



RIPPLE

COMMODORES LOG, OF THE LAKE ROTOITI CLASSIC & WOODEN BOAT ASSOCIATION

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This newsletter is a new initiative from the Commodore. The idea is to have a regular and frequent brief communication to our members concerning the activities of the association. You will find quick reference to coming events, introductions to our new committee members, reports on activities and other items related to the association as the boating season progresses.

So welcome to the first edition of Ripple and I hope it gets us all more involved with enjoying our boats and strengthens the LRC&WBA

Coming Events

Sun 29th November Spring into Summer BBQ 0900-1100 Lake Rotoiti Hot Pools

Summer is just around the corner and its time to get you boat out on the water and catch up with the crew. We have exclusive access to the pools for two hours, giving us the perfect chance to enjoy a relaxing soak followed by a delicious catered BBQ breakfast. We welcome all classes of boats at this event.

Sat 2nd January	New Year Picnic	1100-1300	
Sun 3rd January	Dinghy Day	1000-1400	Wairau Bay

Festival of Boating 2027

The upcoming Annual Wooden Boat Parade is a special event as we celebrate our 30th Annual Parade, your committee has been busy setting up an extended program of activities to ensure that we mark this occasion appropriately.

I hope that you will all make a special effort to come and celebrate with the Association. It is going to be a busy few days both on and off the water, for sure.

Our 30th Celebration Dinner will be held at the Distinction Hotel on Saturday 6th February.

The hotel has lovely rooms, great food, the parking area is very big, secure and gated. Locked at dusk with camera recognition to access via your number plate.

If you wish to book to stay at this very popular hotel be aware accommodation books out fast, so there is some urgency if you wish to stay. We have negotiated a special price for members. To make a booking ring directly to Silina on 07 349 5200 or email conference@distinctionrotorua.co.nz. Let Silina know you are with the Lake Rotoiti Classic and Wooden Boat Association & having your dinner there.

Run of House Rooms (Non-Air-condition) - \$250.00 per room per night Bed & Breakfast – Single/Twin Occupancy

Deluxe Rooms (Air-condition) - \$270.00 per room per night Bed & Breakfast – Single/Twin

Festival of Boating 30th Celebration Events

Friday 5th 1600 hrs Peter Mitchell is organising a Classic Boat Display on the Village Green at the Rotorua Lakefront, and I'd encourage as many of you who can to take the opportunity to check out the boats and slide across the road to Eat Street for dinner.

Saturday 6th is a Shakedown Day on Rotoiti and I encourage you to join with your friends and across the boat classes and get out on the water for a leisurely day. I will be joining the Albatross guys for our 3rd All Albatross Day - we meet for coffee at 10am, have a spin on the lake and arrive with our picnic lunches at an arranged spot for lunch, a great way to get into the celebrations weekend.

We have a bit of work to do finding Captain's who might put together a Class Group eg Wooden Speed Boats, Launches, Dinghies so if you'd like to get involved we'd be grateful and work alongside to help you make this a fun day. Please get in contact with me if you want to assist.

Saturday 6th Feb 1700 hrs we will be joining together for a formal 30th Anniversary Celebration Dinner, with a guest speaker, beautiful buffet and music to be enjoyed, at the Distinction Hotel, located at the corner of Fenton & Sala Streets.

This is looking to be a very special occasion and we have even found space to have a freshly restored boat coming all the way from Cromwell to be in the room with us. The Association has been donated some items which we will live auction during the evening, with proceeds supporting the Association. I'd like to acknowledge and thank Chris Croul from Simply Seagulls who has restored an 40+ Seagull outboard, Kate and the team from Tides Out Maps who have donated a 3-D relief chart of Lake Rotoiti, and to Tim from the Rotoiti Hot Pools who has kindly offered an Annual Registration - thanks for your generous support.



The Captains Briefing for the 30th Parade, 1730 hours at the Distinction Hotel, please attend so you are clear on the parade details, you're welcome to attend the social time even if your are not dining.

Sunday 7th February 2027 1100 hours 30th Annual Parade Assemble in Okere Arm

The change of day is to allow members to travel either side of the event because Monday is the Waitangi Day public holiday.

Post the parade we will again be having a Stand Up function at the Ramada on the Ohau Channel as the feedback from last year was that it made a great end point to the day to be able to meet and socialise.

Monday 8th we will have another lake day with an In-Side-Out Cruise to hunt the bouys event which will run several different courses for differing classes of craft. Details TBC, the event will conclude at Wairau Bay at 1300 with a BYO Picnic - again if you just want to run down the lake for a picnic with friends family and like minded boaties then you're more than welcome.

We already have confirmation that a number of boats will be travelling up from the South Island to join us which is exciting. I'm hoping you will all make the effort to get your boats on the water and make this a really special celebration of our 30th Annual Parade.

Introducing - Alan Thorn our Commodore

Alan took upon the role as our new commodore at the AGM. He has a long association with the Rotorua lakes having lived on the shores of lakes Rotorua, Okareka, Tarawera, Ohakuri and Rotoiti during his years as a researcher with Scion (formally the Forest Research Institute). Currently residing in Katikati and developing an espalier grown avocado orchard with his wife Maria who was born & spent her schools days residing in Hannahs Bay.

Alan and Maria also have a passion for fly-fishing and are often out exploring the waters in their aptly named motorhome 'the Lakehouse'

Classic boat owners often have other mechanical interests and the Thorns are MG enthusiasts with a long association with MG's the MG Car Club. Alan's shed also has a 1956 Buckler which is under restoration, the mandatory fishing smack and a foiling bath-tub powered by a Seagull engine.

Maria and Alan's introduction to classic boating began when Ross Birchall loaned them Skinny Boat to attend the 22nd Annual Parade in 2019 - on the way home after the weekend Maria commented that she'd really like to have an Albatross and the rest is history.

Their boat Oscar was purchased and imported from the UK later that year and is a MK1 Albatross Continental powered by a 1500cc FWB Coventry Climax engine, and has been the catalyst for Alan to research the provenance of the 26 Albatross boats in New Zealand.



Well that's it for this issue.

Cu on the water soon.

Please introduce yourself so I can get to know as many of you as possible.

Off to the shed to attend to replacing the cutlass bearing.

Regards Alan