

Kawau Boating Club

Season ended 31 July 2021

Club Captains Report : Jon Whisker

The focus of the last 6-7 years was rightly placed on securing KBC's viability and that has been achieved thanks for the most part to the hard work and dedication of previous committee's.

Seven years on from the rescue of KBC is it time to look forward and ask where to from here?

I think it is.

Our facility at Kawau Island is unique in the gulf, there is nothing else quite like it and that positions us very well to develop and encourage greater membership. In turn providing the club with greater financial resources to enable further investment in club facilities for the benefit of all.

The rules of Kawau Boating Club Incorporated Society clearly state that "Pecuniary gain is not a purpose of the Society" all that is saying is we are not trying to make a profit but we cannot improve our club facility without a financial input. So, long story short we need to continually chase membership, we do that by continuing to improve the Clubs relevance to today's market while ensuring we maintain the very core of the club that contributes to making it so unique.

In my view it's time to start behaving more like a boating club

So what can that look like, likely be 3-4 events spread through the year

➤ **An annual headline event**

Creating an event that would showcase the truly unique spirit of Kawau Island and its surrounds while learning from similar events held across the Tasman such as the Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart and the Hamilton Island race week in Australia. Both very successful events. Probably a scaled back version of these to start with encouraging vessels from right across the spectrum to take part and would include both on and off water events.

- On water including daily racing for a diverse range of sailing vessels, Spinnaker and non-spinnaker racing handicapped and non-handicapped, all racing courses to be around Kawau Bay, the various islands to be used as rounding marks.
- Off water could include
A lunch for those not out sailing

A long lunch on a lay day, all included in this one
Visit to a Matakana vineyard
Island explorers
Nightly Dinners, could include guest chef, guest speaker and prize giving dinner
Activities for kids

The obvious timing for this would be to hold it following on from the Mahurangi Regatta and run between Mahurangi Regatta and Waitangi day.

➤ **Weekend Sailing**

- Kawau Island
We recognize the bistro is busy enough on long weekends as it is and at times struggles to cope, so we could look to attract boaties to the island on weekends that would run outside these times and consequently bringing more business for the benefit of the Bistro and membership
- Weekend away
Could be run on our own or in conjunction with other clubs, they could race / cruise from their club and we could do the same with everyone finishing at a common destination which would of course be weather dependent.

In my view having the club develop in this way will be positive for everyone, it will improve the club profile, will attract greater membership, improve cashflow, allow the club to invest in improving our facility, support more on Island initiatives and continue to be relevant in an increasingly demanding social environment.

To me staying the same is not an option because things never do stay the same, we either go forwards or backwards. The heritage of the club is very important and none of us want to lose that.

Next time you are out at the club look up to the roof of the KBC building and you will see a starting flagpole, as far as I know that's been there for pretty much ever. It was put there because previous membership wanted to go racing and celebrate the competitive spirit of sailing.

Don't you think it would be good to see racing starting and finishing off the end of the wharf again, I certainly do.