

WEST WIND

Newsletter of the Zephyr Owners Association

Volume 68 Issue 3

www.zephyr.org.nz

July 2025

SECRETARY/EDITOR

Brian Peet

This issue of West Wind contains the final two regatta reports from the end of the 2024-25 sailing season. The Auckland champs and the National champs are well behind us, with most members aware of the respective regatta outcomes via social media and social networking platforms. However, our West Wind publication retains its archive role as the place to start looking for past results and Zephyr articles of interest.

AZO Chairman Bruce Craies report below covers the Auckland champs held at Howick over the weekend 1-2 February 2025. This was a well supported, enjoyable regatta.

For those not at the 4-8 Feb 2025 Tauranga Nationals, Andy Knowles report on page 4 succinctly sums up what was also a great event. Pages 5-8 contain photos, results and sailor's forum minutes.

Soon after the nationals came the very sad news that former ZOA President and all round top bloke Matt Mitchell had lost his courageous battle with cancer. Our January issue touched on his timely and wisdom-filled contribution to our class. Additional recollections are contained in this issue's 'Crossing the Bar', page 9.

Looking forward, recent changes to NZ's Incorporated Society legislation has required some additions to the ZOA Constitution. Tony Miller researched the new act and created an upgraded draft Constitution. This will be emailed to members in the next couple of weeks. Discussing and voting will occur at the 2025 AGM, once the 2024-25 accounts are finalised - likely late August or early September.

While on the rules topic, the Exec and Measurers have been working on our Class Rules. Steve Pyatt started by reformatting the document into more logical groupings. Some existing rules were tweaked to remove ambiguity and a few new ones added from the membership and Exec. The draft document will also be emailed prior to the AGM. Hopefully most will be uncontroversial, but a few may provoke some discussion. Consequently, the Exec have decided to delay this vote until after the AGM, once various views have been aired.

AUCKLAND CHAMPS

Bruce Craies

Congrats Mark Orams. Marko has once again proven to be the master of the Zephyr fleet here in Auckland. Despite close attention from both Andrew Brown and Rod Dawson, and a minor brush with the UFD club, the light flukey conditions were no impediment to his progress.

The weekend started with a very light oscillating breeze and the delay was filled in by a group discussion on all things Zephyr, hosted by Marko, Brownie and Rod. It was fantastic gesture by the guys and was well received by not only our sailors but a few youngsters from the Howick club.

The delay over, a light north easterly filled in to provide for three races. Mark Orams won the first three races, but a UFD on the third relegated him down the scoreboard. Rod and Andrew didn't want to be left out so each also UFD'd, similarly dropping down the ladder. By the end of the day Mike Drummond and Brian Peet tied at the top of the scoreboard with newcomer Alec Frankham showing great consistent form.

Day two provided a SE of varying strength and character, enough to test the patience and skill of all concerned. Mike Drummond couldn't make the second day, leaving Marko, Andrew and Rod to dominate the podium while the remainder of us continued to tack into headers, look good on occasions, then not, and generally engage in close contact in great spirit.

Brian Baker took the 70+ award, Brian Peet the 65-70, and Denis (Kermit) Conway the handicap prize.

Marc Frewin and his team at Howick Sailing Club did a fantastic job of looking after us and provided not only great racing, but a superb onshore experience. The Toasted sandwiches and Burgers were first class as was the general

hospitality. The wind gods, however, set out a challenging weekend.

Thanks to all who attended for the great spirit the weekend was conducted in, particularly to Murray Thom for standing up as the new Morals, Complaints and Inclusion officer of the class. Also good to see penalty turns being conducted on the water. It was a great weekend to be involved in, congrats to all.



▲ Lap one race one 2025
Auckland Champs



◀ For many entrants the regatta highlight was the detailed tuning and race advice offered by Mark Orams, Rod Dawson and Andrew Brown during day one's wait for wind.

2025 AUCKLAND CHAMPS

Howick Sailing Club

Overall

Sailed: 6, Discards: 1, To count: 5, Entries: 25, Scoring system: Appendix A

Rank	HelmName	SailNo	Boat	Club	Division	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Total	Nett
1st	Mark Orams	523		WBC	60-64	1.0	1.0	(26.0 UFD)	1.0	1.0	2.0	32.0	6.0
2nd	Andrew Brown	328	Grants Ladyboy	WBC	<60	(26.0 UFD)	2.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	37.0	11.0
3rd	Rod Dawson	708	Bucket	Manly SC	<60	(26.0 UFD)	4.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	39.0	13.0
4th	Brian Peet	701	Daedalus	GBC	65-69	2.0	5.0	4.0	5.0	(10.0)	7.0	33.0	23.0
5th	Grant Beck	715		WBC	65-69	5.0	9.0	(11.0)	4.0	6.0	5.0	40.0	29.0
6th	Steve Pyatt	702	Lorna Doone	Manly SC	65-69	7.0	6.0	8.0	11.0	4.0	(15.0)	51.0	36.0
7th	Alec Frankham	216		Manly SC	<60	8.0	8.0	7.0	(12.0)	9.0	4.0	48.0	36.0
8th	Andrew Mikkelsen	608	Phantom	CYA, PCC, NZRYC,	<60	4.0	11.0	(26.0 UFD)	7.0	8.0	8.0	64.0	38.0
9th	Dennis Conway	220	Goldfinger	Manly SC	60-64	9.0	7.0	13.0	10.0	5.0	(14.0)	58.0	44.0
10th	Hansie Eichholz	172	Alma	TYPBC	65-69	3.0	16.0	10.0	6.0	11.0	(20.0)	66.0	46.0
11th	Brian Baker	605	Zoe B	PCSC	70+	10.0	(25.0)	9.0	8.0	14.0	12.0	78.0	53.0
12th	Brent Jeffries	602	Just add water	Taikata	<60	14.0	13.0	6.0	(21.0)	17.0	6.0	77.0	56.0
13th	Murray Thom	711	Wai	Manly SC	65-69	13.0	14.0	(26.0 UFD)	9.0	13.0	9.0	84.0	58.0
14th	Mike Drummond	606	A to Z	WBC	60-64	6.0	3.0	2.0	(26.0 DNC)	26.0 DNC	26.0 DNC	89.0	63.0
15th	Bruce Craies	144	Gwene	PCSC	60-64	12.0	15.0	12.0	(22.0)	19.0	13.0	93.0	71.0
16th	Tony Miller	15	Challenge	PCSC	70+	11.0	10.0	17.0	16.0	(22.0)	18.0	94.0	72.0
17th	Andy Knowles	704	White Cloud	TYPBC	70+	22.0	12.0	16.0	(24.0)	7.0	16.0	97.0	73.0
18th	Robin Simpson	709	Tinker	PCSC	<60	15.0	17.0	14.0	19.0	(20.0)	10.0	95.0	75.0
19th	Mark Andresen	27	Indy	PYBC	60-64	16.0	18.0	5.0	(23.0)	21.0	21.0	104.0	81.0
20th	Andy Neyle	315	Look right Go Lleft	PCSC	65-69	17.0	19.0	(26.0 UFD)	13.0	15.0	17.0	107.0	81.0
21st	Rob Dunne	192	Solo	BBYC	70+	18.0	24.0	(26.0 RET)	14.0	16.0	11.0	109.0	83.0
22nd	Michael Renner	705	Big worries	PCSC	70+	20.0	21.0	15.0	15.0	12.0	(22.0)	105.0	83.0
23rd	Les Gallagher	235	UP TOWN GIRL	HSC	70+	19.0	(23.0)	18.0	18.0	18.0	19.0	115.0	92.0
24th	Ian Watson	103	nauti girl	TYPBC	65-69	21.0	22.0	20.0	17.0	23.0	(24.0)	127.0	103.0
25th	Tony Taine	120	Resort	PCSC	65-69	23.0	20.0	19.0	20.0	(24.0)	23.0	129.0	105.0

2025 COOMBES JOHNSTON BMW NATIONAL CHAMPS

Andrew Knowles

Well, the 2025 Zephyr Nationals were an open book. In Tauranga, home of some wise old sailors, and some serious local tides. A few weeks before, the question of who could win was open. Number 1 was reigning National Champ, Mark Orams, the sailing professor. Then the challengers: Mr Cool: Rod Dawson, top pro yachting, and former Laser great, from Auckland, or Mr Science, top engineer, also from Auckland, Mike Drummond. What about top local, Mark Thomas, or Storm king, Greg (Bubble) Wright from Wellington?

Then the shock. Mark Orams had thought he was young and bullet proof. That theory was put to bed when he did a head plant on his wing foil board. Didn't he know that as a master, he was too old for these things? Anyway, a couple of broken ribs put him out for a few weeks. So, who was the favourite now? All bets were off, when Mark announced the new skipper for his boat: Scott Leith. Never sailed a Zephyr before, but he just happened to be the world Laser masters age group champion for most of the last 14 years.

On to the racing. Day 1 was southerly, gusty, 10-16 knots, shifty. Team Tauranga sailors were aghast. The last time we sailed in those conditions was in the last Zephyr nationals, about 6 years ago. Local knowledge was non-existent. Who read it best? Well, all Aucklanders: Scott, 1-3, Mike 2-1. Rod was a bit patchy at 3-6.

Day2, another Southerly, more wind in the puffs, less wind in the lulls. Our lead trio kept going well, with patch appearances from others, Steve Pyatt winning a race, Greg Wright getting 2 2nds, ruined by a UFD in the first race. At least the locals enjoyed the free beer they had provided.

Day 3, the wind went round to a more typical North Easterly, 8-12 knots. At last time to show what the locals could do. Well, no. Scott scored a 1-2, Rod a 2-1, Mike a 3-UFD, Steve a 4-3, leaving little for the rest. A great Dinner, with Jessie Tuke giving us some behind the scenes history from the Americas Cup.

Day 4, the wind turned away in disgust, patches of Northerly, then easterly, then westerly meant Warren the race officer wisely left all on shore.

Overall, a well-deserved victory to Scottie the hottie (I don't think he liked the name given to him by MC Ian Watson, but them's the breaks). 2nd to Rod, 3rd to Mike.

The best performance, apart from Scott's, went to Polly Wright, who totally dominated the Woman's, handicap and under 40 divisions, with a 9th overall, and joined with her dad, Greg to win the Whanau trophy, with Greg again winning the Townson boats award. All in all, a happy and well run championship.



▲ A pre-race lineup in matching bibs provided by the event organisers. Male and female leaders in dayglow, second overall in blue, third in red and the great unwashed, in white.

The photographer promised not to send this photo and event entry list to any Ryman, Oceania, Bupa or Metlife sales agents....



▲ Even the clouds decided to put on a show for the Zephyr nationals. Creative cirrostratus with a flare for shape.



◀ Scott Leith sailing *Quandary* for the win at the 2025 Coombes Johnston BMW Tauranga Zephyr Nationals.

2025 NATIONAL CHAMPS - TYPB

Sail Number.	HelmName	YNZ Registered Yacht Club	5/3 R1	5/3 R2	6/3 R3	6/3 R4	6/3 R5	7/3 R6	7/3 R7	Nett	Rank
523	Scott Leith	Murrays Bay Sailing Club	1.0	3.0	2.0	(4.0)	1.0	1.0	2.0	10.0	1st
708	Rod Dawson	Manly Sailing Club	3.0	6.0	1.0	3.0	(7.0)	2.0	1.0	16.0	2nd
606	Mike Drummond	Wakatere	2.0	1.0	3.0	7.0	3.0	3.0	(38.0 UFD)	19.0	3rd
702	Steve Pyatt	Manly SC	4.0	11.0	4.0	1.0	(13.0)	4.0	3.0	27.0	4th
190	Greg Wright	Worser Bay	5.0	5.0	(38.0 UFD)	2.0	2.0	11.0	4.0	29.0	5th
711	Murray Thom	Manly Sailing Club	13.0	9.0	6.0	8.0	6.0	(18.0)	11.0	53.0	6th
160	Graeme Henry	Nelson Yacht Club	17.0	2.0	7.0	9.0	5.0	17.0	(38.0 UFD)	57.0	7th
527	Mark Thomas	TYPBC	6.0	4.0	18.0	18.0	8.0	12.0	(20.0)	66.0	8th
31	Polly Wright	Worser Bay Boating Club	(19.0)	8.0	13.0	15.0	10.0	14.0	6.0	66.0	9th
701	Brian Peet	PCSC	12.0	(21.0)	5.0	14.0	16.0	15.0	7.0	69.0	10th
608	Andrew Mikkelsen	CYANZ	15.0	18.0	12.0	17.0	4.0	5.0	(38.0 UFD)	71.0	11th
602	Brent Jeffries	Taikata SC/Manly SC	9.0	(20.0)	19.0	5.0	9.0	13.0	17.0	72.0	12th
522	Tim Holgate	WBC	8.0	14.0	9.0	10.0	18.0	(19.0)	13.0	72.0	13th
71	Keith Fraser	WBBC	10.0	(17.0)	15.0	11.0	14.0	16.0	14.0	80.0	14th
709	Robin Simpson	Point Chev Sailing Club	16.0	16.0	20.0	(26.0)	11.0	7.0	16.0	86.0	15th
519	Peter Dawson	Murrays Bay	24.0	13.0	10.0	6.0	26.0	(32.0)	12.0	91.0	16th
501	Ed Ballard	Worser Bay Boating Club	20.0	7.0	22.0	(29.0)	12.0	22.0	10.0	93.0	17th
508	Craig Moss	Murrays Bay sailing Club	7.0	15.0	11.0	21.0	15.0	(26.0)	26.0	95.0	18th
529	Amanda Hargreaves	Worser Bay Boating Club	25.0	29.0	17.0	16.0	(30.0)	10.0	8.0	105.0	19th
88	Jessica McDowell	TYPBC	(33.0)	32.0	21.0	24.0	20.0	6.0	5.0	108.0	20th
172	Hansie Eichholz	TYPBC	(26.0)	12.0	14.0	13.0	25.0	24.0	21.0	109.0	21st
509	Guy Taylor-Smith	Worser Bay	11.0	10.0	(38.0 UFD)	19.0	23.0	25.0	27.0	115.0	22nd
525	Chris Hargreaves	Plimerton boating club	21.0	24.0	(27.0)	20.0	24.0	8.0	19.0	116.0	23rd
704	Andy Knowles	TYPBC	23.0	(30.0)	16.0	12.0	19.0	30.0	18.0	118.0	24th
152	Cameron Jones	Waimakariri Sailing Club	18.0	22.0	8.0	27.0	27.0	(29.0)	25.0	127.0	25th
220	Dennis (Kermit) Conway	Manly	(28.0)	23.0	25.0	22.0	22.0	23.0	15.0	130.0	26th
3	Paul Pearson	Manly Sailing Club	14.0	25.0	(38.0 DNS)	38.0 DNS	38.0 DNS	9.0	9.0	133.0	27th
713	Phil Quinn	Wanaka Yacht Club	22.0	27.0	23.0	(30.0)	21.0	28.0	24.0	145.0	28th
609	John Kliffen	Worser Bay Boating Club	27.0	26.0	24.0	25.0	(29.0)	21.0	28.0	151.0	29th
32	Patrick McDaniel	TYPBC	(38.0 RET)	38.0 DNS	28.0	28.0	17.0	20.0	23.0	154.0	30th
111	Dan Middleton	Plimmerton Boating Club	29.0	19.0	26.0	23.0	34.0	(38.0 DNS)	38.0 DNS	169.0	31st
239	Derek Young	TYPBC	32.0	31.0	30.0	31.0	(35.0)	33.0	22.0	179.0	32nd
171	Hans Rasmussen	TYPBC	31.0	28.0	32.0	(36.0)	31.0	31.0	31.0	184.0	33rd
103	Ian Watson	TYPBC	34.0	(36.0)	34.0	33.0	33.0	27.0	29.0	190.0	34th
92	Joanna Kempfers	Worser Bay Boating Club	30.0	34.0	29.0	(35.0)	32.0	34.0	32.0	191.0	35th
24	Gary Newland	TYPBC	(35.0)	33.0	33.0	34.0	28.0	35.0	30.0	193.0	36th
207	Ben Hambling	TYPBC	(36.0)	35.0	31.0	32.0	36.0	36.0	33.0	203.0	37th

National Champion	Scott Leith
Runner Up	Rod Dawson
1 st Woman	Polly Wright
Masters Woman	Joanna Kempfers
75+	Derek Young
70 – 74	Chris Hargreaves
65 – 69	Steve Pyatt
60 – 64	Mike Drummond
50 -59	Scott Leith
40 – 49	Ed Ballard
Under 40	Polly Wright
95kg plus	Brent Jeffries
Fresh Breeze Trophy	Polly Wright
1 st Townson built boat (0 to 233)	Greg Wright
Largest Improvement	Jessica McDowell
Handicap	Polly Wright
Whanau cup	Greg and Poly Wright

ZEPHYR NATIONALS SAILORS FORUM

7 Mar 2025

Chair – John Kliffen

Meeting Secretary – Brian Peet

Location – Tauranga Yacht and Power Boat Club – 2025 Zephyr National Champs

Attendees – (28) John Kliffen, Brian Peet, Keith Fraser, Cameron Jones, Chris Hargreaves, Phil Quinn, Steve Pyatt, Paul Pearson, Hansie Eichholz, Dennis Conway, Tim Holgate, Polly Wright, Greg Wright, Graeme Henry, Derek Young, Gary Newland, Hans Rasmussen, Jess McDowell, Mike Drummond, Guy Taylor Smith, Robin Simpson, Brent Jeffries, Andy Knowles, Pete Dawson, Rod Dawson, Joanna Kempkers, Ed Ballard and Ian Watson.

Discussion points:

Regatta Discards

This topic was discussed at the 2024 Nationals forum, with the question raised, “Why do we have discards?” To recap, discards probably evolved from a time when gear breakages were more common. Significant portions of dinghy fleets were amateur built, with home-made fittings and equipment. Mechanical unreliability meant race withdrawal from breakages were common. These days, with commercially available, high-quality fittings used almost exclusively, unforeseen gear failure is rare. It was suggested discards had outlived their original purpose and should be dropped. Also, the availability of a race discard now encourages risky race practices that are disruptive and delaying - i.e. repeated general recalls. An event result that encompassed all the races sailed by all competitors would be a more accurate skill assessment.

Following last year's failed drop discussion, the member proposed a wind limit below which no discard would be allowed for that race. Possibly 10 knots.

Many spoke against the proposal - below is a summary: -

- A drop reduces the element of luck in a regatta.
- Whilst the proposal is based on gear failure alone, the drop is for other elements of bad luck such as sudden random change in condition; forced OCS; other ‘no fault of the innocent boat’ incidents.
- A sailor with a string of only 1st and 2nd placings but carrying one Black Flag caused by the above dot point couldn't win the regatta.
- Heavy sailors are disadvantaged by not having a sailing discard in light conditions, but the light sailors get heavy weather discards.
- Early adoption of a ‘U’ or Black flag start is effective at moderating bad behaviour.
- Almost all Zephyr sailors are not professional – the rest of the fleet are elderly amateurs and make mistakes, so a drop reflects this reality.

World Sailing recently visited this topic and decided to retain the drop as its default position.

After discussion, a show of hands supported retaining the drop - 27:1.

Nationals Format

This year's event featured on the water umpiring which many believed improved sailor behaviour. The question was asked if this should be compulsory for nationals or not. Cost and judge availability constraints at different locations were raised. After discussion it was unanimously agreed judging was a good idea but should remain optional for nationals – decision to be made by the organising club based on funding and personnel availability.

Judging infringements have a default ‘three strikes’ provision. After discussion it was unanimously agreed that ‘three strikes’ was not suitable for Zephyr events.

Some classes have decided over a certain windspeed to turn off the pumping rule, which in turn permits unlimited pumping. Discussion and show of hands supported turning off pumping rule at 12 knots - 13:5. Refer to next AGM for further discussion.

The Zephyr national's guidelines contain a maximum of three races per day. This is the class default position, and the meeting consensus was for no change. A four-day event also found favour along the lines of a 2,3,3,1 race schedule. Less on the first day as often it's a later start due to briefing and measuring. One race scheduled for the last day enables time for races not previously completed – may end up with three races on this day.

A member asked if measuring could be done regionally prior to the event, thus removing a day of on-site contest measuring. The recent development of equipment stickering and availability of ZOA owned scales in four regions now make this possible. Could be done in the month prior to the nationals. General support for all these options – to be referred to the Exec for consideration.

Sponsor bibs for all sailors were a first for a Zephyr event. Discussion around whether this sponsor initiative should be compulsory or optional for future nationals. Optional was unanimously recommended.

Nationals Rotation

Discussion started with an expression of disappointment from Tauranga sailors that five of the BoP fleet went to the 2024 Lyttelton nationals, but only one from Canterbury reciprocated for the 2025 nationals. The comment was offered, "Was it time to revisit the ZOA rotation policy?" Maybe three NI nationals with the fourth in the SI, the latter shared between Christchurch, Nelson and Picton.

Discussed free entry for first-time entrants and those who hadn't entered in the last 10 years. Mike Drummond offered to run a survey of existing ZOA financial members to establish why they didn't attend the Tauranga nationals.

Future Nationals: -

2026 Howick Sailing Club, Auckland 12-15 March.

2027 Possibly Nelson Sailing Club – if interested.

Mark hitting without penalty

A member suggested the Zephyr class would benefit by having a no penalty policy for hitting course marks. This change would not apply to the start marks.

Points in favour: -

Penalty from brushing mark with lifejacket, sail or boom is too harsh.

May reduce the instances of mark rounding collisions.

Several other classes no longer penalize mark contact.

Points against: -

It was trialled in an Auckland champs four years ago with mixed outcomes.

Sailors will be incentivised to take more risks than if mark contact was prohibited.

It was suggested some keelboat classes allow mark contact from sails and equipment but not the hull or boom.

Too be referred to AGM for further discussion.

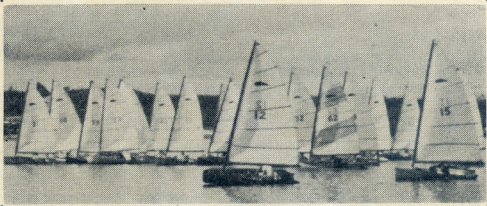
Meeting closed 11.30am.

WARNING -

this offer has expired.....

A 1957 Zephyr Sea Spray magazine advert from Des Townson.

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CROSSING THE BAR

Our hugely respected former ZOA President Matthew (Matt) Charles Mitchell sadly passed away 20 Mar 2025 aged 53 years after a long battle with cancer. He was the adored husband of Andrea and proud father of Balin and Sam.

Matt trained as a boatbuilder, going on to become an integral part of six America's Cup campaigns and winning with three different teams - Team New Zealand, Alinghi, and Oracle Team USA.

Matt's first foray into Zephyr racing was in #11 at the 2016 Manly Nationals, but with a sense of unfinished business, hunted down and purchased #112 *Skitten* for the 2017/18 season. From there he developed an ongoing enthusiasm for *Skitten* and Zephyr racing. A few years later he agreed to become ZOA President during a particularly turbulent period of class history. Matt's skillset and no-nonsense, 'call-a-spade-a-spade' approach was exactly what the Zephyr class needed. Under Matt's watch our carbon challenges got resolved, Mackay hull production started and alloy spar supply recommenced. Matt only stepped down in late 2024 when his health prevented him continuing.

His passing, although expected still came as an emotional jolt. A packed, 500+ standing room only service was held at Royal Akarana Yacht Club. The 21 gun salute provided a fitting sendoff for one of this county's sailing forces of nature. So much achieved in such a short life, so many friends made, so many international successes and luckily for us, a deep interest in all things Zephyr.

Men of Matt's abilities and bold character are seldom seen, but instantly recognised as a cut above the norm. Our thanks go to Andrea, Balin and Sam for sharing Matt with us.

Matt, rest in peace knowing you left your community better for your efforts.

Below are quotes from three of his close friends.

Craig Satterthwaite: -

"Matt and I went to playcentre, primary school and high school together, and we sailed many boats. But whether we were doing the America's Cup or racing around the world on a J Class, a 100ft racing yacht, or an Elliott 5.9, he was always the same - the more intense it got, the more focussed Matty became. Even in an absolute shit fight, he was laser-focused on doing his job. He was just a natural yachtie, and he could do anything on the boat. He was a bowman in the America's Cup, a mid-bow, a top Zephyr sailor, and he won a handful of nationals with us on the 5.9. He was just so much fun to be around, and I can't think of a time when he was seriously pissed off or grumpy. Naturally, we could cause a lot of strife together - in a good way. We had a colossal amount of fun, even in the biggest pressure moments. Matty would still be taking the piss with his dry comments as we approached the bottom mark with 400 square metres of spinnaker to drop in five seconds!"

We did a 5.9 regatta in New Plymouth in the middle of last year - four races in a three-to-four-metre westerly swell in the Tasman Sea. Matty was a tough bastard, and he sailed with us even though you could tell he wasn't a 100%. That was the thing with Matt, once you were with him, you were with him for life. He loved people, and he loved sailing - right till the end."



▲ Matt and Kermit - Napier NI champs 2020



▲ Matt and *Skitten* - Wellington Nationals 2023

Murray Jones: -

"I had a huge amount of respect for Matt because he always kept it real. He had a balanced view on things and wasn't afraid to say it as it was. No one was off-limits when it came to getting told either. But you always knew that if he said something, it was because he was right. During a high-stakes J Class regatta I made a mistake and really screwed it up. Matt usually called me 'Captain', but that day he said, 'C'mon, Jones, we're better than that. That was just how Matt was. He was super competitive - on the boat and off it - he wanted to win. He had an incredible work ethic, was incredibly fit, and was a natural athlete."

Harold Bennett: -

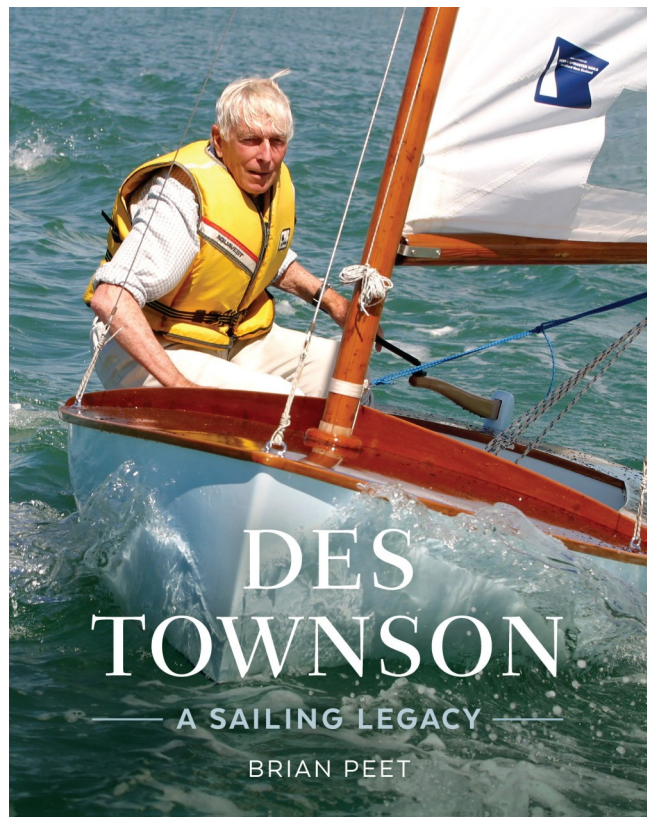
"He was an inspirational person. He came up through grassroots sailing and hit the big time. He touched so many lives, especially in the Zephyrs. He had some very clear ideas about what needed to happen with the boats, and many of those ideas were implemented and remain today. Thanks to him, many high-profile sailors are still sailing the boat."

Class Contacts

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The Definitive Townson Biography

Available from peetfamily@orcon.net.nz \$80



Des Townson was a yacht designer and boatbuilder responsible for a unique body of work which filled a special niche in New Zealand's rich boating history. This book chronicles his life and design work through his own recollections and those of his family, close friends and associates. Within the 334 pages are 116,000 words interspersed with 400 photos and boat plans providing rich context to a remarkable story from a bygone era.

Lawrence Schaffler, Editor, Boating NZ: -

"Townson – the man, the sailor, the designer, the builder – is wonderfully presented in Peet's biography. He writes with an easy, conversational style and includes plenty of warm, colourful anecdotes which I'm sure will be news to even the most seasoned of Townson scholars."

Roger McMillan, Editor, www.mysailing.com.au

"This is a book that every Kiwi sailor should buy. It's magnificently illustrated with photos and drawings of many of the designs and it chronicles the life of an interesting and significant contributor to the sport of sailing. Peet is an excellent storyteller. The book is well-written, with a good balance of anecdotes and technical detail."

Roy Dickson, International Yachtsman: -

"An absolutely fabulous book. I've read many yachting design books and none of them gets close to what Brian Peet has created."