



## **KBC WINTER NEWSLETTER: JUNE 2019**

### **Thank you!**

What an amazing boating season we just had! KBC played hosts to thousands of people—including our own KBC members and many local, national and international guests. It's testimony to the quality of our club that so many people from all over the world stop by to experience our unique setting, the great hospitality and the chance to meet like-minded people. We can all be proud of the standing our club holds in the boating community.

### **A KBC record Christmas and New Year**

With the benefit of the brilliant weather, we had the most boats we've ever had anchored in Bon Accord Harbour over the Christmas/New Year period. It seemed like everyone with a boat visited KBC over the holidays, and the word from many of the new visitors was that they'd be coming back as soon as possible! That's testimony to the friendly and welcoming atmosphere all of you members create—and the wonderful hospitality Davo and Robyn turn on. Roll on next year ... invite your friends!

### **Water, water everywhere!**

Literary references aside, we suffered our own water shortage over the busy holiday period—and eventually had to ration boats, while keeping enough on hand to operate the club facilities. Davo and Robyn did a fantastic job of handling the situation and deserve our thanks for the way they worked through it. Our members and visitors were also patient and helpful; great to see the club coming together and offering support and ideas. We've now got good plans in place to manage our water supply more effectively, and we're confident that's the last time we'll need to ration water.

### **The future of yachting**

At the start of the season, we welcomed the annual RNZYS youth sail training participants to Kawau Island. The group stayed in Smelting House Bay for a couple of weeks, and it was great to see these aspiring sailors out learning the tricks of sailing and racing in our waters. It's not a stretch to say that we'll be seeing some of these inspiring young people competing on the world stage in years to come—and no doubt many of them will return to our waters as their careers progress. They'll be very welcome at KBC!

### **The story of our club**

We often get asked about the history of KBC, so it's worth sharing that story here. Many of you might remember the Kawau Island Yacht Club—a club that certainly had some good years but had become a little tired and in need of some attention. On ANZAC weekend 2014 its closure seemed like the end of an

era. Not so. Looking at the KIYC in its amazing setting on Bon Accord Harbour, six of us saw the potential to revitalise and re-incarnate the club. We had all been members of the KIYC for many years and refused to believe that it was ending its life as an essential part of Auckland's and indeed Kawau Island's boating history. What started as a far-fetched dream over a couple of beers quickly gathered momentum. We renamed the club and set about creating a facility that appeals to all types of boaties—dinghies, kayaks, SUPs, jet skis, runabouts, small yachts right through to the multi-million dollar super yachts and power boats. We wanted the club to be a 'must-see' destination for visitors, and a welcoming, vibrant spot for members and locals to mix with friends and family. We also wanted to play our part in promoting and protecting the Hauraki Gulf.

From humble beginnings with plenty of weekend working bees and elbow grease, we polished the club up, gradually improved the facilities and starting to get some great feedback. We refurbished just about all the facilities, worked through all the red tape and a fair few minor (and major) challenges as we moved forward. Word of mouth spread, locals started visiting, and our membership increased as boaties and their friends and families started enjoying the club. Along the way we've been constantly improving KBC, thanks in the most part to the enormous support we get from RNZYS and our affiliated club members. Davo and Robyn have also been a vital part of the puzzle—the welcoming atmosphere and great service they lay on are a major part of the attraction of our great club.

### **Some recent improvements**

The club is humming, but it doesn't happen by magic. It demands a lot of work, and no small amount of money. The complete refurbishment of the ablution block, the kitchen and bar area have all changed the feel of the club—along with the new display cabinets and beer system. We've also added a large walk-in chiller and freezer unit and a storage facility at the back of the building, and the large deck extension and upgrade is also completed. Throw in the re-painting of the club last winter and the progress is astounding. These types of developments are funded through our membership subscriptions, so please invite your friends to join!

### **But where's the pontoon!?**

The question on everyone's lips ... and the good news is that we'll definitely have it in place for next season, by Labour Weekend. The pontoon has been held up because the supplier is heavily committed to works around Westhaven, but it is built and waiting for a ride to Kawau as soon as a barge is available—we're all looking forward to it arriving.

### **KBC fishing comp**

We're always looking to make KBC a fun, exciting and vibrant place to visit. Next season, we're keen to create an annual KBC fishing competition—hopefully with a special section for kids. We will be looking for possible volunteers and sponsors so if you are keen get in touch with a committee member or get in contact with us through the website.

### **AGM—early October (and a chance to save some money!)**

We'll be holding our AGM in October, and we'll have a busy agenda. We'll be talking about our membership subscription fees, governance of the club, and the size and members of the committee. With the costs of running the club, it looks likely there will be a rise in the annual membership subscription—so, if you want to get in ahead of that, pay the invoice attached! You can also pay through the website.

Thank you—it's your membership and participation in our club that makes KBC one of the Gulf's best and popular destinations.

[DOWNLOAD THE 2019/2020 MEMBERSHIP INVOICE HERE](#)

[VISIT THE KBC WEBSITE AND PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP HERE](#)



Final night at the Club for the 2018/2019 season!



### **Bon Accord Bar and Bistro and Kawau Boating Club report June 2019**

Well, we are all closed up after a wonderful season 5! And what a season it has been. The weather as always played a major part, providing a splendid platform for our guests to enjoy the boating club, Kawau scenery, mateship, food and drink. We get busier each year and it is very interesting to see and talk to our visitors who come from all over.

People are our passion and I would like to share an insight into the diversity of our visitors ... The crew of larger launches and yachts that ease into Bon Accord, drop anchor or take a mooring, will often sit on board a while, recovering from their journey or get busy stowing gear and changing attire. These larger vessels may have arrived from afar - the Bay of Islands, Great Barrier, Tutukaka, Whangarei, Coromandel,

Waiheke, Auckland are all typical last ports of call.

Once organised, the crews launch tenders and make their way to our wharf, tie up and walk into the club.

Many a yarn will be shared , often a tale of rough seas, close calls, boat mishaps, how hard it was blowing at " Tiri" or indeed the opposite,.. Of fair weather, calm seas, dolphin sightings and a rum or two enroute!

Then there is a growing contingent of guests/ club members who arrive in "run a bouts" of all shapes and sizes. On a fine day they will have travelled from Scotts Landing, Sandspit, Algies Bay, Snells Beach, Omaha or from another bay on Kawau. Popping in for brunch, lunch or afternoon tea is a favourite and as the day wears on, perhaps drinks and an evening meal.

I must not forget the " action folks", these adventurers are sometimes wetsuit clad, and have paddled in kayaks, on SUP boards or have raced to us on jetskis from as far away as Takapuna! They pad happily, sometimes wearily in for sustenance of some kind!

Oh yes and then the many active trampers who arrive along the foreshore (tide permitting) or more commonly emerge from the bush having walked from North Cove, Vivian Bay, Stockyard Bay, Hokimai or Swansea ... Tea ,coffee, scones or a meal follow, and if tempted a drink or two, which usually culminates in seeking a boat ride home!

We are always pleased to welcome the mums, dads, caregivers, teachers and kids who regularly make the trek across from Camp Bentzon, they are always full of vim and enthusiasm for their Kawau experience and seem pleasantly surprised with the oasis that the club is.

Super yacht crews often visit for a break from their daily tasks, sometimes the owners come and go without us knowing who is who!

The Hauraki Gulf is a huge playground for the many people who have chosen to "live aboard" their boats and they are quite a community. Several of these " live aboards " now call the KBC .. "Home".. And it features very prominently in their lives and on their sailing charts.

Yachting is big in Bon Accord and we really enjoy meeting and hosting sailors young and very old who regard our location as one of New Zealand's great training/ practice areas. From the RNZYS youth training and adult "learn to sail" programmes to young elite sailors flying around on foiling catamarans... It is a sometimes serious playground! Some of our older members also enjoy sailing their "Electron" remote control yachts , racing each other around courses set off the wharf (this year racing was upset by a very curious Bronze Whaler shark that just wanted to join in!).

The list goes on... Crikey, I must not forget the fishermen and their competitions! It is always exciting to provide the location for tense, good natured, competitive fish "weigh ins", banter, tall stories and a drink or two! There are many different fishing clubs that like to enjoy our space and some of the prize givings, customs and rituals are just priceless in entertainment value!

Tourists and special interest groups add to the eclectic mix, arriving on the Kawau Ferry, Hauraki Express Charters, Piers Barney's lovely "MV Norma Jean". Some of these people have never known where Kawau

is... and wander up the wharf in awe, snapping pics as they approach, amazed as they enter what has often been described as a "1960's Scout Hall" to discover the hearty delights on offer.

Quite often these days, a float plane will land in front of the club, dropping off a couple celebrating a wedding anniversary or just curious to have lunch somewhere special.

While we do not close the club for private functions, we have still enjoyed hosting a few boutique wedding celebrations, special birthdays (one long Italian lunch amazingly) and occasions happy and sad.

The team we have had this season has been second to none and we are very grateful for the effort and energy they have brought to bear in our lives both personal and business. Again.. It's all about the people! We have had up to twelve on the staff rosters and the season has been enhanced by living and working with such a cool group.

Last but absolutely not least .... Kawai People! What a bunch! The Kawai community is so diverse, so interesting and interested. Whether a full time resident or weekender, we all share the common bond of choosing island life and meeting fellow islanders at the club is a treat. As with boaties, there is always a story to tell, an experience to share, a Sandspit crossing to exaggerate!

I am not sure that I have covered all bases but I hope this account has painted the true "people picture " of our precious Club.

The Kawai Boating Club is a hub. It is a privilege to be able to host people, to listen to people, to learn from people - young, old, male or female . Life is good and to be enjoyed and we adore providing a stage on which people play!

Robyn and I are already keen and looking forward to next season, see you at the club in October or elsewhere sooner!

**Davo**

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**Special thanks from the committee and members to Davo and Robyn for their effort over the last five seasons. We are looking forward to the continued success and growth of Kawai Boating Club Inc.**

*From the Chair: On behalf of the committee.*

*Until next season all the best stay warm, and don't forget the maintenance.*