



WAKATERE BOATING CLUB (INC) Wakatere Clean Regatta Report - Aiming for Platinum



An Autumn Regatta

The Sunburst National Regatta was delayed from the original date of January 2022 due to the Red Light Covid 19 Protection Framework that was put in place across New Zealand, with Auckland being in Red from 02 Dec 21 and associated travel restrictions.

On 13 April 22 all of New Zealand moved from the red traffic light to orange traffic light level and the organising committee started to canvas other clubs around the country as to their willingness to travel to Auckland for a Nationals.

Caution from potential participants around travelling to Auckland resulted in a smaller regatta than in previous years with 24 boats and 48 sailors with the majority were from the broader Auckland region.

On the plus side the smaller numbers enabled simpler logistics, the events being under maximum gathering limits and the unique family vibe of the Sunburst Regatta came to the fore with all participants and supporters relishing the social interaction.

The Regatta was profiled by Yachting New Zealand for its fit with the 'Sailing for Life' with an age range of 7-64 years. Also it was unique in that over half of the participants were female.

Wakatere Website Sunburst Nationals Regatta copy:

This regatta is a [Sailors for the Sea](#) CLEAN REGATTA following the framework for a sustainable event. Help us tick these best practice boxes -

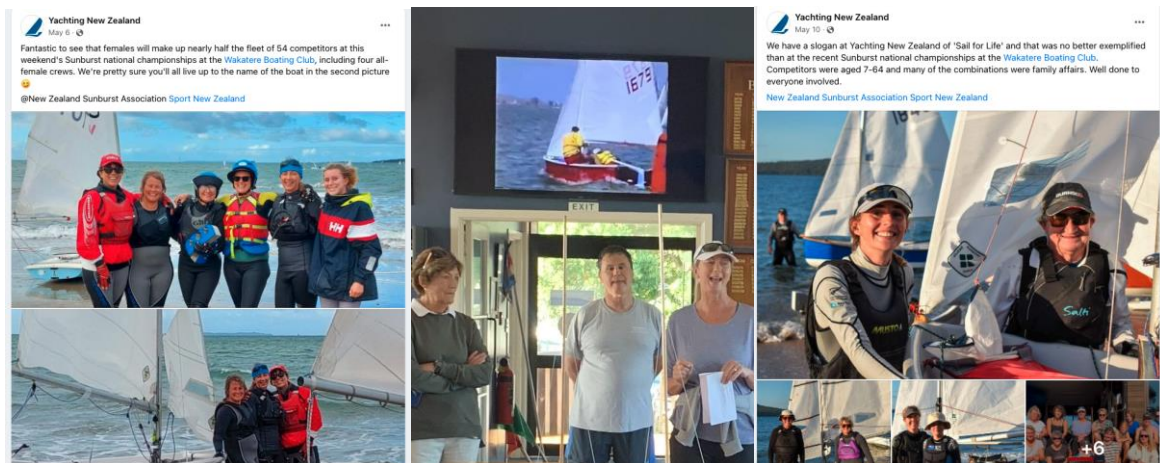
✓ ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE ITEMS

✓ RESPONSIBLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

✓ ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

more about [CLEAN REGATTAS](#) and more about [SUSTAINABILITY](#) at Wakatere

We were able to engage with and encourage all participants about the Clean Regatta requirements at the welcome briefing by our organising committee. (notes [Welcome in person briefing - Sustainability Initiative Talk](#)).



Elimination of Single-Use Items

1. Eliminate single-use water bottles and provide water refill stations

With the small number of participants we were able to provide easily accessible water refill options for bringing your own water bottle with a filter tap available on the sailors side of the kitchen/bar. Also with our kitchen crew we put out clean water glasses, the use of club crockery for cups of tea encouraging that anyone at the club could refresh themselves in a sustainable manner. No bottled water was made available to the on the water crew and they were encouraged to refill their own bottles to take out on the water or use club crockery when onshore.

2. Eliminate plastic straws

Beverages available for purchase from the informal bar were all packaged in recyclable packaging. Wakatere does not use plastic straws.

3. Serve food with Plastic-free dinnerware

The majority of the food for the regatta including morning tea, snacks and dinners were prepared from scratch by our kitchen team and served on plastic free recyclable dinnerware or club crockery.

4. Use of provide reusable Bags

The local New World Supermarket who supply our lunches for on the water crew understand and support our sustainability efforts by supplying lunch rolls in paper wrapping and cardboard boxes. Our Doyles lunch bags made from old sails make practical recyclable options for the crew on the water.



We have a set of Wakatere reusable coffee mugs that can be used at the local cafe and returned to the club in order to reduce the use of single use takeaway coffee cups.

5. Award practical items of use a perpetual trophy

The Sunburst is a legacy fleet for Wakatere and we honour the founders of the fleet with historic upcycled trophies.



Community involvement

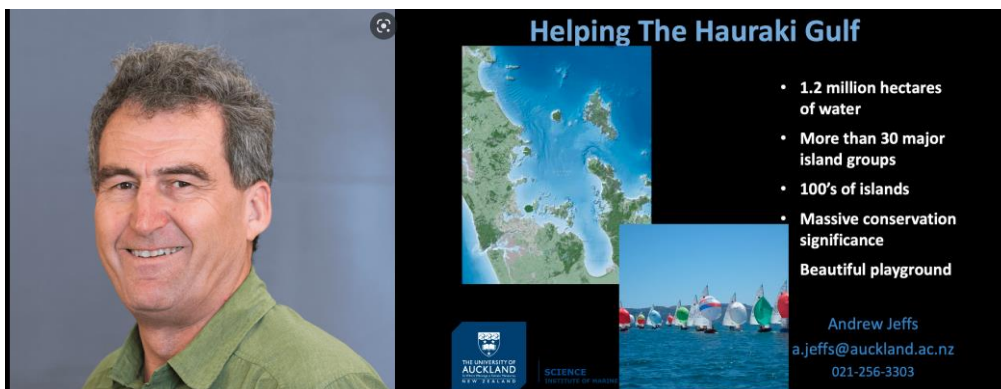
6. Publicise your sustainability efforts

On the Wakatere Facebook page we promoted our efforts to go for platinum and also the Andrew Jeffs talk on saving the Hauraki Gulf so all club members and any other members of our community could come along to hear him speak.



7. Involve local organisations

We invited Auckland based researcher Andrew Jeffs, a marine scientist from the University of Auckland to share some ideas on things we can all do to help the Gulf improve. This was a down to earth, practical and also scientifically based talk with tangible take away points for all of the audience from young minds to parents and retirees.



This engagement with Andrew also provided links to other community organisations like sustainable coastlines, and the suggestion of Wakatere leading a new shellfish survey at Narrow Neck beach that have been followed up by our club's Sustainability Champion.

Our regatta shirts - 100% cotton NZ brand Swandri were provided by a local Devonport retailer Yarrtons



We also introduced to participants the company AQ from Lyndal Linton and encouraged them to bring in any old sails that could be upcycled to bags.

Recycled Sailbags

Giving sails a second wind!

Recycled sails destined for landfill are given a new life!


When AQ Bags started in 2004 the bags were predominantly made from new racing sailcloth. As the business evolved new fabrics were introduced and in recent years so has recycled sailcloth.

The bags are manufactured in a workshop alongside my sailmaker husband, so there is a good source of mixed sails. We are pleased to be taking the old sails and recycling them into bags reducing landfill.

Because of the varied nature of the material and design features of the sails each bag is unique.

Customize your bag to make it extra special, adding your initials or favourite number. We also do bespoke projects for gifts or events.

Discover the collections below to find a bag to suit you.



Shop ▾ About Us Contact Us

HOME / ABOUT US

About Us

*Unique everyday bags for 'get on with it' people!
Eye-catching fabrics, yet functional in design.*

AQ BAGS




AQ Bags was founded in 2004 by Lyndal Linton (that's me). The business evolved from a handbag given to me for my birthday, made by my sail maker husband, Brett.

The first range of handbags was predominantly crafted from yacht sailcloth, with its unique textured weave giving the bags a distinctive and unique style. Although I have expanded the range to include a variety of bag styles and use gorgeous designer fabrics, sailcloth is still a popular choice today.

I have had an interest in sewing fabric all my life and have been greatly influenced by my Mum who is a great seamstress. I take great pleasure and have a passion for sourcing innovative fabrics both locally from New Zealand and internationally. Whilst I love working with all types of fabrics, I often find those with unusual and striking colours the greatest to work with, as I derive much enjoyment in seeing how a fabric can transform a bag.

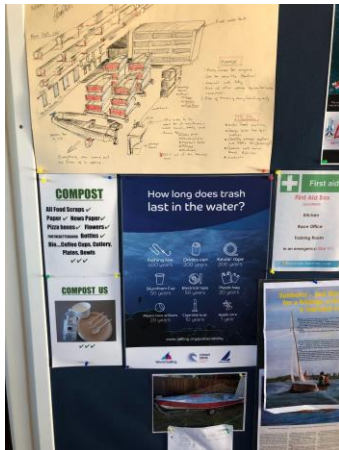
I work alongside my husband, at Linton Sails in Wellington, New Zealand.

My love of creating and making doesn't stop with AQ Bags. For more than ten years, I have been a finalist in the World of Wearable Arts, an annual international art event where designers enter garments of wearable art. It has become a rather big obsession with my whole family and it is one that we enjoy immensely.

8. Post educational and reusable signage

Our club noticeboard displayed educational information, 'how long does trash last in the water, and information on available on the display tables (with the Sunburst models - photo above)



9. Serve local food our source seafood sustainably

Our kitchen crew prepared simple food snacks and dinners from scratch utilising local home grown ingredients where possible eg, chillies, tomatoes and focused on fresh vegetables,

with dietary options for vegan, vegetarian and gluten free.



Responsible Waste Management

10. Organise a Green Team

We are lucky enough to have some experienced crew for the green team with inspirational leadership from Delayne Salthouse to help guide us. At our welcome briefing we encouraged all attending to 'pause and read' before putting things in the correct bin. Our experienced rubbish handling team had to pull out at the last minute due to covid but other team members picked that up and did a double shift spending time late at night sorting rubbish to double check correct placement into the larger bins.



Wakatere Green Team

Bruce Yarnton Craig Smith	Regatta Organiser, overview, Beach clean ups
Karen Yarnton Tania Ankersmit	Catering, water, kitchen
Karina Huebner Andrew Fox	Rubbish management (unfortunately unavailable on Regatta days due to isolation)

Bruce Yarnton Craig Smith	Regatta Organiser, overview, Beach clean ups
Shifty	Beach tidy, general hand, rubbish
Dave Jordan	General hand, rubbish, beachmaster
Morag Fryer	Welcome briefing, speaker & community liaison, photography & reporting
Amanda Michel Rebecca Garcia	Wakatere communications, website, social media Sunburst Association communications
Delayne Salthouse	Club Sustainability Champion

11. Ensure proper waste bin placement and signage

Wakatere has an effective waste management plan in place with 3 streams, compost, landfill and recycle. We use large 620 L bins to collect our bulk waste and feed this from 2 sets of bins positioned inside the club and in the compound area.



12. Divert food waste from the landfill

We have compost bins available for all food scraps and compostable items.

13. Use paperless event management

The regatta information was posted on our website (NOR/SI) and results online. Digital communication by email was the preferred communication tool and presentations utilised our large TV screen. Updates were regularly posted on our Wakatere Facebook page.

2. Sailing Instructions

The Supplementary Sailing Instructions (SSI) will only be available online, and a copy will be posted on the Official Notice Board - located upstairs in the WBC clubhouse. The Supplementary Sailing Instructions will be posted on the WBC website by **0900 Monday 2nd May 2022**.

14. Host a beach or marina clean up

Beach clean up equipment was prominently on display on the sign on table and accessible to all participants and supporters throughout the regatta. During quiet periods waiting for the wind to fill in the beach was walked and any rubbish removed.



15. Promote alternate transportation

We hosted any after sailing social events at the club to minimise the need for participants and supporters to make any more trips that necessary. Devonport is very walking and biking friendly and both are encouraged by the club at all times. There is a bus stop outside the club and bike racks available.

16. Increase awareness of wildlife and habitat protection

We increased the awareness of the issues for the Hauraki Gulf with our talk from Andrew Jeffs from Auckland University. His very insightful presentation was commented on by many participants.

17. Offer vegetarian or vegan alternatives

Our kitchen team provided a full range of options for dietary requirements and cooked the majority of meals from scratch and first principles, reducing waste and celebrating 'fresh is best'.

Green Boating

18. Use eco-smart race management techniques

Race officials used the Buoyzone app for all the race course marks, which results in more accurate mark laying, less adjustment of mark anchors on the seabed and being digital reduces paper use.

19. Prevent toxins from entering the water

Wakatere always utilises the 'flushing barrel' for club outboards to eliminate oil contamination from entering the sea.

We use low flow guns on hoses to reduce water consumption. Only water is used in washdowns.

20. Encourage green boating practices

During the racing all anchored vessels including our committee board ensured they did not run their engines. We encouraged boat sharing for supporter boats to minimise the number of boats on the water while still meeting health and safety regulations of course.

Lessons learnt

Donated goods are welcome to any regatta and we were fortunate to receive donations of pies. These were very much appreciated by sailors coming off the water for this autumn regatta. The pies were wrapped in soft plastic and so our kitchen staff removed the plastic packaging prior to heating and collated them for depositing in a separate soft plastic recycling bin eg, <https://www.recycling.kiwi.nz/>