

# West Wind

The Newsletter of the NZ Zephyr Owners' Association

Volume 63 Issue 5

www.zephyr.org.nz

August 2020

## GRP ZEPHYR PROJECT UPDATE

In 2019 a rule ballot was passed to enable construction of a full GRP Zephyr. Shortly after, the ZOA Executive approved funding for Mackay Boats to commence building the required deck moulds.

During the Stage 4 lockdown I built the deck plug on a ZOA-owned 600 series hull. Due to deck-rigidity and mould-release requirements, the hull's existing deck, carlins, sidetanks and thwart were removed and replaced with sloping bulkheads and additional supporting structures. Once fitted the deck was clashed with beadings tapered horizontally and vertically at the bow and stern to replicate Townson built boats.



Mackay's are building the hull with a one-piece thwart and centre-tee cap sitting on the two-piece centre-tee outer mould.



At time of writing all four moulds are completed and Owen Mackay is about to build a trial deck to establish a finished weight. Working backwards, he will then confirm a hull-shell weight and layup to replicate the Salt-house shells. The principle changes will be a wet layup using vinyl ester resin. MacKays advise this will result in better gelcoat and componentry bonding,



resulting in improved longevity. Once the full specification is tabled, ZOA Exec approval will be required prior to production commencing.

The first hull will be fitted with rig and foils from my #8, a known boat within the Auckland fleet. By only introducing a new hull, the resulting testing platform should provide meaningful results. Straight line sailing against local boats with a range of skippers, interspersed with weekend racing will provide valuable analysis of the new hull.

So far, all input from MacKay's has been excellent and especially useful. We appreciate their enthusiasm and support for our project.

Prior to the most recent Auckland lockdown it was hoped to have the first boat on the water in September. All predictions are now off the table.

**Brian Peet**  
14 August 2020

## President's Report

Hi Everyone

It looks like there is some serious work underway out there on lots of different Zephyr projects which is awesome. The ZOA Exec has had a few decisions to make over the same period which, while requiring plenty of volunteer time, is rewarding and cool to now be a part of. The energy and passion people have for this champion little yacht across the whole membership (129 at last count) is amazing.

**Full Fibreglass Zephyr:** Mackay Boats in Silverdale continue to blast on with this project. Brian will provide the nuts and bolts details but I'd like to thank him for the huge effort (300 hours of labour) he put in to the plug and ongoing oversight without charge. This commitment has paved the way for the class to receive its first fully fibreglass Zephyr sometime in the next few months. This is going to be a very cool finished product and will unlock lots of options as a class going forward. A massive thanks to Brian Peet and Owen Mackay.

**Picton Nationals 2020:** This was a well-attended and fun event. Congratulations to Greg Wright for the securing the win in the last race. Queen Charlotte YC were a big part in ensuring the success of the regatta with a well organised but still grass roots approach to some of the shiftiest and gustiest yachting known to man. Reflecting on this event, which I think exceeded most people's expectation, reinforced that people are the key. The team at QCYC were fantastic and the Zephyr demographic in attendance were great fun. Looking forward to Manly 2021.

**Manly Nationals 2021:** Preparations are underway at the MSC for this under the watchful eye of Paul Pearson. Always a popular Zephyr venue so lock in the 16<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> of April folks.

**North Island Champs:** For the first time these will be held at Napier Sailing Club from 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> of November.

**Subs:** We are trying to make this the same one off payment for all members with the area fee then going back to the appropriate regions. A little bit of ground to cover yet on settling the regional fees across the board at \$15. National fees will remain the same.

**Rules and measuring:** We've had a fair bit do in this regard and continue to work with our Chief Measurer Graeme Robinson on dispensations, certificate withdrawals and measurement issues. The prominent point in all of this remains: YOU are responsible for your boat complying with the rules! If you have a deck off make sure everything complies and get a measurer to check before you re-install. Transom and centre-tee replacements require pre approval from the Chief Measurer. Achieving a 58kg restoration is possible without attacking your hull shells and deck framing. We have started using cameras in hull tanks and inside masts with the wand still being used to detect carbon in the wrong places.

**Secretary change:** Rob Ebert is stepping down after many years doing an amazing job for this class. Thanks Rob. Brian Peet has put his hand up to take this role on and we look forward to confirming that at the upcoming AGM.

**Rule change Ballot:** We have a proposed rule change initiated by Richard Mackay. This will be notified to the membership by the incoming Executive and followed up with a Survey Monkey vote.

**AGM:** Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm. We are trying a new online Zoom format for AGM due to all that is going on in the World, with the added benefit of saving a lot of time and money on travel. It may take some patience and tolerance as we all figure it out but it will be the way forward. We still regard our Skippers forum at the Nationals very highly as a place for people to have their say in a more casual face to face setting.

Enjoy the return of longer days and I look forward to seeing you on the water.

*Kind regards*

*Matt Mitchell*

### Editorial

I am retiring as Secretary at the upcoming AGM so this is my last West Wind.

Few in the class now will recall that the original West Wind was begun by John Vale from Hamilton, in October 1980. Scanned copies of the original issues are on the web site. I revived the publication in February 1997 in an early version of Microsoft Publisher. It has remained in the application ever since – getting a bit dated in appearance, admittedly - but it has served to chronicle the Zephyr Class activities since then so it should be a fairly comprehensive historical record of the class.

The early issues of West Wind were produced on A3 paper via a dot matrix printer and photocopied. Family members were cajoled to proof read, fold, stuff envelopes and affixed address labels gathered around the kitchen table. The steady penetration of email into our membership was most welcome and greatly simplified production and distribution. Nowadays members supply email contact addresses rather than snail mail ones, so I don't often know the regional location of current members.

The Internet brought a series of web sites to serve as a means of communication and a repository of class information. Zephyr sailors were initially slow adopters of social media platforms but now Facebook groups regularly record the Zephyr refurbishment activities of members. Regional association email groups further aid communication. Moving subscriptions to on-line payment recently is a further "labour saving" efficiency.

Rule changes moved from paper ballots manually counted in the return mail to Survey Monkey and members participation in rule change ballots improved substantially.

Over the years an Access database was implemented to keep track of members and measurement certificates. Latterly Board-Pro was implemented to better manage our Executive and General meetings.

In 1997 there were 26 entrants in the National Champs, held in Pigeon Bay, Canterbury. Entry numbers were in the 20s for a number of years, jumping to 45 entrants for the 2005 event in Akaroa. Early venues, Timaru, French Bay, Waiuku turned on some memorable sailing conditions. At an Easter Nationals at Waiuku, a large high sat across the Nth Island. We managed one or two races then spent the rest of the event in the car park or club house chatting! There were suggestions that this was actually a better format for a National Championship! At a Plimmerton Nationals some years later the opposite was the case and the fleet spent most of its time in the club house under a wind meter that rarely dipped below 30knots!

In one French Bay event, a violent hail squall came through the fleet. The hail flattened the chop and threw up a low spray that obscured the hulls, so all you could see were the rigs of the fleet. Everyone was afraid to tack in the conditions and just kept sailing! Timaru events were memorable for the large numbers of dolphins that surrounded the fleet coming close alongside and surfing beside boats downwind. This prompted exaggerated

claims of speed comparisons between dolphins and Zephyrs! For the occasional contest on the Christchurch Estuary, local sailors marked the high points of the mud banks as a courtesy to visitors. My favourite venue would have to be Akaroa. The scenic harbour and close proximity of the yacht club to the local village made for a very pleasant sailing and recreational environment. There was a certain charm about being in a local cafe and still able to hear the sound signals when the AP flag was lowered.

Highlight would have to be the 50th Jubilee Regatta in 2006 at Milford with its 84 entries, but then we had 86 entries at the 60th at Manly in 2016. The class has spread from its traditional Auckland and Canterbury strong holds so that Tauranga and Wellington now boast enthusiastic Zephyr sailors.

My own involvement with the Zephyr Class dates back to the 1970s, sailing the family Zephyr during the University holidays, then participating in the Canterbury building program in mid 1970s. The first four 300 series hulls were built in the evenings in Maurice Hines Celia Street garage and I chipped in occasionally, painting the planks with glue and pulling out staples. The evenings ended with a tea and cream scones supper and a plan for the next stage of construction. I was a medical student at the time and was forever apologising to patients for my resorcinol stained hands!

There has been recent discussion about the YNZ Safety Regulations requiring a tow rope of twice the length of the boat being carried for National events. In the early days of sailing in the Christchurch Estuary the only patrol boat was a privately owned launch which stuck to the channels, so we carried a paddle and anchor in our Zephyrs!

Over the 20 odd years as Secretary, the challenge has been to keep the Zephyr hull, spars and sails in production. At least 8 builders have contributed hulls - all with slight variations on the original Towns shape - from the triple skin traditional construction to strip plank cedar then to epoxy and now on to vinyl ester. We moved from wooden masts to a succession of alloy mast manufacturers. The traditional Zephyr sail was standardized and digitized to allow computerised cutting. Prior to that the sail size could vary as could the batten position. It meant that if you got a new sail, batten lengths might need adjusting!

Yacht designer and former Zephyr Class President Brett Bakewell-White assisted by transferring the original Zephyr plans into his CAD system.

In later years, Des Townson took more interest in the Zephyr. He was something of a remote figure during most of my time in the Secretary role until I had a call from him one evening and we went on to develop a valued working relationship. Zephyr sailors contributed to his citation for the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2008 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

As Secretary, I have been fortunate to work alongside and become friends with the many members who have contributed their time and professional skills to the various issues the class has encountered. I have benefited from the knowledge they have imparted and the approach they brought to the various issues we confronted.

The focus of the Zephyr Owners' Association is naturally mostly about the boats - hulls, spars, foils, sails etc and sailing activities but the web of relationships that surround these things is where the value of being a Zephyr sailor is found. It is not always about the boat!

I am leaving a class association that is in good heart. Financially strong with good membership and well positioned for the future.

Wishing you fair winds and good sailing always.

*Rob Ebert*

*August 2020*

**ZOA AGM**  
**Wednesday August 26th 2020**  
**Via Zoom**

1. Apologies
2. [Minutes of the previous meeting](#)
3. Matters arising from the previous meeting
4. President's Report
5. [Treasurer's Report](#)/Subscriptions Recommendation
6. Secretary's Report
8. Election of Officers
  - *Patron*: Alex Aitken has agreed to stand for another term.
  - *President*: Matt Mitchell has been nominated to continue as President.
  - *Secretary*: R Ebert has retired. Brian Peet has been nominated to succeed him.
  - *Treasurer*: Tony Miller has agreed to stand for another term.
  - Executive Committee (five permitted)
  - The following have been nominated. These are not regional appointments, but their regions are noted;
    - Steve Pyatt - Akl
    - Glenn Tassicker - Wgtn
    - Llew Viljoen - Akl
    - Mark Thomas – Ham/Tga
    - Cathryn Bridges – Chch
9. Election of Chief Measurer  
 Chairpersons of the Auckland, Hamilton/Tga, Christchurch and Wellington regional associations are ex-officio members of the Executive and will be confirmed at the AGM.
- 10.. General Business

**Zoom Webinar**

For the AGM we will be using the Zoom Webinar product. Kiwis have become familiar with Zoom meetings, but the Webinar is a bit different. It is styled for presentations and seminars where those speaking appear on screen and the "audience" listen in. This means that participants logging in don't automatically appear on screen as in Zoom meetings but must be designated as Panellists in order to appear. This can be done prior to the meeting or within the meeting.

The intention is that the President, Treasurer and Secretary will be designated Panellists and those addressing the meeting for General Business items or reports will be designated Panellists from within the meeting so they can be seen.

Attendees will be automatically muted on entry and will be unmuted by the meeting host. We will also be using the in meeting poll (voting) features and the chat features of the webinar.

**Login Details;**

When: Aug 26, 2020 07:30 PM Auckland, Wellington

Topic: ZOA AGM 2020

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86704886495?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86704886495?pwd=YkpQTURvQ29reFRUVQ3M291UEc5Zz09)

[pwd=YkpQTURvQ29reFRUVQ3M291UEc5Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86704886495?pwd=YkpQTURvQ29reFRUVQ3M291UEc5Zz09)

Passcode: **ZOA AGM**

Webinar ID: 867 0488 6495

**ZEPHYR OWNERS' ASSOCIATION**

**TREASURER'S REPORT - YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2020**

The ZOA made a trading profit in the past year of \$129.

**Comments.**

1. General trading, Sails -\$6479, Battens -\$672, Spars -\$1869, Hulls +\$334 is the sale of some ZOA veneer. Overall Trading profits significantly down on last year.
2. Meeting expenses up \$601 on last year. Hopefully these costs will reduce as we use more Zoom Meetings.
3. Fibreglass Hull development \$687. These are expenses for supplies used in the conversion of 607 into the Deck Plug by Brian Peet.

**Future Commitments and Cashflow.**

Since Balance date of 31 May, we have paid Mackay Boats \$11,500 as a deposit on the Fibreglass Zephyr Project.

Our current Bank Balance is \$38,721.60 as at 11 August. Around \$20,000 of that will be used as we pay for the next batch of sails early September and the remainder of the Mackay Fibreglass Zephyr project.

We will be due a GST refund, around \$3000 in October. We have ordered a new batch of 5 masts at around \$5k. Subs due September/October at around \$4k. Projected Bank Balance around \$20,000 as at October. After this time I expect the Bank Balance to improve as we sell Sails, Masts and Fibreglass Zephyrs.

**Subscriptions**

Last year we used a mixture of regional payments and on-line payments via the web site and Debit Success. The on-line payments proved very popular, but the two systems and differing regional subscriptions meant reconciling the payments was very time consuming for the Treasurer and Secretary and generated a lot of unnecessary work.

I do recommend we agree on using the on-line payment system and Debit Success only for subscriptions collection.

It goes without saying that it would also be much simpler if there was a common subscription for all regions.

*Tony Miller*

*11th August 2020*

***North Island Zephyr Champs***

***Preliminary Notice***

***Napier Sailing Club***

***November 28-29th 2020***

***Details to be confirmed.***

<b>Statement of Financial Position as at 31 May 2020</b>		
	2020	2019
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
ASB Cheque Account	47,545	27,211
ASB Fast Saver	8	8
ASB Term Dep 0072		14,883
Accounts Receivable	33	47
CST Refund Due	475	182
Inventories	8,906	13,717
	56,968	56,048
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, Plant and Equipment		
As per Schedule (at Book Value)	16,138	16,138
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	73,106	72,186
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	790	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	790	
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	\$72,316	\$72,186
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		
Accumulated Surplus	69,716	69,586
Capital Reserve	2,600	2,600
	\$72,316	\$72,186

<b>Statement of Movements in Accumulated Funds for the year ended 31 May 2020</b>		
	2020	2019
Net Surplus (Deficit for the period)	129	(8,283)
Total Recognised Revenue and Expenses	129	(8,283)
Accumulated Funds at Start of Period	72,186	80,425
	72,186	80,425
Accumulated Funds at End of Period	72,186	80,425

<b>Statement of Cash Balances for the year ended 31 May 2020</b>		
Cash Balances in Balance Sheet		
ASB Cheque Account	47545	27211
ASB Fast Saver	8	8
ASB Term Deposit		14,833
Ending Cash Carried Forwards	\$47544	\$42102

<b>Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 31 May 2020</b>		
	2020	2019
<b>INCOME</b>		
Sails	10,321	16,800
Battens	203	875
Spars & Rigging	2,246	4115
Hulls	334	
Subs Auckland	2,213	1,457
Subs Central	813	813
Subs Wellington	1,337	890
Subs Canterbury	844	540
	18310	25489
<b>COST OF SALES</b>		
Opening Stock	13,717	16,582
Purchases Sails	7,919	15,209
Purchases Battens	177	708
Purchases Spars & Rigging	378	1,146
Purchases Hulls		10,695
	22,191	44,339
Closing Stock	8906	13,717
<b>Cost of Sales</b>	13,285	30,662
<b>GROSS MARGIN</b>	5025	(5,133)
<b>INVESTMENT AND OTHER INCOME</b>		
Interest Received	616	459
Other Income		96
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	5642	(4,579)
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Accountancy Fees	808	757
Advertising	495	495
Bank Charges		
Fibreglass Hull Development	687	
Insurance	655	1284
Meeting Expenses	1562	961
Subscriptions	1306	115
Sundry Expenses		44
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	5512	\$(3659)
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	\$129	\$(8238)