

LOWRY BAY YACHT CLUB INC
ANNUAL REPORT
Year ended 30 June 2015

SUMMARY

Members have contributed to the club generously over the year through their time, skills and financially. Through the efforts of members, the Executive, Committees and staff I can report that the Club has had an active and prosperous year.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Romain Busby as Rear Commodore and the House Committee have had a busy year arranging a range of land based events. Return of the Commodore's dinner this year with a great turnout was a highlight.

Members cooking on Friday nights has addressed the difficulty of finding caterers and their efforts are much appreciated. The profits made have been a boost to the Club's income. For the year the House committee's efforts have raised nearly \$3,000 net.

SAILING COMMITTEE

Brent Porter and the Sailing Committee have provided another year of great racing. Reduced numbers in Division 1 saw us combine Divisions 1 and 2 for the season but a number of new yachts have joined the fleet since then and the future is looking good.

Participation was particularly good for the Friday night series, with the 28 boats competing in one race, which is thought to have set a Club record for Friday nights.

The standard of race management at our regattas was exceptionally high and received positive comments from visiting boats.

The start box location has caused some concerns, with those using it reporting significant swaying since the tees were removed from the wharf and I also received a request from the Marina to relocate the start box in order to move the start/finish line further away from the marina entrance. However, there seems no practical solution to these concerns.

CRUISING COMMITTEE

Our Cruising Captain Olivia Meyers resigned in April and Gillian Anderson was appointed to the role by the Executive.

We have continued with Technical Evenings and Sounds cruises and also tried to diversify to ensure that the Club has a wider cruising offering for its non-racing members and to encourage a broader range of boaties to join the Club. This has included ensuring that there is a cruising event every month and to have a Cook Strait crossing each long weekend. Success has been mixed.

Five yachts took part in the New Year cruise in the Able Tasman National Park. This is further than most of our boats travel. The weather was at times trying but the rain and wind did clear and everyone had easy passages both to and from the National Park.

The weather has conspired against other crossings but a boat rally (organised by Grant McNamara) was particularly well attended with over 20 boats participating and it received great feedback from members.

MAINTENANCE

The club has been very lucky to have a group of members called the Spring Chickens. They meet each Thursday morning and after suitable discussion and refreshment deal with maintenance jobs. As an example of some of the improvements include:

- A change to the swing doors so as to give easier access.
- Repairs to all chairs and tables.
- Maintenance of the roof.
- Replacement of a weatherboard on the northern wall.
- Clean out of various store rooms.
- Painting of exterior walls.
- Window cleaning.
- Kitchen cleaning.
- Repair and replacement of shelves.
- Sanding and varnishing of the exposed wooden flooring.
- Sanding and varnishing of the entry doors.

The transformation has been stunning. It has both improved the Clubhouse for members and improved our rental returns.

The squabs in the Lowry Room were also replaced after being much worse for wear and badly faded. New spotlights have been purchased to replace those in the Seaview Room and will be installed by Kim Zwiers.

Regarding the structural state of the building, after additional inspections, my opinion is that the only major concern is rot in the cladding on the Eastern wall of the Lowry Room opposite the toilets. Even this has now been made watertight to minimise further damage.

GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Grants Committee was established as an initiative from the Planning and Ideas Day in October last year. It is chaired by Sally Betts and its role is to coordinate requests for community funding and to make these applications. The Executive endorses any applications before they are lodged. There are no guarantees of success in making requests but we have the expertise on the Committee to maximise our chances. The first application made was for cruising moorings for Wellington harbour and replacement racing marks. Although unsuccessful in this round it will be

re-submitted. The next application is likely to be to seek assistance with our staff wages.

MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE COMMITTEE

A Committee was established to identify alternative options for membership structures. This also originated from the Planning and Ideas Day and is an informal and temporary group. Its work has culminated in proposal noted later in this report.

MEMBERSHIP

It is very pleasing to report an increase in membership. The membership statistics are as follows:

	Member number 30-Jun-15	Member number 30-Jun-14
Senior	58	57
Crew and Associate	66	68
Family	20	20
Veteran	20	16
Powerboat	9	2
Country	5	6
Intermediate	2	2
Junior	1	2
Total	<hr/> 181 <hr/>	<hr/> 173 <hr/>

Eight new Senior members joined, four existing members transferred to cheaper membership categories and there was one Senior resigned. The Powerboat membership shows a much bigger increase.

We are finalising arrangements with the Marina to offer three month free introductory memberships for new licensees. This will hopefully see joining the Club become an automatic part of bringing a boat to Seaview.

The membership structure is however of concern. Having 32% of the financial members paying 60% of the subscription revenue is not a stable situation. Less than half of our members can vote at AGMs or qualify to be on the Executive. The Membership Structure Committee noted above will present to the Annual General Meeting their recommended rule changes.

FINANCES

Keith Murray has been our Treasurer for this year. He has streamlined and integrated our accounting processes and has reviewed all administrative items and expenses which has resulted in useful cost savings.

I am pleased to advise the club's finances have substantially improved. The resulting surplus of \$11,371 (\$3,982 in 2014) has been achieved as a result of the following factors:

- Increased membership.
- Clubhouse rentals (including The Wellington Revival Church).
- Profits from our social activities.
- Cost savings.

During the first part of the year it was clear that there was a downturn in Bar sales. The second half of the year had improved figures so that for the year sales are at the same level as for last year. The margins have remained static.

Net racing costs have increased. This is attributable to the cost of prizes and significant increases in the cost of engraving trophies and plaques.

The financial performance over the year has put the club in a strong financial situation with adequate funds. Our Treasurer has expressed a warning that we do have some operating risk. To run the club, providing our clubhouse, communication and activities requires roughly \$63,000 per year. Subscriptions provide only 46% of the required revenue. The rest has come from rentals and from bar profits. Both of these can be difficult to achieve and variable in amount.