



Report on the Sailors for the Sea Clean Regattas Program



Sir Peter Blake Regatta
December 5 - 6th 2020
Torbay Sailing Club, New Zealand
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1.0 Introduction

“You can’t sail around the world five times and not be affected by nature” - Sir Peter Blake.

Since 2002 Torbay Sailing Club has hosted the Sir Peter Blake Regatta every year on the first weekend in December. It is renowned as the largest centreboard regatta in the southern hemisphere, now a youth-only regatta, continuing on Blakes legacy. The regatta is a demonstration not only of Blake’s love for yachting but the connection he shared with nature. Therefore, the Sir Peter Blake Regatta aims to minimise any impact it may have on the surrounding environment and demonstrates Blake’s love for the ocean through our sustainable event management practices. To achieve this Torbay Sailing Club joined the Sailors for the Sea Clean Regattas Program in which they received a Silver Certification in 2019, and a Gold Certification in this year’s 2020 regatta. To gain this certification the event had to comply with various guidelines, from each of the five categories demonstrated in *Figure 1* below.



Figure 1. Diagram showing the five components of Sailors for the Sea Clean Regattas Program.

The report examines each of the five components and the specific checklist the Sir Peter Blake Regatta (SPBR) had to complete in order to achieve a gold certification in 2020.

2.0 Five components of a Clean Regatta

In 2020 the SPBR assembled a 'Green Team' on a voluntary basis that was dedicated to the management of the events sustainability protocols in relation to meeting the criteria of a gold certification for the Clean Regattas Program. This team consisted of three main individuals (Jo Colman, Brianna Orams and Angus Wright) collaborating on a weekly basis a few months prior to the event. The following reports on the measures we took within each of the five components (*Figure 1*) in relation to the checklist provided by Sailors for the Sea as seen in *Figure 2* below.

ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE ITEMS

- 1. Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations
- 2. Eliminate Plastic Straws
- 3. Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware
- 4. Use or Provide Reusable Bags
- 5. Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 6. Publicize Your Sustainability Efforts
- 7. Involve Local Organizations
- 8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage
- 9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably

RESPONSIBLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 10. Organize a Green Team
- 11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage
- 12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill
- 13. Use Paperless Event Management

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- 14. Host a Beach or Marina Clean-up
- 15. Promote Alternative Transportation
- 16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection
- 17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

GREEN BOATING

- 18. Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques
- 19. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water
- 20. Encourage Green Boating Practices



Figure 2. Sailors for the Sea Best Practices Checklist

2.1 Elimination of Single-use items

□ 1. Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations

SPBR eliminated the use of single-use water bottles by removing the sale of all plastic bottles at the event. As an alternative SPBR required sailors to bring their own reusable drink bottle which they could fill up at one of the many water refill stations provided and set up in various locations around the event site (Figure 3).

To minimise the use of not only water bottles but other beverage items SPBR ran a wine deposit scheme, in which a \$2 wine glass was given out for \$2 and on return the customer would receive their money back (Figure 4).



Figure 3. Watercare Water Refill Stations



Figure 4. Wine Glass Deposit Scheme

□ 2. Eliminate Plastic Straws

There were no plastic straws given out or sold at the regatta. Over the past few years SPBR have promoted the message that 'plastic straws suck' in our briefings, reminding our sailors what these items can do to sea life.

□ 3. Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware

During the regatta there was only bamboo cutlery provided when required. A sausage sizzle was offered to the sailors after they got off the water and returned their regatta bibs for re-use in the next year. This not only provided the sailors with an incentive to recycle but eliminated the need to give out cutlery during food service.



Figure 5. Sailors lunches in paper packaging

□ 4. Use or Provide Reusable Bags

Prior to going out on the water SPBR offers sailors pre-made lunches. This year we ensured all lunches were in brown paper bags and no plastic was used (*Figure 5*). Additionally, every year the registration bags have been re-useable cloth bags supplied from our sponsors.

□ 5. Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy

Every year the SPBR trophies are awarded and returned for the following year. The spot prizes were both practical and environmentally conscious including a 'plant pack' from a local tree planting organization called the Kaipatiki Project (*Figure 6*).



Figure 6. Plant Pack Spot prize

2.2 Community involvement

□ 6. Publicize Your Sustainability Efforts

SPBR has frequent communication with the community and regatta attendees via our social platforms on Facebook, Instagram and the Team app. Prior to the event not only was there reminders sent out to sailors to ensure they remembered the regatta was a 'clean regatta' and to bring items such as their own drink bottle, but it was publicised that SPBR was attempting to achieve a gold status through the Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta Program. Before and after the regatta the green team wrote an article in the Torbay community newsletter (Figure 7), and shared information about SPBR environmental efforts and Sir Peter Blake's legacy in regards to the marine environment on all of their social platforms.



Figure 7. SPBR Article in Torbay Newsletter

□ 7. Involve Local Organizations

SPBR involves many local organisations and has various sponsors from around the local area e.g. Barfoot and Thompson, Volvo, Harken, Kiwi Yachting, Southern Pacific Inflatables, The Water Shed, Live Sail Die, Altura, Aqua Dynamics, Burnsco, Royal New Zealand Navy, Hibiscus and Bays Local Board, Doyle, Zhik, Hydraulink, Melanoma NZ, Speakers Corner, Kaipatiki Project and Eco Store. Each of these organisations are

supportive of the regattas involvement in the clean regattas program and abide to the environmental protocols of the regatta.

□ 8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage

Rather than using signage for environmental education, SPBR sent our educational messages prior and during the event over the Team app, which reaches every competitor that is registered. Some of these messages included instructions on how to use the 3 bin system properly, reminders to consider to the environment when applying boat stickers. During the regatta a speaker Professor Mark Orams, an expert in the field of marine science and yachting, came in to not only talk about Sir Peter Blake's Legacy but to educate the attendees, mostly youth, on the importance of caring for our environment.

□ 9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably

SPBR served food such as lunches from our local bakery's ensuring they sustainably packaged their products.

2.3 Waste Management

□ 10. Organize a Green Team

As mentioned in section 2.0 a Green Team of three individuals were assembled; Jo Colman, Brianna Orams and Angus Wright collaborating on a weekly basis a few months prior to the event.

□ 11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage

SPBR implemented a three bin system through Rubbish Direct, a company the regatta has a long standing relationship with. Rubbish direct displayed signage on their bins which is permanently in place avoiding the need for additional signage. General waste, recycling and compost bins (*Figure 8*) were put in various locations around the venue and information on what to put into each of these bins was sent out during the event via Team app.

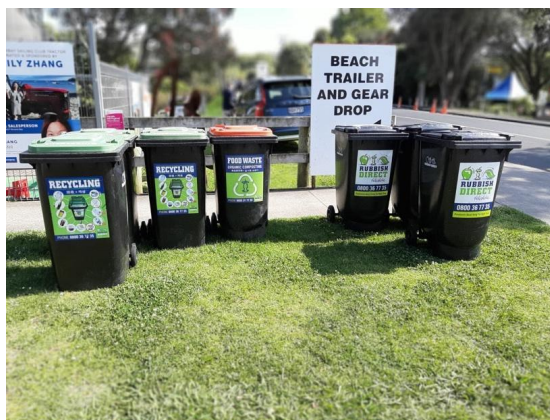


Figure 8. General Waste, Recycling and Compost bin

□ 12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill

Compost was provided to ensure diversion of food waste to the landfill. Rubbish Direct were informed of SPBR involvement and the requirements to meet the Clean Regattas criteria.

□ 13. Use Paperless Event Management

SPBR put all communications including documents such as Notice of Race and Results online using the Team app. Some procedure paper was required such as recording of race results by finish boats. For the paper that was used SPBR partnered with Mackay Boats Silverdale to provide Rockstock paper, a tree free rich mineral paper manufactured from milled quarry waste using no water and minimal energy-waterproof, non-toxic and GHG emissions.

2.4 Environmental Stewardship

□ 14. Host a Beach or Marina Clean-up

Prior to the event a local primary school hosted a beach clean-up at Torbay which ensured there was minimal waste entering the waterways and occupying the coastal area during the regatta. In addition to this, in the past SPBR had run a competition with the youth sailors to pick up three pieces of rubbish to receive a spot prize e.g. reusable drink bottle.



Figure 9. Photo of a Clean Torbay beach

□ 15. Promote Alternative Transportation

SPBR has been working with Volvo to provide a free shuttle service (Figure10) from parking at the local primary school to the event site. This not only encourages ride sharing to reduce emissions but promoted the use of Volvo's EV (electric vehicles) used to transport people from the school to the venue.



Figure 10. Volvo Shuttle Service

□ 16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

The briefing at the SPBR increased awareness and communicated the importance of protecting local marine life in the Hauraki Gulf. Guest speaker Professor Mark Orams used local examples of marine life such as the Australasian Gannet that is a common species sailors see on the water. Portraying how important it is to 'Take 3 for the Sea' Professor Orams reminded sailors to pick up 3 pieces of rubbish every time they are at the beach, and consider how their daily actions may impact these species.



Figure 11. Professor Mark Orams. Photo sourced from <https://www.livesaildie.com/>

□ 17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

The food and drink provided at SPBR offered vegetarian and vegan alternatives, including alternative milk types (soy, almond, coconut etc.) and vegetarian/vegan options for sailor's lunches sourced from the local bakery.

2.5 Green Boating

□ 18. Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques

During racing eco-smart techniques were implemented such as the use of Rockstock paper as a sustainable alternative to record results. In the future SPBR hopes to transition to become an online based regatta, using online techniques such as the Team app for race management to minimise the use of paper.

□ 19. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water

SPBR partnered with 'Ecostore' to promote and provide biodegradable boat wash down. Additionally, in the past a boat ramp was installed with a wash down system to minimise water usage and use of harmful toxins. This year the Green Team sourced a chemical/oil spill kit and refuelled coach boats in a single area to ensure that any major spill was accounted for, and if they did occur (fortunately not), that there were clean-up strategies in place.



Figure 12. Ecostore boat wash

All sailors were provided sunscreen in their re-useable cloth registration bags. This sunscreen was donated and the Green Team ensured it met the definition of being 'Reef Friendly'.

□ 20. Encourage Green Boating Practices

One of the challenges that the Green team faced was eliminating the use of bow stickers as there was an obligation with sponsors to provide these to the sailors. So, this year a notification was sent out via the app to inform the competitors of how to correctly apply their bow stickers to minimise the risk of them falling off in the ocean. The notification was as follows:

‘When applying sponsor stickers to your boat please be mindful of the environment, to minimise the risk of stickers falling off into the water:

1. The area is cleaned and dried prior to application
2. Find the Center
3. Position the Graphic
4. Peel away Backing
5. Remove transfer paper and ensure there are no uneven surfaces’

Although, in the future this is a component of green boating practices that SPBR wishes to improve.

3.0 Conclusion

Overall, Torbay Sailing Club is honored to be part of a program that helps continue Sir Peter Blake’s legacy and live by his values of caring for our natural environment.

In 2020, SPBR was proud to have achieved the Sailors for the Sea gold certification. The regatta is not only an event that brings together the best of youth sailing but encourages people to get out there and enjoy the slice of heaven New Zealanders are lucky enough to live in. It enables us to communicate and practice environmental messages that strive towards preserving Aotearoa.

“New technology is common, new thinking is rare” – Sir Peter Blake

In light of this quote the green team aspire to keep thinking of new ways to incorporate sustainability initiatives into the Sir Peter Blake Regatta, to further benefit the environment.



Figure 13. Waiake Beach, Torbay, New Zealand