



## Chairwoman's Report for WOW 2012-2013

Who said advertising doesn't work? Well, we proved them wrong when we placed an article in the Weekend Sun the week before the first race on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012. We had a huge response and broke the existing record to have 150 WOW participants on 21 boats out on the water....WOW! How high can we go?? Thanks to our many willing and able boat owners who keep supporting us we've had yet another successful year of women's sailing.

Since it was the beginning of a new decade of WOW I thought it was time for a new logo but only a slightly different version so we got rid of the feminist sign on the 'O' and added 'Sailing' to say exactly what we do.

We picked up a couple of new sponsors – Fitco gym generously gave us nine 1 month as well as a 3 month free membership voucher; and Ivory Premium Urban Lounge and Mt Mellick vouchers were combined and similarly, the Le Chat Noir vouchers were combined with Café Suisse, due to them having the same owners.

Head warmer bands made by Caryl Deal on the committee were added to our merchandise range and with a new gear bag to raffle off, made again by Wendy Oldham at the Canvas Locker, we started the season with renewed enthusiasm.

Sadly we lost Wayne Johnson to cancer in September so we had to find someone else to help Bill in the tower. Bruce Holt from Rotorua responded to the call as, in the past, he was often left in the club while his wife, Jackie, went sailing.

After much debate the Cruising Division stayed the same no extras, non-racing division and the Racing Division still required the payment of a Racing Fee so it was business as usual for WOW but just a little bit more serious as the OCS (On Course Side) rule for the Racing Division would now be enforced.

The handicapping was now adjusted by the Yacht Systems program but still based on the Club handicap of each boat. After each WOW race the results are entered into the program to give the start times for the next race. This way we have a completely unbiased handicap system which keeps it fair for everyone.

The races before Christmas were well attended but the four races after New Year had lower numbers due to many of our big boats being away cruising. And you can't blame them for it's been the best summer we've had for years – long and dry. Every night was so idyllic that we didn't have to resort to our contingency plan for a cancelled sailing WOW night but at least we'll be prepared for next season - thanks to Gill Needs for putting the plan in place.

Not long into the season we had Hamish Hey come from Yachting New Zealand to explain the basic rules and teach some basic knots to our WOW ladies which was well attended by 40 of us. After our third WOW night 15 of us headed over to Lake Rotoiti for a day of windward/leeward racing with



BOPTYS thanks once again to Jackie Holt. The one day event kept it simple and affordable and a great time was had by all.

The idea was to start as late as possible in January to ensure maximum boats and maximum women would go sailing but it didn't seem to make a difference – numbers were down even though the weather was perfect. Luckily, we'd organized a couple of alternate Thursday evenings to have a go at dinghy sailing. It was a first for WOW but an opportunity not to be missed. Again Hamish Hey agreed to come away from Auckland to give us his precious time to teach the art of dinghy sailing to a group of mature women – not a typical request but he seemed to enjoy the novelty of it. Hiring the 6 Topaz boats from BOP Sailing AcademyTrust (BOPSAT) 20 WOW took to the water on another perfect summer's evening with light winds. The more experienced, Nicole Harris, took the only '420' boat out with a beginner onboard. For the second dinghy sailing night, Hamish cancelled at short notice so we asked Nicole if she could instruct the 14 women keen to try again. With the help of experienced Centreboard division guys watching over us from 2 RIBs we were well cared for. Feedback was positive for these evenings so it should be on the calendar for next year.

Due to Easter being so early this year and having to work around the Auckland-Tauranga Race we had a 3 week break before our last race on Sunday April 7. By then daylight was fading fast in the evenings so it had to be sailed on a weekend afternoon and what a great afternoon it was. We had so much more time to sail so starting at 2pm Bill set 2 courses, a longer one for the Racing Division, and we were all finished by 5pm. The Club was fuller than usual as family and friends were able to join us and many of the crews and skippers dressed to a theme of their choice as is tradition with our final night. We were pleased to finally take some of our sponsors out for a sail. Mills Reef, represented by Thomas McAuley and his wife, Hannah, went on General Jackson and Vicky Mackintosh from Healthy Inspirations went on Fast Lane and they all said they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The Mt Mellick/Ivory owners, Clayton & Erica Mitchell, joined us for dinner. Donna and Gordon Bodell of Hands On Health cancelled last minute as Donna was too sick.

A \$500 cheque was presented by Gary Smith, Club Commodore, to this year's only Women's National Keelboat Champs entry from Tauranga, organized again by Rhonda Ritchie but this time she'll hand the helm to Leslie Goddard of BOPTYS club. Chocolate and Z fuel vouchers were given



to all this season's boat owners and the Racing Division 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> places also received a bottle of rum. Thomas MacAuley then presented 1<sup>st</sup> place the trophy and the \$200 meal voucher from Mills Reef Winery. With a hard-fought 1 point victory the 'Whatever' team, my team, held onto first place to take the honours this year.

Here's to another successful year of WOW Tauranga and I hope my successor will continue the progression towards more knowledgeable and competent women sailors in our region.

Megan Harris (WOW Chairwoman)