot of hard work to be done but it is going to happen.

Moving on to the 2017/18 season once again we have employed an international coach Tom Mitchell, who will be joining us in September. We will once again be hosting the Nelson Marlborough Regional Championships as well as the Interislander Optimist Ranking Regatta. Then the Optimist Nationals at the end of March, which should attract up to 300 boats, so it's going to be a busy time down at the old Yacht Club.

But I think it will be fun Season.

Thanks
Richard Gifford.

Commodore 2016 / 2017