



# Nelson Yacht Club Inc

(Est 1857)

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NELSON

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## A Vision for Sailing in Nelson



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## **1. Summary – the story so far!**

In 2012 Nelson Yacht Club produced the original draft of this document, setting out a plan to raise funds to provide a comprehensive fleet of **worldwide proven, extremely durable, and time-efficient**, entry-level sailing dinghies. The intention was to be able to provide a more attractive service/experience to the sailors who currently come through the club as well as giving the wow factor to encourage more people into the sport of sailing.

Three key '**entry points**' to sailing were identified and over the course of two seasons, the club invested in:

- **6x Euro Opti – Younger Kids (8-12yrs)**
- **6x Topaz Uno – Young Teenagers (13-16yrs) & Adults (16+)**
- **1x Topaz Omega – Adults (16+) & all other ages**
- **In addition, the club also retained & refurbished 8 old plastic Optimist dinghies**

**NYC used a multi-source approach to achieving the budget:**

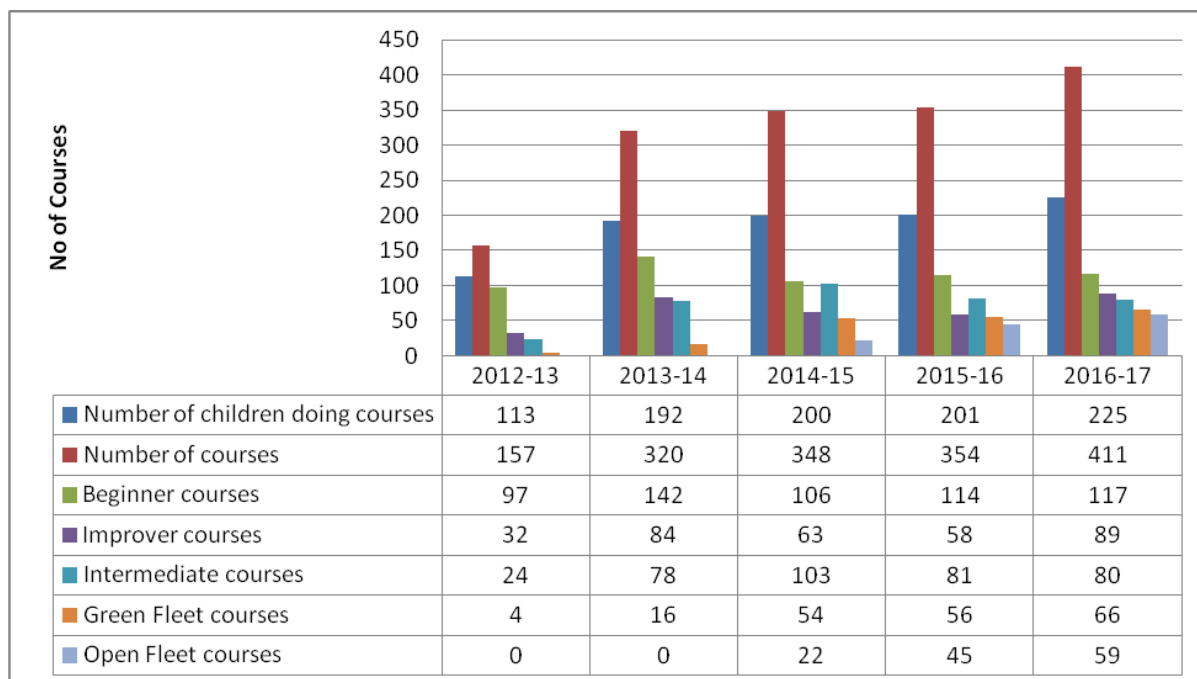
- Investment from the Club's savings
- A grant from the Pub Charity
- A grant from The Lion Foundation
- Club fundraising activities

**Sustained Momentum:**

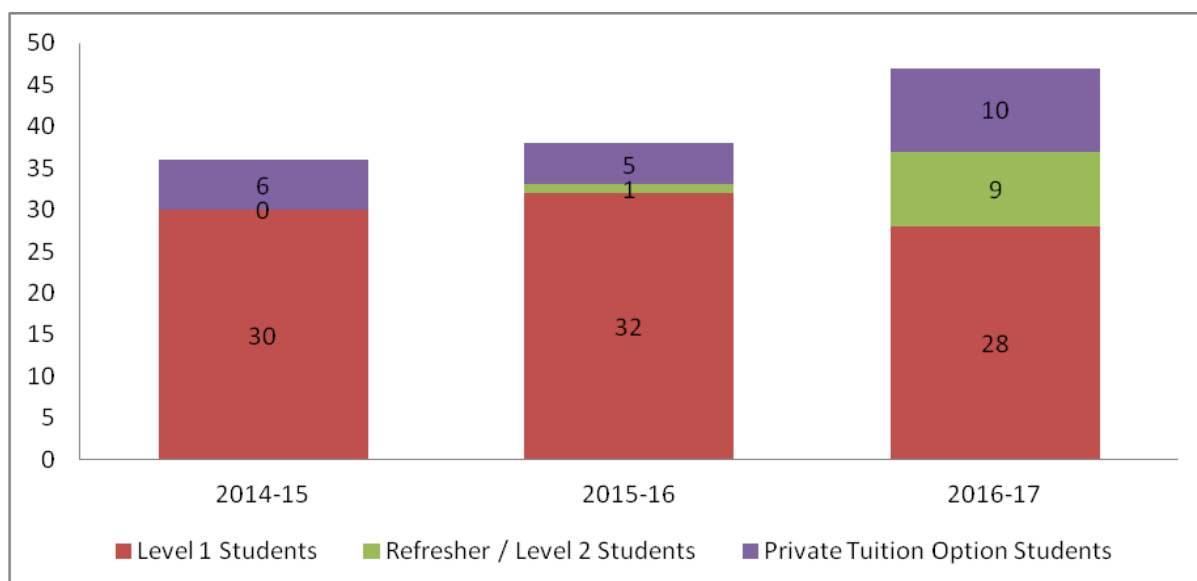
- In the 2015-16 season Mitre10 Mega Nelson was approached and agreed to sponsor replacement sails for the Topaz Unos. These provide great exposure for the brand and the sails are purpose built for sailing school use.
- In the 2016-17 season the continuation of the successful return of NBYTRA (Nelson Bays Youth Team Racing Association) to Nelson Yacht Club allowed for consolidation and improvement of assets such as patrol boats.
- Private and Corporate donations, a grant from The Lion Foundation and club investment enabled the replacement of Patrol 3 with a purpose built RIB and trailer customised to the club's needs.

## 2. Seeing Results

The progress made with this project and the partnership with coaching contractor Nelson Watersports Ltd. has seen the number of children doing at least one Learn to Sail course increase from approximately 50 in the 2011-12 season, to 225 in the 2016-17 season.



NYC also runs Adult Learn to Sail courses, with a programme that has grown to 43 individuals undertaking a Yachting New Zealand Level 1 or 2 course in the 2016-17 season.



## 2. What next?

The club has a number of projects/priorities that it is seeking financial support for over the forthcoming couple of seasons.

- **8 new plastic Optimists to replace the remaining ageing Optimist Learn to Sail fleet before the 2017-18 season.** In the previous season an attempt was made to extend the life of these boats (some of which have been around for well over 20 years) by plastic welding. However, the hulls still leaked like sieves and with the general degradation of the rest of the components it will prove more economical to replace the fleet with new boats.
- **The 6 Euro Optimists have now done 4 seasons and require new sails.**
- **The 6 Topaz Unos require an extensive programme of maintenance before the 2017-18 season.** Some of them are 5 seasons old and they have been very well used!
- **The Topaz Omega sails needs replacing.** Purpose-built, durable canvas training sails, with multiple reefing points in the mainsail, are desirable for the 2017-18 season.
- Currently the coaching and management in the Sailing School model is completely self-funded through a user-pays system. However, in order to maintain fees at the current level or reduce fees to make it more affordable, **coaching and instructing costs will need to be subsidised in some way.** There are also some specific roles that are proposed that will require funding in order to deliver:
  - Performance Coaching Programme – Optimists, Starlings, Bics, Lasers
    - To enable competitive youth sailors to reach their potential
  - The Saturday Green Fleet Instructor/Coach Role
    - To establish a link between the Sailing School & Saturday Club Sailing.
  - Low-Decile Schools Programme
    - To provide experience days or regular sessions for low-decile schools in the Nelson region.
    - To provide a subsidy for given number of students from these schools wishing to continue with a Junior Watersports Programme course.
  - Leaders in Training
    - To continue and develop the programme after a successful first year
    - To fund RYA Powerboat Level 2 courses for the candidates at NMIT.

- **The ramp/slipway is in need of replacement.** This is a private and club owned ramp and to replace it will be a massive capital investment project. It is crucial to the ongoing operation of the club and all the activities that take place from the ramp:
  - Club sailing
  - Regional, National & International Regattas. N.b. The Flying Dutchman World Championships are due to be held in Nelson in February 2019.
  - Sailing School & Learn to Sail activities
  - NBYTRA Teams Racing Programme
  - Sailability Nelson – Sailing opportunities for the disabled
  - Nelson Sea Swims
  - Nelson Watersports windsurfing & SUP activities
  - All the unauthorised use of the ramp by members of the public to launch kayaks, go for a swim etc...



This photo was taken in January 2015, and since then large holes have started to appear in the ramp, and some of it is being undermined. A lot of volunteer time is spent trying to maintain a surface that is not too slippery and hazardous.

- **The club changing rooms are in need of refurbishment.** Ahead of hosting an international regatta, the club will need to re-vamp the changing rooms. The existing water heating system needs to be replaced with something more efficient, and the flooring needs to be replaced with something less slippery and easy to clean.

#### **4. Why sailing is such an important part of our lives in Nelson**

Nelson; synonymous with the sun and sea, is renowned as a centre of marine industry. The port of Nelson is in an idyllic location and there is a strong link between Nelson as a commercial marine centre and Nelson as a marine leisure destination. In "Port Nelson's" own words:

*"Port Nelson is at the heart of the Nelson community, both in location and spirit, and is vital to the ongoing economic and social well being of the Nelson region. We strive to play our role as a good corporate citizen by contributing to the vibrancy of life in Nelson through a range of sponsorships and investments supporting business, sports, and culture."*



With the backdrop of Haulashore Island, the iconic Boulder Bank and the Western Ranges, Nelson Haven is a spectacular venue for sailing activities and a strong link between the leisure and business marine communities. The sight of sailing boats in the harbour completes the scene and, through the Nelson Yacht Club, there is a new and powerful opportunity for local business to promote and enhance itself.

Ever since 1857, when William Akersten first saw the potential for regular sailing events in Nelson, there has been a strong history of the Nelson marine industry supporting and promoting sailing. A new committee and influx of many new members has recently given the Nelson Yacht club a renewed vibrancy. This has brought about an ambitious proposal to build on this energy, to the mutual benefit of the yacht club, business and youth. Through various means, including investment of club funds, fundraising activities, private donations, and grants from the Lion Foundation and Pub Charity, Nelson Yacht Club has managed to fund a significant investment in sailing equipment.

## **5. The benefits of introducing someone to sailing**

Sailing not only uses physical skills but, perhaps more than any other sport, develops intellectual skills. It is a sport that requires the sailors to take responsibility for themselves, their crew and for the boat. It is sensitive to nature and the environment, also requiring attention to changing conditions and appropriate reactions. Sailors learn valuable lessons and develop many transferrable skills and attributes that will help them advance in work, in business and in life generally.

Sailing is a powerful forum through which to learn essential life skills, about adjusting attitudes, taking wins and losses in your stride, never getting too high or too low. This is an activity that is appealing on any CV, making the applicant stand out. Regardless of the reason for sailing and your background, sailing offers many life lessons that help shape values and behaviours for later life. Sailing is also a sport to be enjoyed, one which often remains with you for life and which can be participated in and enjoyed at any age.

Developing awareness and understanding of the marine environment is extremely important for all of us. Someone who has capsized a sailing dinghy and feels at home in the water is less likely to panic in an emergency situation on the water; whether that be sailing, kayaking, fishing, recreational boating or any other activity afloat. Nurturing respect for marine wildlife and the ecosystem that supports it will result in people taking more responsibility for, and care of our marine environment. Getting out there on, in, and around the water is paramount in this educational process.

The huge variety of disciplines and ways to enjoy the sport range from competitive racing at Club, National, and International level in a vast array of different boats; to recreational sailing and cruising in boats of all sizes; lifelong careers in the leisure, travel, and superyacht industries; all the way to solo round the world yachting!



## 6. Sailing organisations in Nelson

**Nelson Yacht Club Inc.** is the oldest yacht club in New Zealand, with a long and prestigious history dating back to 1857. It has one of the best locations of any yacht club in the country with excellent facilities and easy access to fantastic sailing waters. Its prime location makes it a highly visible advertising space and the more activity on the water, the better exposure sponsors will achieve. The club runs a programme of club racing, hosts regional, national & international regattas and has one of the busiest Learn to Sail programmes in the country.



**The Nelson Bays Youth Teams Racing Association (NBYTRA):** Through grants and subscriptions the association maintains a fleet of 420 dinghies and contracts a coach to provide a Teams Racing programme for secondary school age students in Nelson. The association is once again based at Nelson Yacht Club, with all sailors being members of the club. The ongoing re-integration and cooperation of the two organisations has allowed some consolidation of patrol boat resources, as well as re-establishing the pathway for youth sailing in Nelson. In 2017, the Waimea College team was the best placed of the Nelson teams at the Nationals, managing to reach the Silver Fleet. The majority of sailors have come through the Nelson Yacht Club Junior Watersports and Club Racing programmes.



With few senior sailors leaving next season, and the increase in new sailors coming through from the NYC Junior Watersports Programme, NBYTRA is currently planning for growth, with potential for 3 more 420s and more coaching.



**Nelson Watersports Ltd** is contracted by NYC to provide the instructing/coaching team and to manage the club's Sailing School activities. It is also contracted by NBYTRA to provide coaching for the Teams Racing programme. Nelson Watersports Ltd. also operates a small windsurfing and stand-up paddleboarding school from the Nelson Yacht Club facilities. The company recruits a team of up to 10 part-time/casual instructors and coaches made up of locals or internationals on working holidays, as well as providing a training programme for young sailors to develop leadership skills and work towards being an instructor.

**Tasman Bay Cruising Club:** The Keelboat/Yacht club in the Nelson region, based in 'The Red Shed' in the Nelson Marina. It is another Yachting New Zealand affiliated club, and as well as cruising and social programmes, organises a year round programme of racing. Interested people can contact the club to be put in touch with skippers who are looking for crew, and can normally find a spot on a boat. TBCC uses the Nelson Yacht Club Control Room for starting the majority of its races. Members of TBCC have volunteered time to help out with major dinghy regattas held at NYC and NYC members have helped out with laying marks for the TBCC 'Nelson Regatta'.

**Sail Nelson Ltd:** The local RYA (Royal Yachting Association) sailing school. They offer practical yachting courses from Competent Crew up to Yachtmaster exam prep weeks.

**TS Talisman:** The local Sea Cadet unit and operates a number of 'Crowns', with a very much seamanship orientated programme. The unit also owns two RS Fevas, which are a great youth racing boat, and cadets compete in them at national events.

**Iron Duke Sea Scouts:** The local Sea Scout group providing a seamanship orientated programme of sailing in cutters. They also sail sunbursts at regattas.

**NMIT:** The maritime school offers training for commercial Maritime NZ certification, as well as Superyacht Crew Training.

**Crossovers:** Many kids will be involved with two or more of the organisations at the same time. For example, someone might sail 420s with NBYTRA and crew on a yacht for TBCC racing. Others might be Sea Scouts or Sea Cadets doing extra sailing training with the Nelson Yacht Club Junior Watersports programme. NMIT often bring their Superyacht Crew students to do a day of dinghy sailing training with Nelson Yacht Club, and use Sail Nelson as their training partner for practical yachting courses.

## **7. How can you get involved? What are the costs?**

- Sponsor or provide funding for the purchase cost of 8 new plastic training Optimists to replace the ageing beginner fleet.
  - Estimated cost \$24,000.
- Sponsor or provide funding for the purchase of 6 replacement Optimist sails and have them display your logo/branding.
  - Estimated cost \$3000.
- Purchase a new set of Topaz Omega sails and have them display your logo/branding.
  - Estimated cost \$2,000.
- Sponsor or provide funding for one of the coaching initiatives
  - Optimist Development Squad
    - A Full regatta programme for 6 sailors including travel = ~\$17000
    - Just the coaching costs for the season = ~\$5700
  - Saturday Green Fleet Instructor Role
    - To provide the link between the Junior Watersports Programme and Saturday Club Sailing. Cost \$2000 for 15 weeks.
  - Low-Decile Schools Programme
    - To provide a free sailing session to low-decile schools in Nelson.
    - Cost per class: \$576 for a full day.
    - To provide a 5 Day Holiday programme course for one student - \$320
- Advertise on the club website and in weekly club newsletters with a reach of >600.
- Promote Nelson Yacht Club's fundraising events/activities to your networks – a company intranet, Facebook, Instagram & other social networks etc...
- Come along and support the events and activities.
- Make a general donation or grant towards either;
  - The purchase of new boats
  - Maintenance of the existing boats
  - Coaching costs
  - Infrastructure projects such as the Ramp/Slipway or changing rooms

## 8. Key contacts

For more details, please contact the Nelson Yacht Club Administration Committee by emailing: [info@nelsonyachtclub.org.nz](mailto:info@nelsonyachtclub.org.nz)

Geoff Pitcaithly – Commodore - 548 7154 – [chrisandgeoff@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:chrisandgeoff@slingshot.co.nz)

Bruce Lissant-Clayton – Vice Commodore – 021 100 6165 – [bhc@clear.net.nz](mailto:bhc@clear.net.nz)

Tim Fraser-Harris – Sailing Manager – 021 0250 3767 - [info@nelsonwatersports.co.nz](mailto:info@nelsonwatersports.co.nz)

## 3. Supporters of the Project



**Sport Tasman**

Nick Smith, MP

544 Waimea Road, Annesbrook, Nelson.