

SAILORS FOR THE SEA



CLEAN REGATTA

Wakatere Boating Club

Aiming for a Platinum level Clean Regatta

Optimist Nationals April 6th - 10th 2023

Wakatere Boating Club was proud to host the 2023 New Zealand Optimist National Championship. As New Zealand's premier junior yachting event, the regatta saw more than 200 young competitors from five nations converge at Wakatere for five days of sailing action on the Hauraki Gulf and lots of fun off it!

For the 2023 Toyota Optimist Nationals, sustainability was listed as one of the three regatta goals, which meant everything was done with the environment in mind. This put the club in a good position to achieve Platinum Certification under the Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta programme, and also ensured it could spread the conservation message further afield; to educate and inspire participants and their support crews to protect the environment they live, play and compete in.

As a Yachting New Zealand 3 Star Clean Club, sustainability practices are well embedded within the Wakatere ethos. The club has been running regattas under the Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta programme since 2018, and was once again committed to attaining the highest Platinum Certification under this programme for this regatta.

This was a group effort spearheaded by Wakatere's 'Green Team' but involving every competitor, their families and support crew and the broader community. Activities included a beach clean-up, ocean conservation education, a second chance sailing gear collection, free reef-safe sunblock refills, running a paperless race management system, serving food in eco packaging, using specially-installed water tanks for boat washdown and even reimagining the race bibs by working with a local company to create bibs made from recycled ocean plastics.

"We all have a responsibility to take care of our oceans and coastlines, and this event was a wonderful way to empower our young sailors to do just that," said Commodore Julia Faire.

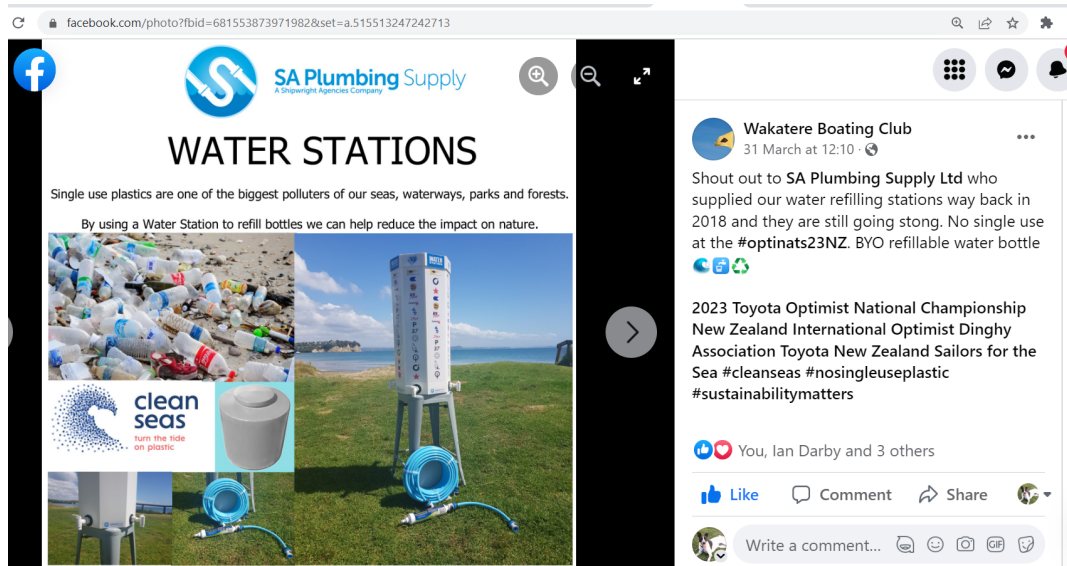


ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE ITEMS

1. Water Stations

As always, Wakatere had water stations on hand ready for everyone to refill their water bottles. Social media posts encouraged guests to bring their own water bottle and leave single use bottles behind.

And of course as usual, our club kitchen was free of plastic drink bottles.



2. ELIMINATE PLASTIC STRAWS -

Not much more to say about this one - Wakatere does not have plastic straws.

3. SERVE FOOD WITH PLASTIC FREE DINNERWARE

Auckland Council, Eco Matters Zero Waste Event grant

An Auckland Council Zero Waste Event grant enabled us to purchase compostable, reusable food packaging for our catering as well as extra bins to deal with the large volume of waste expected. The packaging perfectly matched the extra bin stations positioned around the club with 3 waste streams - compost, recycling and landfill, and provided Waste Diversion Data for our regatta. (see Best Practice #12)



EcoMatters

Compostable chip packets - Proper Crisps

We know kids love chips (Crisps), but the dilemma is always what to do with the foil wrapper. For this regatta - our wonderful volunteers did some research and found a local company who produce compostable chip packets and of course we went ahead and supported this local business with an order for our regatta. Our rubbish bin sign boards then had a display to help show our visitors the correct bin for this amazing compostable packaging.

<https://www.propercrisps.com/homecompostable>



Sandwich boxes & Catering Trucks

We know it's not easy to supply lunches on the run without making a mess, so we hunted down some compostable sandwich boxes that also included a compostable window. Our Zero Waste grant helped us afford these items and we made sure to display them on our rubbish bin sign boards to educate visitors to make the correct choice for disposing of their waste.

We also made sure to communicate the importance of compostable packaging to our food truck providers before the event, this made a huge contribution to our final percentage of waste that could be reused as compost.



Coffee Cups

Once again Wakatere's reusable coffee cups were in hot demand! This time, we supplied our local coffee van with our reusable cups and this saved not only the cost of throw-away cups but also the all important reduction in waste of any form.



4. USE OR PROVIDE REUSABLE BAGS

Doyle Lunch Bags

Once again the team at Doyle Sails generously helped us out with these sail cloth lunch bags. Each day we served 61 volunteer lunches in these bags and every day they came back, refreshed and ready for another day of use. Having used this method at our club for over 5 years, Wakatere has saved many hundreds of single use and/or plastic bags from entering our waste stream.



5. AWARD PRACTICAL ITEMS OR USE A PERPETUAL OR UPCYCLED TROPHY

Wooden plaques, perpetual trophies and Usable prizes

The sailors at the Toyota Optimist National Championships regatta were spoilt with some fantastic prizes this year - all procured with the environment in mind.

We were lucky to receive a wide range of practical and usable items for spot prizes. We ran a 'choosing table' for spot prizes to allow competitors to choose an item they wanted rather than being given something they didn't need or which didn't fit them.

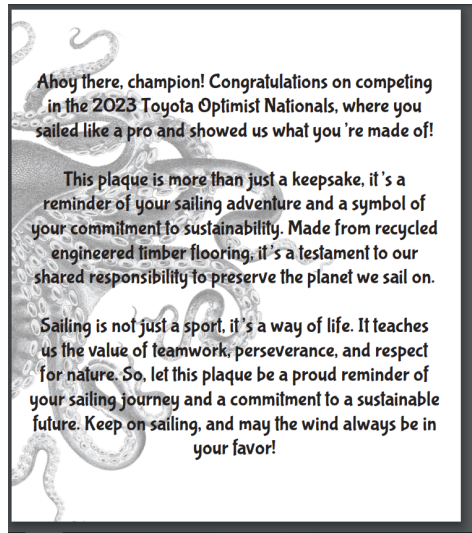


The club also welcomed competitors with gift packs of cotton towels and sustainable, reef-friendly sunblock in personalized metal tubs. Free sunblock refills were on hand all weekend, encouraging competitors to refill & reuse their own tubs.

In keeping with tradition, there were the usual perpetual trophies but we also had unique up-cycled plaques made from wooden flooring off-cuts. Bespoke Timber Coatings made all the trophies as a memento for sailors to remind them of their experience.

The trophies included a message acknowledging every sailor's achievements at the regatta and a reminder to think sustainably.





Sailors for the Sea

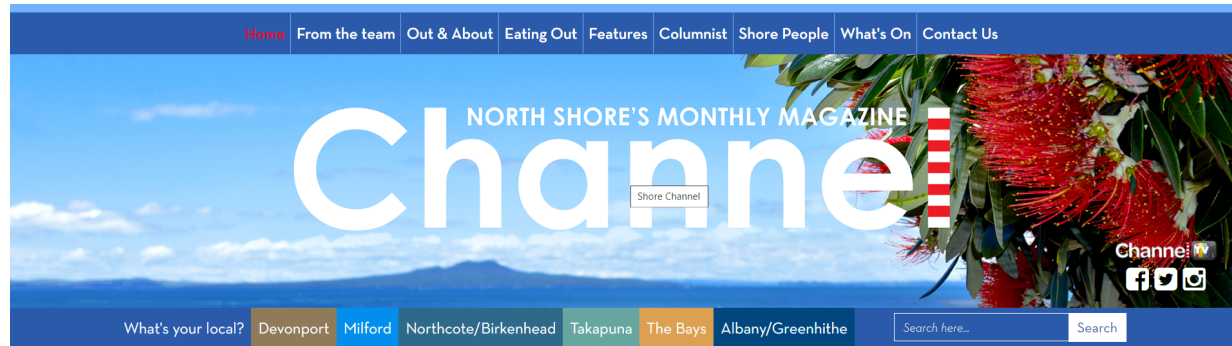
We had a couple of special little sailors who went the extra distance to rescue rubbish they found while out sailing on the course as well as one or two who went above and beyond to collect rubbish during our beach clean. These young environmentalists were awarded with a Sailors For The Sea reusable bag in recognition of their efforts.





COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

6. PUBLICIZE YOUR EVENT



For this regatta, Wakatere had a significant social media push that included the Channel Magazine - North Shores Monthly Magazine, with a readership of 75,000 to 100,000 per issue. This article provided excellent publicity about Wakatere's sustainability efforts

https://channelmag.co.nz/channel/features/toyota-2023-optimist-nationals-set-to-raise-the-bar-for-sailing-and-sustainability/?fbclid=IwAR0y41LwxxJwlqfgPGuMpuLBG8Em9qjJ-yX-Du9DKK-t1bRV_CcSG-DLDCQ

TOYOTA 2023 OPTIMIST NATIONALS



Optimist nationals to raise the bar for sailing and sustainability

The countdown is on to the Toyota 2023 Optimist National, to be held here on the North Shore over Easter. Hosted by Wakatere Boating Club on Narrow Neck Beach, this is New Zealand's premier junior yachting event, which will see the next generation of sailing talent battle it out on the Hauraki Gulf. More than 200 young sailors from across New Zealand and from Australia, New Caledonia and Tahiti will come together for this action-packed event and make new friendships off the water.

Wakatere Boating Club Commodore Julia Faire says the regatta goals are fair racing, participation, inclusion, forging friendships, and sustainability.

"As well as the competition on the water, which will see New Zealand's top young sailing talent go head to head, what makes the regatta extra special is the programme of activities off the water. This has been designed to connect young sailors and educate them about protecting the environment they live, play and compete in."

The programme of activities includes a beach clean-up, ocean conservation education, a second chance sailing gear collection, free reef-safe sunblock refills, running a paperless race management system, serving food in eco packaging, using specially-installed water tanks for boat washdown and even reimagining the race bibs.

In a New Zealand first, the Wakatere club has replaced the single use race bibs usually worn at sailing events, by working with LUCKE, an award-winning sustainable clothing business co-founded by Narrow Neck resident Garth Ellingham. LUCKE has produced reusable race bibs made out of recycled PET bottles. These have been branded for the event and will be worn by each competitor for the duration of the regatta.

LUCKE's Garth Ellingham said Wakatere Boating Club challenged the company to create buoyancy covers with as little environmental impact as possible.

"To achieve this, we produced a quality garment with a custom design that has been future-proofed by Toyota for annual event use. This order utilised 3000 bottles that would have otherwise ended up in landfill. The plastic bottles were cleaned, sorted, and shredded into pellets, which were then melted into fibre. And, through our commitment to 1% For The Planet, we're proud to say that 73 trees were planted for this order."

Delayne Salihouse, Wakatere's sustainability champion and two-time recipient of the Yachting New Zealand Sustainability Award, spearheaded Wakatere's environmental journey. This began in 2018 as the first club in New Zealand to run regattas under the Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta programme. It has evolved into Wakatere Boating Club being recognised as a Yachting New Zealand 3-star Clean Club, an initiative endorsed by the New Zealand SailGP Team led by Peter Burling and Blair Tuke.

"The Toyota 2023 Optimist Nationals is a certified 'Clean Regatta' and we are aiming to achieve the highest 'platinum' certification which is awarded at the end of the event," said Delayne. "This means everything we do to run this event is done with the environment in mind."

Recycled sailing gear will feature with a second chance sailing gear collection taking place on Thursday 6 April at registration. Club members and visiting competitors can donate quality, unwanted sailing gear that could use a second chance. Wakatere will work closely with Yachting New Zealand, which runs this programme, to ensure the gear finds its way to those sailors around the country who could really use it.

Another 'Clean Regatta' activity during the Toyota 2023 Optimist Nationals is the beach clean-up. Wakatere has partnered with local group, the Clean Up Crew to coordinate this event, which will take place on Saturday 8 April at 8.30am.

Education is another key focus, and children will be invited to participate in a range of activities designed to teach them about ocean conservation. The Sir Peter Blake-inspired ocean-conservation programme, Blake Inspire, will use virtual reality headsets to take children beneath the surface and learn more about protecting the ocean, while Revere Our Gulf will be on hand to talk about its mussel regeneration programme which aims to help restore the once vast acres of mussel reefs back into the Hauraki Gulf.

When it comes to sustainability, the Toyota 2023 Optimist Nationals have got it covered. All food served at the event will be sustainable, and eco-packaging will be used to minimise waste. New Zealand brand 'goodbye' is donating every competitor a tin of its SPFSO reef-friendly sun balm and offering free refills over the course of the event. It's a wonderful example of how small changes can make a big difference when it comes to sustainability.

Toyota's partnership of the event as a major sponsor stretches back almost two decades and is a testament to the company's commitment to sustainability and its support of the sailing community in New Zealand. It has also backed Emirates Team New Zealand (ETNZ) for more than 30 years, a partnership that has allowed the company to explore new and innovative ways to use carbon-neutral technology.

One example of this is the hydrogen fuel cell technology that Toyota supplies to ETNZ, which provides the power behind their chase boat. This innovative technology is being explored by Toyota as a way to decarbonise key New Zealand industry including heavy freight and commercial vehicles. An example of this is the Toyota Mirai, a Toyota Hydrogen car which will be on display at the regatta.

Overall, the Toyota 2023 Optimist Nationals promises to be an incredible event, bringing together hundreds of keen young sailors from across New Zealand and further afield. With a focus on fair competition, friendships and sustainability, it's a fantastic opportunity to showcase the importance of taking care of our environment, while also celebrating the next generation of sailing talent.

"We all have a responsibility to take care of our oceans and coastlines, and this event is a wonderful way to empower our young sailors to do just that," said Commodore Julia Faire. "Wakatere can't wait to welcome competitors and their families for what is set to be an action-packed regatta both on and off the water."

The Toyota 2023 Optimist Nationals, Thursday 6 – Monday 10 April
Narrow Neck Beach, Devonport
wakatere.org.nz



The **Devonport Flagstaff**, a very popular local newspaper (readership 25,000 per fortnightly issue) also covered the regatta's sustainability efforts with an article reporting on the club achieving Platinum Certification for the event, focussing on the use of recycled race bibs.

Wakatere alumnus contributes to club's green award



Red and green on the blue... Garth Ellingham with junior sailors (from left) Sofia Darragh, Scarlett Westgate and Indi and Milla Holland, wearing sustainable bibs made by his company, Lucke

A local man and his sustainable clothing business have helped the Wakatere Boating Club win a platinum environmental award for its hosting of the 2023 Optimist Nationals.

Garth Ellingham's company, Lucke, made 300 racing bibs using 3000 plastic bottles to help with the club's environmental goals.

This year's Optimist nationals at Narrow

Neck Beach at Easter had a particular focus on sustainability, featuring ocean-conservation education, a beach clean-up and other sustainability practices and activities.

Wakatere – where former professional sailor Ellingham learned to sail himself – contacted Lucke about supplying bibs for the event and he was happy to oblige.

"It's really cool to finally see events moving in that direction," he said.

The 36-year-old said events often advertise as green but only focus on one aspect. So, it was good to see Wakatere taking a "holistic approach".

The bibs are made out of a mix of 80 per cent recycled polyester and 20 per cent long-life lycra. They have no regatta-specific branding, which Ellingham said allows them to be used at multiple events.

"Recycling is great. But you want to be able to use something as many times as possible before you have to recycle it."

Along with other sustainability practices, the bibs contributed to a 'clean regatta' certification by ocean-conservation organisation Sailors for The Sea, with the event receiving the group's highest 'platinum' endorsement.

Ellingham puts his background growing up by the sea as a reason that led him towards sustainability. His father, John, is a former commodore at Wakatere, who along with his wife

Pauline was made a life member of the club.

When he is not working, Ellingham still loves to be on the water, with kitesurfing a particular passion.

He told the Flagstaff that when he sailed at Narrow Neck as a boy, he was often the only Optimist sailor the club would send to regattas.

"Definitely seeing how far it's grown in my lifetime is pretty cool," he said.

Lucke produces and sells a range of casual clothing made out of recycled and sustainable materials. Ellingham started the business as a side project while he was sailing professionally overseas, mostly in Europe.

He started working on the company full-time with co-founder Wilfried Weber when he came back to Narrow Neck in 2019.

The Takapuna Grammar School old boy said he had always had a "strong connection with the ocean".

He says he started Lucke to do something about the negative environmental changes he was seeing.

"I saw that the playground I grew up on had changed."

His time overseas also led to a desire to do something about climate change.

After doing some research, Ellingham found that fashion was a major polluter, and he decided it was an industry he could make a difference in.

9 Hastings Pde private sale

Suitable for;

- **downsizing** – with income
- **investors** wanting good returns
- **families** wanting separate space for children

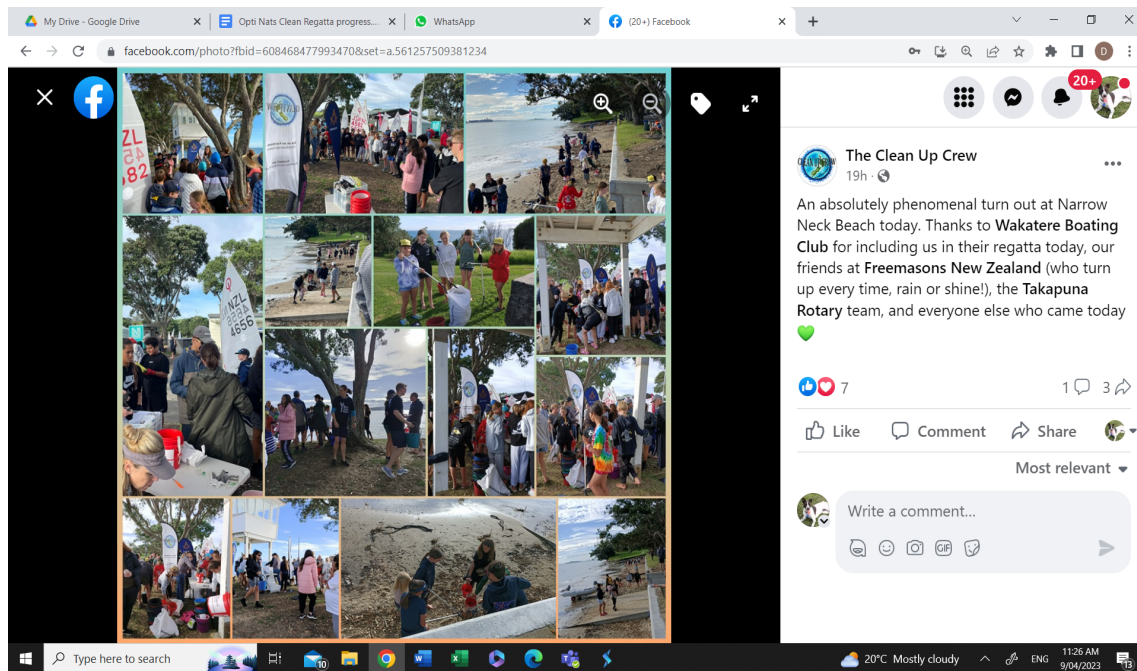
3 br; 2.5 bths; study; family room; easy care garden; double internal garages

See **Trade Me**
for open times

The Clean Up Crew

Once again we were thrilled to partner with [The Clean Up Crew](#) to help us run the beach clean. With a huge number of sailors, parents, sponsors, supporters and local community groups such as the Freemasons & Rotary to help, we cleared our local beach and parks of every scrap of rubbish.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=608468477993470&set=a.561257509381234>



Toyota bibs - LUCKE

We were excited to see the new Toyota race bibs on sailors during this regatta - designed by local business LUCKE apparel AND made of 100 percent recycled ocean waste AND in this case 3,000 PET bottles AND Wakatere's order planted 75 trees! Read that again slowly, it's amazing! 🌱🐟🐟





7. INVOLVE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Blake Inspire - VR

We invited the Blake Inspire team to join us for our registration day. The aim was to capture people's attention using Virtual Reality as a fun medium to show what lies beneath the water and more importantly how we are responsible for taking care of this precious environment. This was a fun and engaging activity for sailors to participate in during the registration day.



Revive our Gulf

In support of our goal to provide education around the health of our oceans, we also invited Revive Our Gulf to talk to visitors on registration day and shine a spotlight on the benefits of mussel bed regeneration to improve the ocean environment in the Hauraki Gulf.



GoodByeOuch

We invited GoodByeOuch to join us and talk about the importance of chemical free sunblocks to help protect our oceans and they also kindly donated personally labeled metal sunblock pots for competitors, and offered free refills over the course of the regatta. This helps avoid all those empty plastic sunblock tubes and encourages people to think about the importance of reef-friendly sunblock.





8. POST EDUCATIONAL & REUSABLE SIGNAGE

We've discovered educational signs can come in many different forms. This year we used reusable flags and mesh boards for our rubbish bins. These helped draw attention to not only where the bins were located but also what items go into each bin with three waste streams - compost, recycling, landfill.



9. SERVE LOCAL FOOD OR SOURCE SEAFOOD SUSTAINABLY

One of the enjoyable parts of working with local suppliers for our catering is that we are able to adapt to the changeable timetable of running a regatta. We can use seasonal fruit for lunches, stock fresh sandwiches for lunches and order pizza for quick delivery - all our suppliers are local and with us on our environmental journey when it comes to reducing plastic and waste.

New World - local supermarket - delivered to our door always in boxes

Food Carts - local and food produced on site and served in compostable packaging

Pizza - local pizzeria - 10 minutes up the road - all boxes go to compost

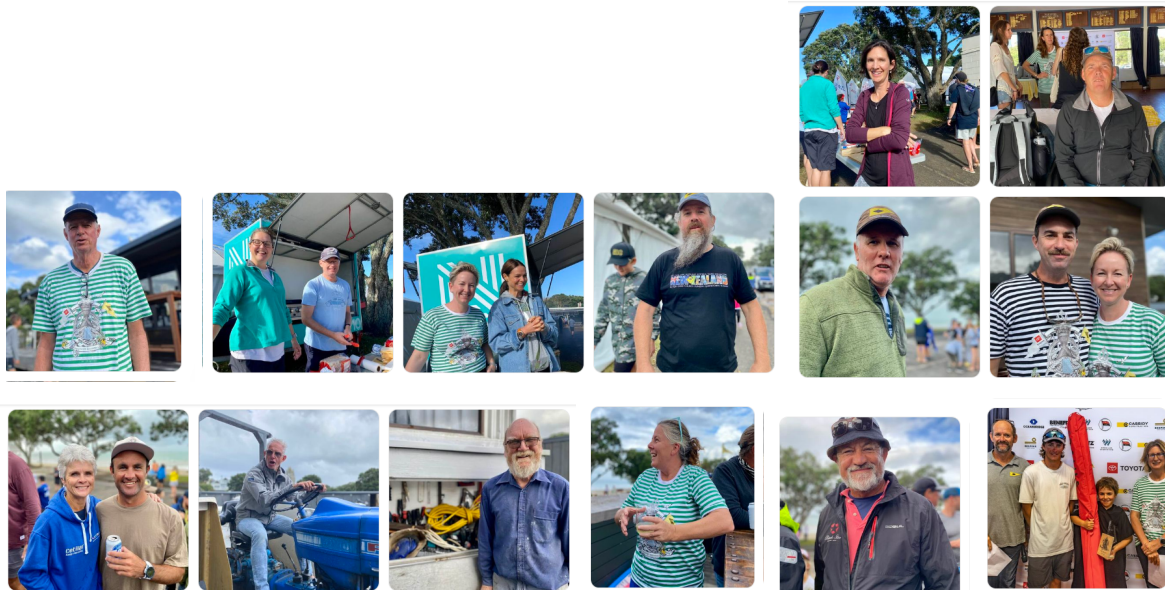
Local Sausages - local butcher - 5 minutes up the road.- free range - bulk supply - minimal packaging.



RESPONSIBLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

10. ORGANIZE A GREEN TEAM

Delayne Salthouse -along with the entire organizing committee have worked hard to take every opportunity to keep waste and plastics to a minimum for this regatta and to educate participants and their wider whanau about the importance of conservation - we really are a complete Green Team.



11. ENSURE PROPER WASTE BIN PLACEMENT AND SIGNAGE

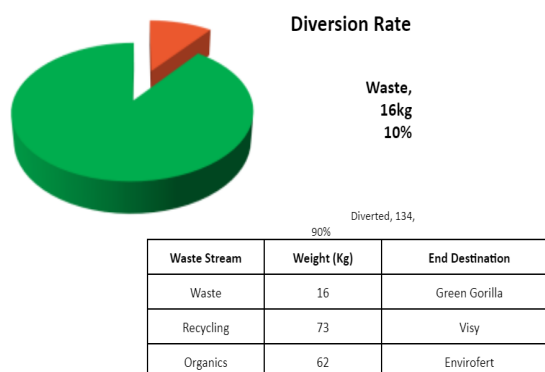
For this event we hired five extra sets of bins - along with all the equipment required to keep them monitored and visible. Each set of bins had compost, recycling and landfill and were placed strategically throughout our event site. We also made some changes to bin locations during the event to ensure we had the bins where the most foot-traffic was and where people congregated with food and drinks.

To ensure our visitors knew exactly where to put their rubbish we also had mesh sign boards with rubbish pegged to clearly show what each bin was for. Flags also clearly showed where people could find a bin.



12. DIVERT FOOD WASTE FROM LANDFILL

For this event, we have been very clear about our goals to provide compostable packaging and recyclable food packaging only. Our rubbish monitors have emptied the compost and recycling bins daily but the landfill bins hardly needed to be emptied. It's hugely satisfying to have minimized our waste going to landfill and the final report provided by our Clean Event waste services provider shows all our hard work paid off.



13. USE PAPERLESS EVENT MANAGEMENT

For this event we only print one copy of our NOR and SI. Each day only 1 set of results is printed and all other communications are available on our website or our mobile app.

All competitors use our QR code sign on / off system.

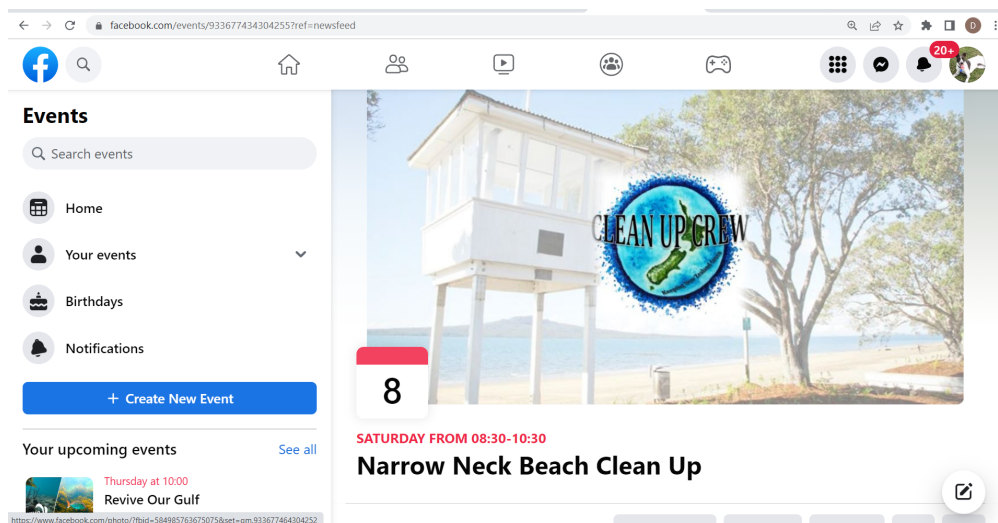
Our registration day was completely digital with a row of laptops replacing stacks of paperwork.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

14. Host a Beach or Marina Clean-up

Beach Clean - As mentioned, we partnered with local group - The Clean Up Crew - to help us coordinate a beach clean. There was a huge turnout with support from our sponsors Toyota, all competitors, volunteers and the local community. And they all did a fantastic job.



Second Chance Clothing -

We partnered with our national yachting federation to help us with this initiative. All clothing collected during our registration day will then be distributed by our Yachting NZ regional representatives who have feet on the ground throughout the country and know where the need is greatest for sailing gear that needs a second chance rather than filling our landfills.



Blake Inspire - Revive Our Gulf - Goodbye Ouch

As a result of all these efforts and our registration day messaging using interactive environmental educational sessions from Blake Inspire along with Revive Our Gulf and Goodbye Ouch, we certainly felt a great response of enthusiasm and growing awareness from our visitors and sailors for the Best Practice for Environmental Stewardship.

15. Promote Alternative Transportation

Ride Sharing

Our wonderful sponsors Toyota were only too happy to support this initiative to reduce the number of cars on our local roads. With the support boats for this regatta based in a marina away from the club, we needed a system to transport volunteers and this large 7 seater was busy shuttling between the clubhouse and the local marina - this saved an estimated 100 individual car rides throughout the regatta, reducing our carbon footprint considerably.

16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

Best Practice 16 in action - !!!

At our registration day there was plenty of talk about our local environment - Blake Inspire, Revive our Gulf and Goodbye Ouch, all helped with this important message to look after and be aware of our ocean environment.

We like to think all that talk played a part in giving this young sailor the awareness and confidence to stop sailing and hail a support boat to help him rescue a seabird in distress.



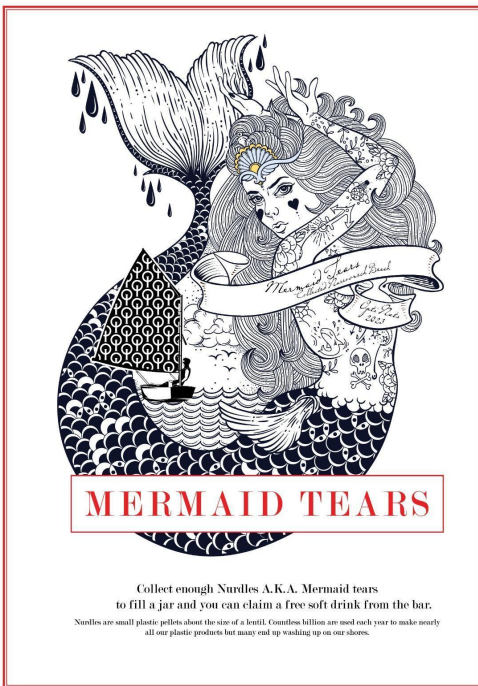
Revive Our Gulf - <https://www.reviveourgulf.org.nz/>

We invited a team of Marine Biologists from the Auckland University to come along to our registration day and provide information about the health of our oceans, as well as an aquarium display showing the value of restoration work in the Hauraki Gulf for mussel beds and how this will have positive effects for the entire ecosystem within our gulf.



Mermaid Tears -

Plenty of thought and energy has gone into creating different ways to capture everyone's attention when it comes to protecting our local coastline. One of these was a competition to collect Mermaid Tears off Narrow Neck Beach in front of the club - this collection ran for the duration of the regatta.



17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

We had plenty of menu options that catered for Vegetarian & Vegan choices. These included fresh local fruit and veggie produce, vegetarian sushi, macaroni cheese and fresh cut hot chips.





GREEN BOATING

18. Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques

QR Codes

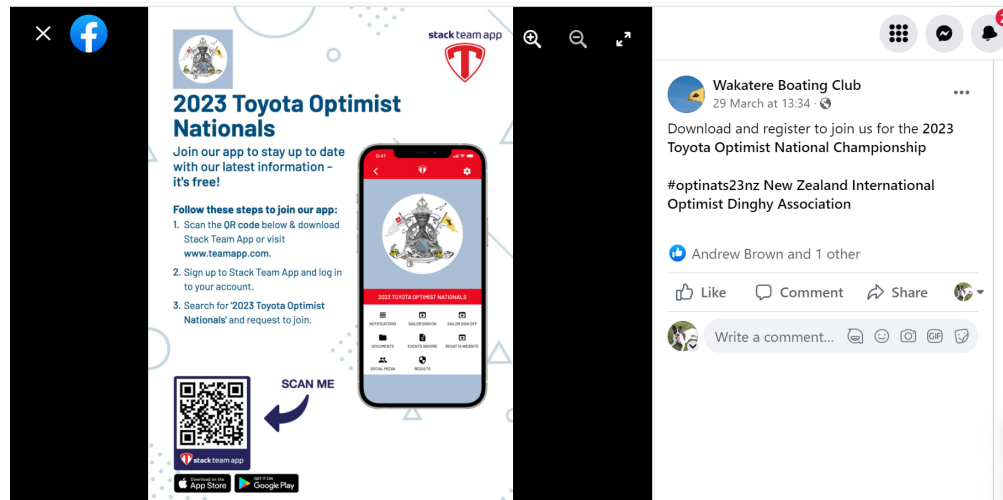
Wakatere has gone digital in most of its Race Management Techniques - this goes right down to our sign on/ sign off being a QR code that competitors scan with their phones instead of using the old method of a paper sign on/off.

No more soggy paper and details link directly with the results team so they can safely see who is on or off the water.

On-line App -

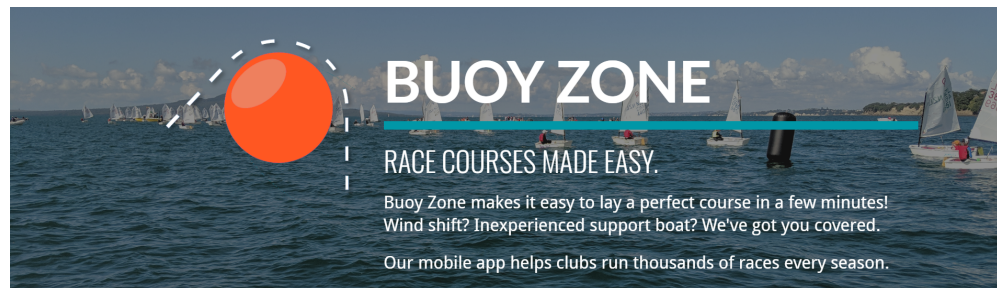
To prevent the need to print paper and to keep communication up to date, this year we used an online app for regatta communications.

This app saves time as well as eliminating the need to print paper.



Buoy Zone

Our race management team use an app called Bouy Zone. We asked all our on water volunteers to download the app onto their phones before the event. This allows the RO to set a course and shows the exact placement for each course mark. This results in a huge reduction of time and therefore engine use when laying marks and obviously - less engine running time equals less pollution - a win win for everyone. <https://www.buoy.zone/>



19. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water

Our usual practice of using a barrel of water to flush engines has continued for this event. Engines are flushed into the barrel and water is later emptied onto a grass area and away from drains to avoid any toxins from flushing down the drain and into the sea.

We also ensure we use trigger water taps to limit waste of water when boats are being washed.



Water Tanks

In 2022 Wakatere Boating Club had major work done to replace the decking around the club. We saw this as an opportunity to install rainwater catchment tanks under the new decks. These tanks allow us to capture water and use this for boat washdowns instead of using valuable mains water. For this regatta, we set up a 'walk through washdown' which helped demonstrate the usefulness of our water tanks in preserving this precious resource and removing any need or option for any form of chemical washdown.



20. Encourage Green Boating Practices

NOR

We made sure to include suggestions for car pooling and use of public transport in our NOR

e) *Try to minimise your environmental impact when traveling to the event. Plan your journey <https://at.govt.nz/>. Consider carpooling, community minibus or Toyota hybrid rental and offsetting carbon emissions. Refer to the NZ Carbon Footprint Calculator.*



Learnings from this event.

There were many factors that contributed to this being such a successful clean regatta, but from an organizer's perspective, the fact we had a company to come and collect our bins on a daily basis and then be able to assist us in measuring the percentage of waste in each stream - this gave us hard facts and figures to clearly show what effect we were able to have on our waste stream. The results prove that having the compostable food packaging and good bin signage is hugely valuable in reducing our landfill and recycling waste.

Having the support and involvement of local environmental groups and media sources also brought public interest and engagement to the importance of protecting our environment. Having a dedicated team to promote this aspect of our regatta also played a huge role in bringing Toyota on board as sponsors - for Toyota, being associated with the environmental efforts of the club, was a major factor in their decision to sponsor this regatta.