

# The Village Connector

GHMVRAI Newsletter | Issue 7 | 2017

## IT'S OURS What A Feeling!



Live! © ACEA 2017 / Photo Ricardo Pinto



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## WELCOME TO OUR READERS

The Village Connector has had a long break! But look what we have with us!

So very proud of these guys.

Now sit back with a glass of something and enjoy your read ....

### Carols on the Canal

Saturday

2 December 2017

Carols on the Canal is scheduled for Saturday 2 December, no matter if it's raining cats and dogs!

Put into your diary - tide's just right for Santa.



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# CONGRATULATIONS TEAM NEW ZEALAND



## How proud are we.....

Emirates Team New Zealand closed out their 7-1 challenge victory over the Americans with an emphatic win, ending 14 years of frustration since the Auld Mug last left Auckland.

There is speculation of a cutting edge course immediately off the viaduct Harbour featuring the back drop of the Harbour Bridge and a finish line just off the Hilton Hotel.

Another option is in the Tamaki Strait between Maraeti and Waiheke Island where Team NZ did a lot of training in the build-up to Bermuda.

The third option is the course used in 2003 when NZ last defended the cup. The course was between Whangaparoa Peninsular to the North.

Fingers crossed the next Americas Cup will be on our doorstep, the speed that these boats can travel at, may be well suited to the peninsula area. No matter the decision we will all look forward to hosting the next Americas Cup.



## A big thanks to Ripples

Cheers to Dave and Anne, owners of Ripples, who opened at 5am every morning of racing.

The photo below was taken when the final was being raced.





# WORLD MASTERS GAMES | AUCKLAND | 2017 <sup>3</sup>

On Mike's bucket list was to sail in a World Competition. When he saw the World Masters Games was to be hosted by Auckland, with sailing as one of the sports, it was too good an opportunity to miss! The yachts to be used were the Laser, Weta (single-handed) or Weta (doubled-handed) and would be located at Torbay – right on our front doorstep. Mike had not sailed a dinghy yacht for 50 years, nor I for 30 years, so it would be a great challenge for our flexibility and stamina.

We decided to support each other — sail together in the Weta and learn the art of “apparent wind” sailing. After buying a “nearly new” boat (707) we gingerly launched “Weta n Wetter” at Matakatia Bay on a very calm day to make sure we could launch her off the trailer and jump in from above knee deep water! It was rather cold in

July, in spite of wearing a

dry suit and we were most relieved as the warmer weather improved towards the end of the year and we could convert to wetsuits.

Our summer was spent training mainly off the beautiful Arkles Bay and Torbay. Mike spent many hours tweaking the boat and perfecting the systems, so by early March we were ready to compete in the Weta Fest at Manly Yacht Club. After many years of keelboat sailing in many different types of racing, we knew the windward/leeward course or destination race format well. However, we were in for a steep learning curve, racing close by other trimarans. As Rex Sellars said, “It's like sailing a cross between a catamaran and a skiff, with training wheels”. Yahoo, what a ride!

I had volunteered on the signal boat for the New Zealand Youth Trials and subsequent World Youth Champs to update my knowledge of flag and race procedures and to get a feel for sailing off Torbay. During the contest, the boat park, launching facilities and after match beers with fellow competitors were very well organised and supported admirably by the volunteers. A young laser sailor remarked: “Remember, without the volunteers and sailors, it's just wind and water”.

Competition over five days in New Zealand will always present a range of different weather conditions but we managed to be consistent in our placings to lie 4<sup>th</sup> overall. We started the last day, having slipped to 5<sup>th</sup> place on count back, determined to do better and beat Tony Rae and his Dad, Murray. The average 15kts suited us and we nailed it – beating them 2/3 races and close on the heels of the leaders.

Out of 22 starters we finished 4<sup>th</sup> behind very experienced New Zealand and Aussie sailors. To be awarded a silver medal in our age category was the icing on the cake and made all those hours of practice totally worthwhile. One of our friends remarked “it's not the Olympic Games you know” – but it was for us! We also now have a much better appreciation for ETNZ as they prepare for the America's Cup and celebrate the combined superb talents of their team.

The Masters Games is a participation event, enabling us to measure ourselves amongst Olympic and World Champs of yesteryear – what a privilege – but we were not there just to make up the numbers. When you register, they ask for your goal which I recorded as: “To participate in a world competition with interesting like-minded people, which will keep us fit and active”. We met wonderful sailors from New Zealand and from all over the world. Mike has ticked this box on his bucket list... and we have a silver medal to quench our competitive natures.

Congratulations to all who took part and thanks to all the volunteers.

Sheryl Lanigan





# WORLD MASTERS GAMES | AUCKLAND | 2017 <sup>4</sup>

What a fantastic event! Enthusiastic sailors, amazing volunteers, great sailing conditions and New Zealand hospitality at its best.

Our journey began more than a year before the event as part of the sailing committee. We were responsible for ensuring high quality race management on the water. This involved sourcing and equipping all the race management boats, including 65 flags for signalling. Sailing is a resource hungry sport with 15 race management boats, 13 safety boats needing 61 volunteers (in green) on the water and another army of volunteers on the shore.



Imagine the logistics of getting over 200 sailing boats across the road at Torbay and onto the beach – 154 Lasers and 48 Wetas. Torbay was quite a sight with race management boats moored in the bay overnight, except one night when it was too rough and all the boats had to be hauled out and re-launched again the next morning. Most days the keel boats headed back to Gulf Harbour for a sheltered anchorage – SE winds were not conducive to a flat night in the bay. There were two course areas. Our yacht, Toyshop, was the Signal Board for Lasers and Laser Radials. Richard and Virginia Endean from the village were a vital part of the crew of six on board. There were four fleets – two for Lasers and two for Radials in the age categories of Apprentice Masters (35-44) and Great Great Grand Master (75 and over) sailing together. We had a total of 154 boards on our course area doing two 50 minute races per day for each fleet, which meant eight starting sequences per day but ... one day we had 17 starts as the sailors did not appear to notice the tide pushing them over the line early, resulting in general recalls and costly penalties for some boats.

There was a similar playing out on the other course area for 48 Wetas but they had fourteen 30 minute races overall.

We nearly had to go to plan B one day when we got our anchor stuck in Torbay TWICE and had to get another boat to pull it out. We bent the shaft of the anchor so we were well and truly stuck!

The World Masters is a great concept and very inclusive. There were 78 sought-after sailing medals presented. Congratulations **Mike** and **Sheryl Lanigan** – silver medallists.

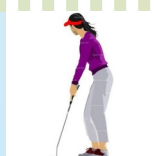
A magic part of this event is the socialising in the big tent on the beach at Torbay after racing and at two evening events. Athletes and volunteers got together to share stories (and lies) and enjoy a drink or two.



There were 4000 volunteers involved in the World Masters Games and it was a privilege to be two of them.

*Linda and John Parrish*

We recently had residents of the Canal both participate and volunteer their time to make these games such a success, the effort and support needed for these athletes to perform was immense. Congratulations to Mike & Sheryl Lanigan, Linda & John Parrish, Virginia & Richard Endean — Sailing | Mary Stewart — Swimming | Dawn & Marty Riley (recent residents) — Golf.





## Visitors

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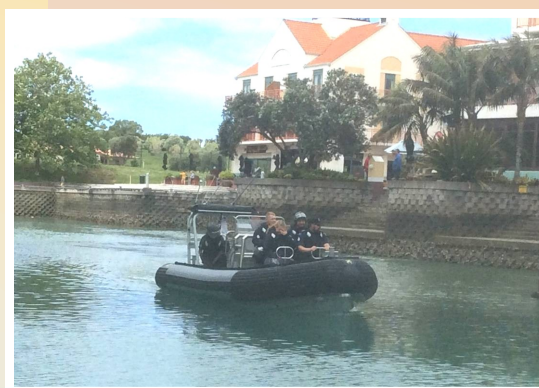
Bellingham workers took a break from working on the new berths on the Western arm for some coffee at Cherry Cafe....



## Royal Navy



A small Royal New Zealand naval vessel visited us while they were anchored with other International naval ships off the south of Gulf Harbour as part of the New Zealand Navy 75th Anniversary celebrations.



## Rue and Cap D'Amarres Working Bee



We had 19 enthusiastic starters ready to remodel our gardens with a number of new neighbours attending and meeting the neighbourhood crew. Morning tea was a welcome break from the energetic and frantic start. The day ended with lunch and refreshments. Maybe we will change the name from Working Bee to 2 plus 2 - That's 2 hours work and 2 hours refreshments, networking, laughs and stories. Well done team for a fun day!







## The Lookouts Garden Working Bee- February 2017

A group of residents from The Lookouts had a very productive garden working bee session. Due to the dry conditions, the leaves are dropping early. The Lookouts gardening conveyor, Diane Flexman, plans to mulch the leaf drop each season, with their mulched end result, then return the mulch to their gardens. This saves on the cost and time of dumping, and free mulch for the gardens.

Following a very successful turnout and a great job completed by everyone, our reward was enjoying Diane's wonderful home made muffins with coffee and tea.

Other Bodies Corporate might also like to consider, if you have no funds for your gardens, then you can follow Cap and Rue

d'Amarres, and The Lookouts by getting together, digging, socialising and achieving great deeds in your gardens.



## MORGAN BATT'S TRAVELS



### My trip to the west coast of Thailand

In February we went sailing out on our boat *Mustang Sally* for three weeks to the west of Phuket.

The first place we went to was the Similans, where we did lots of good snorkelling. We saw lots of colourful reef fish, a Portuguese man-of-war and a turtle. The water was crystal clear and warm.

After that we went to the Surins where we also had great snorkelling and we had lots of

fun filming ourselves under water. I went for two long distance kayaks to keep our friend, Joleen, a long-distance ocean swimmer, safe from tourist boats. I kayaked 1.5 km.

Then we sailed across to Koh Payam. We rented some scooters and tiki toured around the island (which was safe because there are no cars on the island). We also went to Muay Thai lessons (Thai kick boxing). In Thailand they have parties to celebrate the full moon. We went to a full moon party at the pirate ship beach bar which was made out of

drift wood, where I played with Jude and Max so that was fun. Mum, Dad and I all got our faces painted. We also got glow sticks but a little Thai boy threw a little rock at my head and an anchor at another little boy. I had an egg on my head after that.

We have come home for a few months, and while we are back, I am attending Gulf Harbour Primary and I get to make some new friends.







## OUR VILLAGE

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### St Patricks' Day at Yogi's Bar



## Toyshop Christmas Day Annual Swim

Toyshop owners, Linda and John Parrish, their children and grandchildren have a Christmas ritual. Every Christmas morning starts with all aboard, some still wearing their PJ's! Once on board, head out through the main marina then, rain or shine jump in for a swim!

One year they had John's 90 year old mother and a six week old newcomer to the family aboard.

Last Christmas they had extra residents on board taking the plunge - Mary Stewart, Liz Rothwell and a few others.

If you have missed this event then look out for them next year. They leave the Berth at 8am, or you will hear John rounding them up.....







## OUR VILLAGE Christmas Lights

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Look out Franklin Road! More and more residents are showing their Christmas spirit by stringing their lights out and other Christmas decorations on their balconies.

Thanks to those who put so much effort into their displays for others to enjoy and provide the festive tradition growing here in our village. Hopefully others who have not participated previously will be encouraged to be part of the Christmas cheer next year.

More residents from The Lookouts would create a spectacular sight if every apartment were to decorate their apartments. There's a challenge for us all!

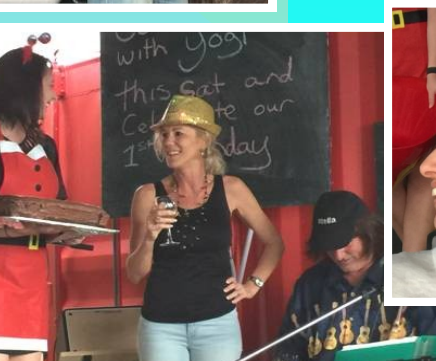


### Yogi's Birthday

A celebration for Yogi's Bar took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

Many friends of Yogi's celebrated the occasion with Grant, Bronnie, Danny and Kristen.

Kristen passed slices of a very large chocolate cake to everyone. Many brought their musical instruments and a great night was had while some wonderful talented musicians entertained folks for the rest of the night.





## KidsLink

Two of the Marine Village residents Michele Whitcombe and Michele Yock recently featured in the Rodney Times, below is the article.

Stanmore Bay-run organisation KidsLink is pushing a drive for local sponsors to give students a helping hand.

Working with schools to identify kids in need, the Help For Kids campaign is linking those needs with opportunities, with the help of local businesses.

KidsLink was started four years ago by primary school teachers Julie Whitcombe and Michele Yock.

In its four years of operation, it has worked with 160 Auckland schools to help 141 students access \$45,000 worth of assistance.

The Help For Kids drive is shifting the focus back to where it all started; the Rodney District.

Whitcombe and Yock started KidsLink when they realised the need for a support service which links pupils in need to relevant assistance.

With services including eye examinations, hearing tests, counselling, tutoring, dyslexia assessments and more, the organisation strives to get students the help they need as soon as possible.

Whitcombe says kids in need sometimes can't wait to receive help from government channels.



*KidsLink co-founder Michele Yock with Karen Blundell from Langaug4Life, a local recipient.*

"There is not always access through the Ministry of Education, and there are often waiting lists for kids who need [help] quick smart."

In previous cases, KidsLink has provided urgent assistance, such as counselling for kids who have lost a parent.

"You don't want to wait three months before getting onto that sort of thing," Whitcombe says.

KidsLink also stresses the importance of fast help for the sake of a pupil's self confidence.

If a child is held back by a learning obstacle, such as dyslexia or poor eyesight, they can feel left behind, Whitcombe says.

"If you can get to these students just in time you've got much better outcomes for them, for their learning, their behaviour and development going forward. It's better for everyone," she says.

Sponsors or businesses that provide funds for the campaign will get the opportunity to receive feedback on how their money is helping students, Whitcombe says.

They will also get branding recognition on KidsLink's website and social media channels.



## Introducing Gary Rossouw

By now many of you will have seen Gary around the Town Centre. He is also the Town Centre BC Chairman. Gary is a registered marine electrician and he refers to himself as a building handyman.

You may have noticed recent improvements to the neglected buildings of the Town Centre which are due to Gary's refurbishing skills.







## Paddle Boarding | December 2016

The paddle board season has gotten off to a good start with many new members joining. A convoy of vehicles over numerous days has headed to East Tamaki to cash in on the summer paddle board sales @ \$499.00 for a beautiful board, paddle and leg rope.

On Saturday 3 December our members paddled up the Laurie Southwick water way canal and on Saturday 17 December a festive Christmas morning with Santa was enjoyed by all at Fairway Bay.



## Fishing interest group

### Day Fishing Championship | Kawau Island | November 2016



Unfortunately 25-30 knot westerly winds spoilt the day. However, those hardy members who persevered were pleasantly surprised by the calm waters on the Eastern side of the Island and the glassy conditions in Burgess Bay, which allowed for some healthy competition to flourish.

Congratulations to trophy winners: **Sam and Mary Graham**

Winner GHMVRA Best Boat plus Heaviest Snapper: **Sue Robertson.**







The Fishing Interest Group, which was initiated by Murray and Denise McBeth (June Bug), convened at Smokehouse Bay on Sunday Evening for the GH Day Fishing Champion Weigh In and so many of the categories were won by Sam and Mary Graham that their launch (Shagari, pronounced with the stress on the second syllable, definitely not the first) later developed a pronounced list, inadvertently to port, due to the weight of the trophies all stowed. The evening was most amiable and cosmopolitan, owing to the presence around the smokehouse of the Passengers and Crew of a reasonably sized German

Cruise Ship (Be Mine), enjoying a BBQ with their Hosts of the previous evening, Glen and Wendy Bracewell and their Son Seth from their bach in Forestry Bay. Also anchored in the distance, just off Port Fitzroy, was a second massive Mega Yacht called Vibrant Curiosity owned by Reinhold Wurth (also of Germany).

On Monday, Murray and Denise kindly took me on as anchor watchman while they dived for crayfish. Dividend (Calvin and Linda Bray) also joined us just outside Man'O'War Passage for a combined dive.

The flotilla anchored for the night in Kiwiriki Bay and we were entertained to sundowners by Chris and Judy Ingram on Colonsay, which provided Owners with the usual opportunity to discuss the quantum, in dollar and mental health terms, of their particular crop of gear failures while nibbling snapper bites. For Chris and me, it was about satellite trackers and their shortcomings in tracking satellites.

On Tuesday, we moved to Bowling Alley Bay and witnessed an amazing number of gannets diving on fish. Did you know that they eventually blind themselves from all this high speed diving? When a bird becomes helpless in this way, two of the flock will fly it in convoy to a rocky outcrop, which results in its feathery euthanasia. (I am reminded of the Eskimo practice of leaving their most senior citizens in the snow.) This time, sundowners with crayfish and the inevitable discussion of breakages, were held on board Murray and Denise's June Bug.

On Wednesday, we set off to return to the Mainland. Colonsay (Chris and Judy Ingram) and June Bug (Murray and Denise McBeth) were heavy enough to cope with the strong Sou'Wester coming right on the nose, but Shagari (Sam and Mary Graham) and Adventure (my Reflections 980) decided to return to Port Fitzroy, where I was treated to a super brunch of Mahurangi whitebait and an even better dinner of fish pies on Shagari. The overnight anchorage was Wairahi Bay, where a strong wind from a southerly quarter kept us holed up for two nights. Gin and Tonic (Peter and Michele Milne), Winslow (Paul and Karen Archer), the only yachts in our flotilla, were in the neighbouring bay during this time.

This was my first experience of coastal cruising in Company at home (I have done it sailing offshore), and I can thoroughly recommend it. There is a huge comfort factor in making decisions with regard to anchoring from the pooled wisdom of experienced boaties. There is also a safety factor built into making passages with others. I was happy to know that Valu (Paul and Sue Halligan's Riviera) was not far away when I was anchored at Kawau Island: you never know when you may either need assistance or be required to give it. Most of all, it is great fun socially to hang with a group now and again. The next excursion such as this will be to Waiheke Island for the Easter Weekend Jazz Festival. Give it serious consideration to join in the festivities both on and off the water.

Vincent Reidy

