



2018/19 Season Newsletter

**Enabling Disabled
Nelsonians to
Experience the
Freedom and
Joy of Sailing**





Sailability Nelson is one of ten active clubs across New Zealand and part of a world-wide movement. We provide access to safe sailing to enrich the lives of Nelsonians' with an intellectual or physical disability. Through sailing, we enable people with disabilities to experience adventure and freedom - building mobility, self-confidence and pride through achievement.

Thanks to the generous ongoing support of the Nelson community we are able to sail from the Nelson Yacht Club every second Sunday during a 15-week Spring to Autumn season.

People living with disabilities seldom have opportunities to participate in individual sporting activities where they can stand on a level playing field.

The joy of sailing is obvious when you are out on the water. Sailing provides a unique sense of freedom and movement. It is a fresh, exciting experience that encourages participants to push their boundaries and stretch their comfort zones.

Overall, sailing helps build confidence and enables personal growth with the benefits extending beyond the sailor to their family, schools, clubs, and the wider community.





**Sailability
Nelson**

**2018/19
Sailing
Season**



IT CLUB

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Our membership has continued to grow and this has meant that all five of our sailing dinghies have been needed to meet the demand which has been a thrill.

We have had mostly settled weather although occasionally the winds have been light and with incoming tides presented a challenge for our sailors.

However, with more sailing, it has enabled sailors to gain more experience and we now have two yachts dedicated to solo sailors. Next year with more coaching, these sailors will be taught to follow a course in preparation for entering regattas.



Website and Social Media

Through generous sponsorship from Hothouse and ETC Communications, we now have a website and Facebook page. Parents and volunteers are posting photos of the excitement sailors are experiencing. Feel free to share the website and Facebook link with others.

www.sailabilitynelson.org.nz

www.facebook.com/groups/SailabilityNelson/

Special thanks to Matt and the team at Anchor Print, who have kindly printed off our newsletter once again.

Membership

We currently have a regular group of 22 sailors and have had to operate all five Hansa yachts for the solo sailors. As part of their membership, each sailor received a cap or brimmed sunhat embroidered with our logo. Our last sail this year was on 7th April where sailors, friends and family together with our volunteers shared a bar-b-que sponsored by our parents. The 2019/20 season will start again in October after Labour Weekend. The dates will be posted on our web-site and Facebook pages, so if you know anyone who may be interested please refer them to the sites.





Volunteers

Sailing would not happen without the generous time given by our volunteers. It takes a minimum of 10 volunteers to safely run the programme with driving the patrol/coach boats, sailor buddies, assisting on the pontoon, boarding, operating hoist transfers from wheelchair to boat, registration, launching boats and coaching.

This year our pool of 20 plus volunteers were recognised by being awarded the 2018 Regional Community Award by the Trustpower 'Empowering Volunteers' scheme.

However we are always needing help and if you know of anyone who would like to help sail, operate a patrol boat or assist on the pontoon, please ask them to come along and introduce themselves or contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator, Robert Walbarn (021 495494) or John MacDuff (021 424 5112).

Pontoon

We greatly appreciate the generosity of Port Nelson providing access to their pontoon and the port security staff who kindly come and open up for us on our sailing days. Without their support, we could not operate the programme.

I would also like to thank the other boaters for their patience when our yachts berth at the wharf.





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Sponsorship

We would like to say an enormous thank you to our impressive roll call of sponsors. Without them, we would not have been able to achieve what we do every second weekend for our fantastic group of sailors.



Contact

If you know of someone in our community living with a disability, who might enjoy sailing, please contact John MacDuff.

If you would like to share your sailing skills and become a volunteer, please contact John MacDuff.

If you would like to support or sponsor Sailability Nelson, please contact Stuart Allan.

Thank you for all the positive feedback we have received from our volunteers, sailors and their parents/caregivers. We always welcome any suggestions you might have to help improve the experience for our sailors.

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