



# Nelson Yacht Club Inc

(Est 1857)

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## A Vision for Sailing in Nelson



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## 1. Introduction

This document lays out the fundraising strategy of the Nelson Yacht Club for its fleet of sailing dinghies and patrol boats to support its Sailing School, club racing and other community activities. It includes current & future objectives as well as the progress so far.

This 2020 update is particularly important, with the club identifying **the need to fill a gap in the pathway with a double-handed junior racing class – the RS Feva**. This will also consolidate an increase in female participation at a learn-to-sail level, help with the transition to club racing and provide extra capacity for the increase in interest in sailing that historically accompanies the America's Cup. With the defence of the Cup being held on home waters in Auckland in March 2021, the club is keen to seize the opportunity to encourage and increase participation in sailing. **The replacement of one of the club RIBs is also scheduled** to ensure the patrol boat fleet continues to provide excellent safety cover for all the community activities it supports.

## 2. 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**

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

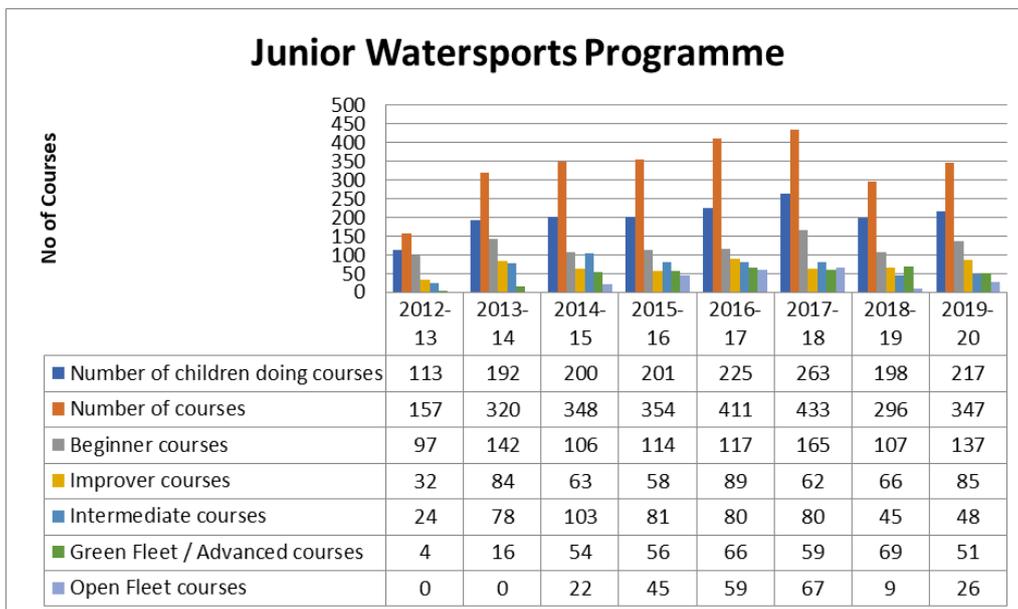
- Investment from the Club's savings
- Grants from the Pub Charity and The Lion Foundation
- Club fundraising activities

**Sustained Momentum:**

- 2015-16 season - Mitre10 Mega Nelson sponsored replacement sails for the Topaz Unos. Great exposure for Mitre10 & the sails are purpose-built for sailing school use.
- 2016-17 season - 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.
- November 2017 a grant from The Pub Charity facilitated the purchase of 8 new self-draining SailQube Optimists which greatly improved the experience for the club's youngest learn to sail students, and 3 new Topaz Uno as part of a plan to turn-over the club's fleet.
- Mitre10 Mega have continued their sponsorship, with new sails for the 6 Euro Optimists & for the Omega. They will also replace the Topaz Uno sails this winter.

**3. 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, jumping significantly in 2013-14 (America's Cup year), and increasing to 263 in the 2017-18 season (America's Cup year).

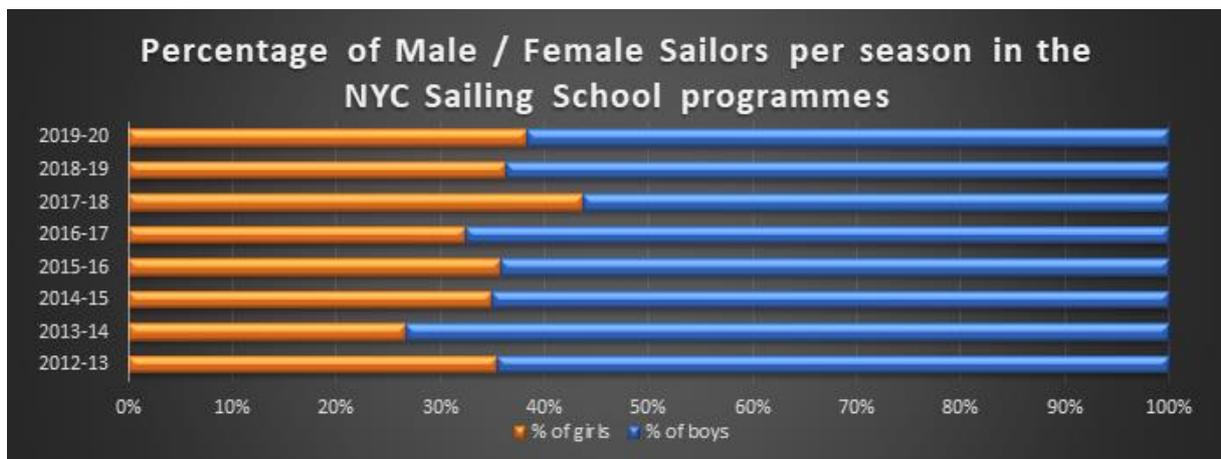


In February 2018, the club was severely damaged by the storm surge from ex-tropical cyclone Fehi. Whilst this did not impact on figures for the 2017-18 season, it was considered a significant factor in the loss in momentum moving into the 2018-19 season. We also saw a significant drop-out of a number of students who had taken part in courses regularly for a number of years and who either joined NBYTRA or stopped sailing – the 'next step' to NYC club racing was not sufficiently accessible. Boat ownership remains a significant hurdle.

It has been satisfying to see that even with the impact of Covid-19 in the 2019-20 season, numbers have shown a 'bounce' and with good participation in the younger/smaller Optimist boats, we are hopefully of a bright future ahead!

### Male / Female participation

It has been encouraging to see a consistent trend of increasing participation of girls in the club's Junior Watersports Programme activity.



Unfortunately, this has not translated into the same trend in club racing activity. It is widely accepted that for girls, sailing in boats together and having friends also participating is extremely important. Double-handed sailing is a bit part of the answer, as discussed in this recent article on Sailworld.com:

[https://www.sail-world.com/news/229982/How-to-keep-girls-in-our-awesome-sport?fbclid=IwAR3gHD6QysKJSGKyjVJx8ZIV-d50P6heNLBxnE8o\\_TlhN7dAX\\_XdGkT5UHs](https://www.sail-world.com/news/229982/How-to-keep-girls-in-our-awesome-sport?fbclid=IwAR3gHD6QysKJSGKyjVJx8ZIV-d50P6heNLBxnE8o_TlhN7dAX_XdGkT5UHs)

### **School Groups**

As an example, during the 2019/20 covid-impacted season the NYC Sailing School delivered almost 1000 student sessions to school groups in the local community. This is an estimated figure based on the school's booking and 1 student for 1 half-day (2.5hr) session. NB. A student on a full-day course would count as 2 student sessions. It included sessions for:

- Nelson College
- Nelson College for Girls
- Waimea Intermediate
- Nayland Primary
- Nayland College
- Nelson Central
- Nelson Home Schooling Association
- One School Global
- Motueka Get-to-Go team
- St Paul's School Richmond

### **Competitive success in junior and youth sailors**

NYC Optimist Sailor Noah Malpot ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the NZIODA rankings for the 2019-20 season and qualified to represent NZ at the World Championships. They were sadly cancelled due to the impact of Covid-19. The Waimea College team came 5<sup>th</sup> in the 2019 Secondary Schools Team Racing Nationals and were hoping to achieve a podium finish at the 2020 nationals before Covid-19 forced the cancellation of the event.

### **Sea Swims**

The club's facilities and patrol boats are used to support the Nelson Tri Club Port Nelson Sea Swims, with an average of 153 swimmers each Thursday evening through the summer (2018/19 season), and a total of 2754 swims across the season. There is a wide demographic mix of participants with ages ranging from nine and 10-year-olds up to several contestants in the 70+ age bracket. There is a well-balanced gender mix being approximately 55% male, 45% female.

#### **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, the Nelson Haven is a spectacular venue for sailing activities and a strong link between the leisure and business marine communities. The colourful sight of sailing boats in the harbour completes the vibrant scene. Over the past 8 years, the increase in sailing and watersports activity on the harbour, supported by the *Vision for Sailing in Nelson* strategy has been noticed and commented on by many.

#### **A long History!**

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 and local business supporting and promoting sailing. The Waterman Cup, first awarded at the Anniversary Regatta in 1858 was made in London in 1843 and even pre-dates the America's Cup. In 2002, when the trophy re-surfaced at auction, Port Nelson supported Nelson Yacht Club with a grant to 'bring the Cup home' to Nelson. It is now proudly displayed in the Aurora Lounge at Nelson Yacht Club, and made available for the Port Nelson community days.

## **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 learning a new skill, the simple thrill of harnessing the power of the wind to propel your boat along, to competitive racing at Club, National, and International level in a vast array of different boats. There is 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 water's-edge facilities and easy access to fantastic sailing waters. 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 13x 420 dinghies and contracts a coach to provide a coaching and racing programme for secondary school age students in Nelson. The ongoing re-integration and cooperation of NBYTRA and NYC has allowed some consolidation of patrol boats and sharing of resources. It has also strengthened a successful pathway for youth sailors to participate in Team Racing in Nelson. The model of double-handed sailing in provided boats makes sailing a more attractive prospect for teenagers and reduces barriers for families. The association has been running at/near capacity for the past two seasons and has been well supported by funding and sponsorships.



In 2019, the Waimea College team was the best placed of the Nelson teams at the Nationals, managing to finish 5<sup>th</sup> in the country – the highest ever result for a Nelson school.

**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.

**Sailability Nelson:**

The club's facilities and patrol boats are also used to support the fantastic work of the Sailability Nelson Trust providing fortnightly sailing experiences for Nelsonians with disabilities, with their fleet of purpose built Hansa yachts.

**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, 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.

**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.

**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.

**NMIT:** The maritime school offers training for commercial Maritime NZ certification, RYA powerboat courses, and a programme of Superyacht Crew Training.

**Crossovers & Collaboration:** Many sailors will be involved with two or more of the organisations at the same time. For example,

- A youth sailor might sail 420s with NBYTRA, do NYC club racing, crew on a yacht for TBCC racing, do windsurfing with Nelson Watersports and volunteer their time to support Sailability Nelson!
- Others might be primarily Sea Scouts or Sea Cadets doing extra sailing training with the NYC Sailing School or taking part in NYC club racing.
- With the addition of RS Fevas to the NYC fleet, the Sea Cadets would be encouraged to participate in NYC club racing.
- 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.
- TBCC uses the Nelson Yacht Club Control Room for starting the majority of its races.
- Members of TBCC volunteer to help with major dinghy regattas held at NYC and NYC members help out with laying marks for the TBCC 'Nelson Regatta'.
- A medium-term project is in the pipeline to liquidate current assets, combine funds and seek funding to purchase a Committee Boat that would be shared by Nelson Yacht Club, Tasman Bay Cruising Club and NBYTRA.

## 7. Current Priorities

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

### Introduction of the RS Feva

Club sailing strategy meetings have identified that the promotion of the [RS Feva](#) class as a pathway class will help to encourage and facilitate more progression and participation in junior/youth/family club racing and recreational sailing activity.



As mentioned in the Sail-World article linked above, double-handed sailing is a key part of keeping youth, especially girls, in sailing. The RS Feva is an ideal progression boat from the dedicated learn-to-sail fleet of Topaz Unos, towards the youth class of the 29er skiff.

A model of club and privately owned boats is proposed, with the club seeking funds for 3 boats. These boats will build on the success and popularity of the Topaz Unos which are currently used to capacity. They will be used in a few different ways:

- enabling more capacity and higher level training in the Sailing School programmes,
- providing additional capacity for school group sessions,
- they will be made available for use on Saturday club racing days, and
- provision will be made for crews to be able to take them away to regattas.

With the 'critical mass' of 3 club-owned boats on the start line each week, it is expected that the more competitive sailors will move on and buy their own boats, expanding the fleet.

**3 new RS Feva cost \$44,157.**

### **Patrol boat renewal programme**

The club is fortunate to have an excellent fleet of patrol boats to support all the activities that take place on the water. However, it is vital that these are maintained and replaced where appropriate. Significant club funds have been invested recently in re-tubing the Naiad 3.8m Patrol 5 and Naiad 5.3m Patrol 2 along with a new road trailer. The next project on the list is the replacement of the current Patrol 4. This boat is now approaching 9 years old and has had a huge amount of use in that time. It is a Southern Pacific 4.7m RIB with a 40 Hp Honda engine. The club has identified that now is the time to try and turn this boat over and replace with a new one.

**A 4.5m Wavebreak RIB with 40Hp Honda outboard jet is quoted at \$36,768.95 .**

**A 4.3m Naiad RIB with 60Hp Yamaha outboard is quoted at \* awaiting quote**

**A 4.8m Naiad RIB with 75Hp Yamaha outboard is quoted at \* awaiting quote**

### **Racing Optimist Charter Fleet / rolling stock**

The club has identified that boat ownership is the biggest hurdle that many families face once their children have gone through the learn to sail process. The RS Feva will provide an excellent pathway for double-handed sailors. However, for the younger, single-handed sailor, the Optimist is still recognised as the most popular junior racing class. The club will look to purchase up to 6 second-hand, entry-level racing Optimists. These will be made available for charter on a seasonal basis, to help families and sailors make the step from the plastic club boats to a fibreglass racing boat.

**Prices will vary but a budget of \$2000 per boat is proposed.**

These boats can potentially be sponsored and can have sign-writing with sponsors logos.

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

- Sponsor or provide funding for the purchase cost of 3 new RS Feva dinghies.
  - Cost \$44,157.
- Sponsor or provide funding for the purchase of a replacement patrol boat.
  - Estimated cost \$35-40,000.
- Advertise on the club website and in weekly club newsletters with a reach of >700.
- 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 infrastructure projects such as the Ramp/Slipway or changing rooms

The club is also looking at creating two funds from which bursaries could be awarded. One would be to try and reduce the financial cost of Sailing School activities for those who can't afford it, and the other would be to assist with travel costs for the club's representative/competitive sailors travelling to national and international regattas.

## 9. 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)

Justin Fletcher – Vice Commodore – 027 207 1800 – [justinfletcher74@gmail.com](mailto:justinfletcher74@gmail.com)

Tim Fraser-Harris – Club Manager – 021 0250 3767 – [manager@nelsonyachtclub.org.nz](mailto:manager@nelsonyachtclub.org.nz)

## 10. Supporters of the Project



**Sport Tasman**

Nick Smith, MP  
544 Waimea Road, Annesbrook, Nelson.