

Wakatere Clean Regatta Aiming for Platinum



2022 OPTIMIST & STARLING AUCKLAND CHAMPIONSHIP
Saturday 5th February – Monday 7th February 2022
Incorporating the AUCKLAND ANNIVERSARY DAY REGATTA
The Organising Authority is Wakatere Boating Club (INC.) Devonport, Auckland

A regatta with a difference -

January 2022 saw the whole of New Zealand enter into a Red Light Covid-19 Protection Framework system that introduced a raft of challenges for the organisers of the 2022 Auckland Champs for Optimist and Starling classes at Wakatere Boating Club.

While most other events throughout NZ were canceled due to the difficulties involved in running an event under such tight restrictions, Wakatere decided to do everything within their power to go ahead and adapt to still run the event within the Covid limits, keeping competitors safe, and aiming to be a Platinum level Clean Regatta.

With limited volunteers, restrictions on gathering numbers and huge logistical challenges around co-ordinating a large-scale regatta in the Red Traffic Light system, along with a difficult weather system coming through, Wakatere Boating Club is hugely proud (and a little relieved) to have successfully completed a big weekend.

<https://www.sail-world.com/news/246023/Auckland-Opti-and-Starling-Champs-Surf-stops-Day-1>

<https://www.livesaildie.com/day-1-of-auckland-optimist-and-starling-champs-cancelled/>

Referred to in the online briefing. Here is the Green fleet one - see approx 3.30mins
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5sk8ulma81xnw2l/Opti%20Green%20RO%20briefing.mp4?dl=0>

Regatta Notice of Race

22 DISPOSAL OF TRASH IN THE SEA

- 22.1 A competitor shall not intentionally put trash in the water. This rule applies at all times while afloat. [DP]
- 22.2 The event will be run as a Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta. We request that competitors, supporters and officials support this initiative.

ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE ITEMS

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

Keeping things simple for this regatta, we simply provided 'water in a box' - these are NZ made and helps us keep plastic out of our event while providing water refill stations for your competitors in all the different covid zones. Competitors were all reminded to bring their own reusable water bottles of course.



2. Eliminate Plastic Straws

Due to the covid restrictions, the club bar was closed for this regatta, so no beverages were available to purchase. We did ensure the water stations were available for each zone of competitors.

3. Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware

With 200 competitors, we really wanted to eliminate as much packaging for food as possible. For this regatta we served competitors food in specially branded and individually named aluminium mugs that were washed and reused each day and then able to be kept as a regatta memento.



4. Use or Provide Reusable Bags

Once again, we used our much loved Doyle Sails lunch bags. The bags have proven invaluable for the club as they have been re-used many times over the last 4 years of running Clean Regatta's. Volunteers collected their lunches and returned the bags ready for refilling for the following day.



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

Thanks to a young Wakatere club member Marcus Hilder, we had some very special trophies & medals prepared for prizegiving. Not just any medals, but the 3D printed, clean, sustainable kind. Made of PLA (polylactide) - a renewable, natural raw material like corn. The starch (glucose) is extracted from the plants, converted into dextrose by the addition of enzymes. AND... the PLA company pledges to plant one tree for every spool sold.

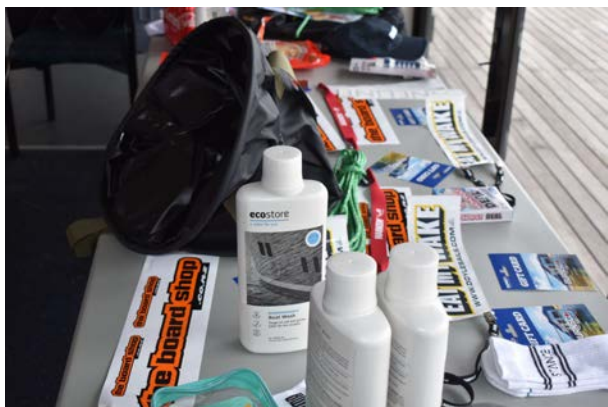
But there's even more to this story... the lanyards on the medals are upcycled from Emirates Team New Zealand! Cool to have ETNZ on them. In total Marcus made 72 medals for the Auckland Champs event, he hopes that every child receiving them treasures them & doesn't throw them away ♻️

Wakatere facebook post 7th Feb 2022 -

<https://www.facebook.com/101699930148/photos/a.10151018669470149/10159667522605149/>

This initiative was also mentioned in the last paragraph of an event story featured in SailWord, written by Richard Gladwell -

<https://www.sail-world.com/news/246056/Optimist-and-Starling-sailors-win-against-adversity>



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

6. Publicize Your Sustainability Efforts

Wakatere invited a new Auckland Council initiative to be involved at our regatta and they brought along their new Hauraki Gulf Pest Free Trailer to our event. Not only did they have information, flyers and staff offering advice to regatta entrants and supporters, they managed to tap into the many hundreds of local community who happened to be at the beach during the long weekend - a really well received initiative between Auckland Council and the Department of Conservation and proudly supported by Wakatere Boating Club.



Wakatere Boating Club

Published by Amanda Michel · February 2 at 5:00 PM ·

How much do you know about marine pests? Look out for this cool trailer at Narrow Neck over the Waitangi Day long weekend. Partnered with [Auckland Council](#) there'll be a couple of officers to chat to and it's full of interesting things. Say hi!

Sign up for their newsletter <https://www.marinepests.nz/news>

Sailors for the Sea #cleanregatta Hauraki Gulf Forum Tikapa Moana Te Moananui-ā-Toi Department of Conservation #ynzcleanclub #Liveocean #cleanbelowgoodtogo... [See more](#)



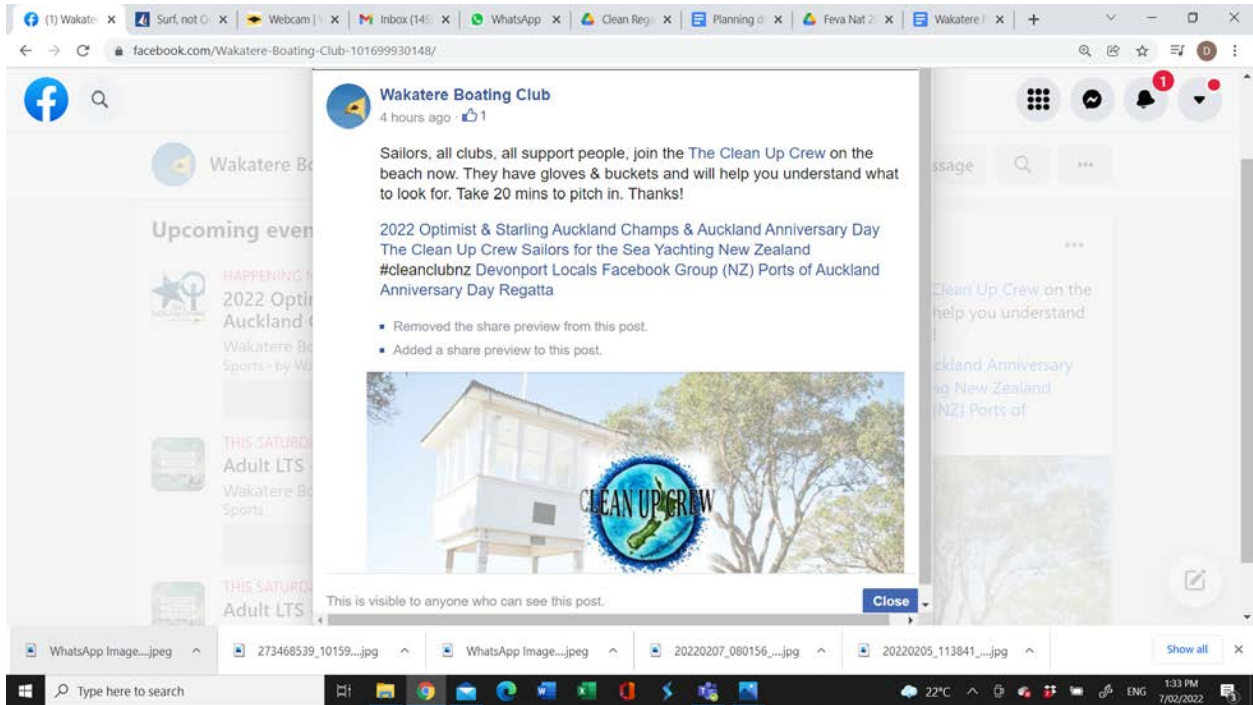
<https://www.facebook.com/101699930148/photos/a.10151018669470149/10159658265410149/>

<https://www.wakatere.org.nz/2022-opti-and-starling-auckland-champs/>



7. Involve Local Organizations

Our trusty friends from local charity group, The Clean up Crew - once again joined forces with a Wakatere regatta and held a beach clean during one of the scheduled race days. This was supported by local community as well as regatta supporters. This was posted on the Wakatere facebook page and the Clean Up Crew Facebook page. Local community groups were also tagged.



8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage

Having run quite a few Clean Regattas now, we have been sure to set ourselves up with signage that we consistently use at regattas around the club grounds.



9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably

One of the great things about running a Clean Regatta on a regular basis is that all our suppliers come to know and understand what we are working towards with our sustainability efforts - again, our friends at New World in Devonport provided sandwiches in cardboard boxes that we could compost, fresh muffins and fruit that had only cardboard and paper wrapping. This made things very easy to pack into our Doyles lunch bags with only compostable waste. We also made sure to order our bread in bulk in boxes from our local New World, also eliminating plastic.



RESPONSIBLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

10. Organize a Green Team

While the Red Traffic Light system in NZ meant we had very limited volunteers on site for the regatta. The Green team made sure to get together online and in person to sort systems well before the event. In actual fact this meant we had more people than usual who were informed of what was required, just all working from different angles to what would be normal at a non-covid event. Delayne Salthouse worked with 4 other volunteers, Kirsten Newton, Monique Pearce, Amanda Michel, and Julia Faire, all taking on various Clean Regatta best practices but all with a general overview. While challenging it has been successful especially in regards to sharing the knowledge of how Wakatere runs its Clean Regattas.



11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage

For this event, we needed to break competitors into 4 distinct groups with their own separate zone - to ensure rubbish and waste was taken care of in each zone, we brought in extra bins, extra event lids and produced extra signage to ensure 'making the right choice' was as easy as possible.

We also increased the large collection bin sizes to ensure we had enough capacity for waste. However, the interesting lesson from this was that our waste for this event was exceptionally low across all three waste streams and considerably less than we had expected. There were several contributing factors for this -

- 1 - the bar was closed so volumes of recycling for bottles and cans was close to zero.
- 2 - the aluminium cups used for sailors meals meant zero packaging or serveware waste
- 3 - with no supporters or competitors permitted inside the club and zones needing to remain separate, we did not have any social activities that would normally create recycling and waste.

The end result is that we managed to **reduce our overall waste by a massive 75%**.

Landfill - **down 85%** on expected volume

Recycling - **down 60%** with cardboard from supplier boxes being the largest content.

Compost - **down 80%** on expected volume



12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill

Compost bins are always included in all our waste management systems and we ordered an extra large collection bin for this regatta also as we had most soiled cardboard and paper as waste.

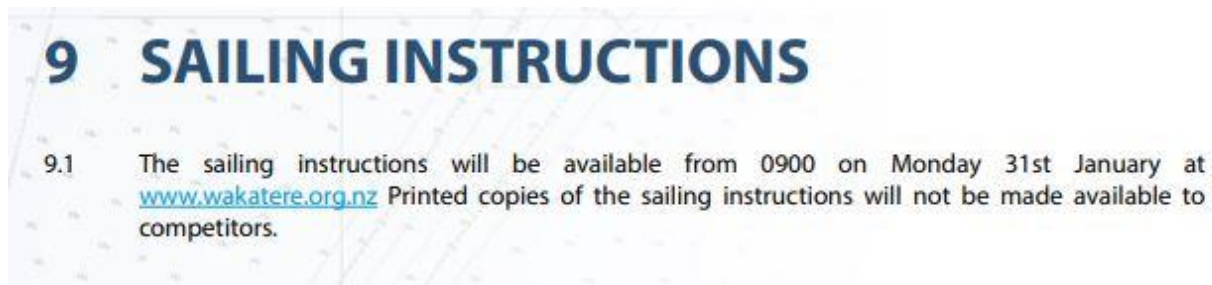
Wakatere also worked with our local council organisation EcoMatters to help us meet the requirements for a Zero Waste Event.

<https://zerowasteevents.org.nz/>

We were very grateful to also be the recipient of a grant to help us fund the extra supply of bins to help us achieve our zero waste goals.

13. Use Paperless Event Management

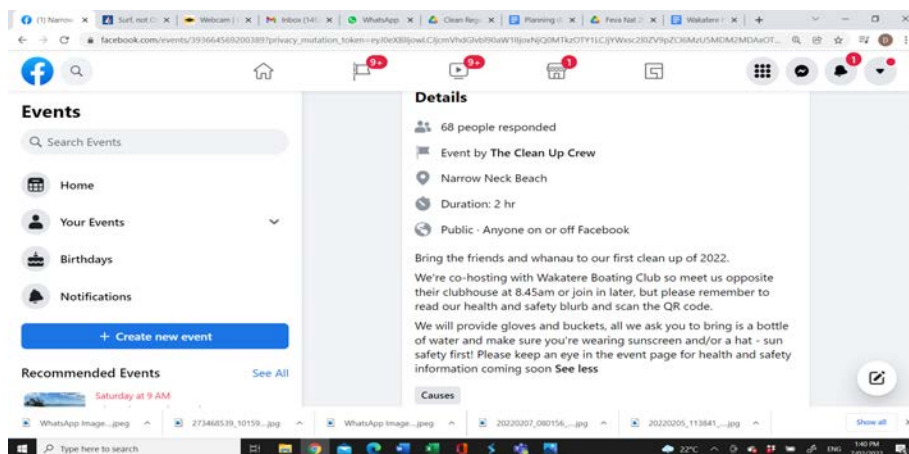
As the club house was closed for everyone other than officials and volunteers, all race results and communications were online - no hard copy documents were printed.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

14. Host a Beach or Marina Clean-up

Our trusty friends from the local charity group, The Clean Up Crew, once again joined forces with a Wakatere regatta and held a beach clean during one of the scheduled race days. This was supported by local community as well as a few of the regatta supporters



5. Promote Alternative Transportation

VF Pride 12:45 PM 37%

The 2022 Optimist & Starling Auckland Champs is a registered Sailors for the Sea CLEAN REGATTA.

Competitors are reminded of RRS 55 covering Disposal of Trash: A competitor shall not intentionally put trash in the water. This rule applies at all times while afloat.

1. Reuse, reuse, reuse
2. Choose your waste bin carefully
3. Clean Regatta
4. Zero Waste Event

We encourage low energy transportation to Wakatere. If your boat is already at the club and you live locally, the best & most enjoyable way to get to Narrow Neck is to walk, cycle or bus. Wakatere is conveniently located on a cycle way and opposite a bus stop..

Visit our Sustainability page to find out what a Clean Regatta means.



wakatere.org.nz

16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

Wakatere invited a new local council initiative to be involved at our regatta and they brought along their new Hauraki Gulf Pest Free trailer to our event. Not only did they have information, flyers about our local pest free initiatives for both Predator Free Islands but also about the marine pests in our local waters. They managed to tap into the many hundreds of local community who happened to be at the beach during the long weekend - a really well received initiative between Auckland Council, Department of Conservation and Wakatere Boating Club. Wakatere facebook post -

<https://www.facebook.com/101699930148/photos/a.10151018669470149/10159658265410149/>



17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

All our meals provided for competitors and volunteers included vegetarian and vegan options. That applied to sandwiches, noodles, nachos, and more!!

We made sure the dietary requirements of each individual were met and identified these using unique stickers and name tags for their cups and lunch bags.

GREEN BOATING

18. Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques

Race officials used the Boyzone app for all race course mark setting which is a quick system and results in less adjustment of mark anchors on the seabed as well as requiring less paper use.

<https://www.buoy.zone/>

Wakatere also use a scanned sign on/off system which syncs directly to the race lists - again resulting in less paper and waste.

19. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water

As usual, Wakatere uses the trusty 'flushing barrel' for club outboards to eliminate oil contamination from entering the sea.

We also had a **no washdown** policy for all competitors and volunteer boats at this regatta and this was posted in the

NOR. [https://www.wakatere.org.nz/site_files/29221/upload_files/AucklandChampsNOR-RedTrafficLight\(1\).pdf?dl=1](https://www.wakatere.org.nz/site_files/29221/upload_files/AucklandChampsNOR-RedTrafficLight(1).pdf?dl=1)



OTHER ZONE INFORMATION

We will be providing competitors with snacks after racing each day in their zoned areas.

Sorry no boat wash downs throughout the regatta.

20. Encourage Green Boating Practices

While the weather conditions made it impractical for boats to anchor on the course, Wakatere introduced a shuttle system between the beach and the anchored supports boats getting to and from the beach.

The benefit of these types of rough sea conditions also meant that less supporters wanted to be out on the water for 'fun viewing' but rather just the essential safety boats and crew were there to do their job.

Lessons Learnt

While running an event of this scale under such tight Covid restriction was enormously challenging, the end result from an environmental perspective has been completely rewarding. Less social activity means less waste. The balancing act of working this knowledge into the planning of future Clean Regatta events will be something to keep in mind.