



Bay of Plenty Sailing Academy Trust Chairman's report for the year ended 30 June 2018

Summary

It was another good year for BoPSAT as we helped clubs, schools and families pursue their sailing ambitions, regardless of means or ability. The success of Bay sailors at Olympic and Americas Cup level present a unique opportunity to make a step-change in sailing here. We are taking some important new steps forward as you will see below, and look forward to a fantastic 2018-19 season.

Sponsorships and grants

We took delivery of two more 420s for school team sailing, named after sailing legends Peter Burling and Andrew Murdoch, and funded by TECT and Lion foundation last year. The NZ made Mackay boats are the pride of our fleet, and we now have enough boats to have three each based in Rotorua and Port Ohope while still having six in Tauranga.

This year we have received grant approval for eight new Open Bic boats – see below.

Many thanks to Tauranga Sunrise Rotary who funded a sponsored school for a term. Thanks again to Steve's Marine Supplies for his ongoing financial support, and also very important to our ongoing viability is the pro bono accounting done for us every year by Ingham Mora. See our website for the full list of sponsors.

Sail for Life endowment fund

Thanks to a big boost in the fund last year to over \$120,000, we received a very helpful income of \$5,058 from our endowment fund this year which allowed us to expand our programmes. Our thanks go out to all our donors and we would love to see more gifts and

legacies in the future – including someone to step up with a new donation-matching pledge.

Boat hire and charter

Our good relationships with the TYPBC Sailing School and Port Ohope YC continued.

The TYPBC sailing school again took six Topaz and the Omega as well, whilst the Tauranga windsurfing programme driven by Pauline Knoop continued to use our learner gear. Port Ohope again took six Optimists for the season and two Topaz for a period. Lake Taupo Yacht Club also took two Topaz for the first time, and we ended the year with Gun Caundle using our Topaz to run a Women on Water course over winter.

Far East Optimist charters were back up this season, as were Bic Techno charters. As of year end, all six Optimists will be in action at the AIMS Games in September 2018.

Open Bic Project

This new Bay-wide initiative by BoPSAT is to kickstart a 'fun sailing' or 'adventure sailing' programme at each club and at the same time introduce a fun new sailing class, the Open Bic junior skiff. TYPBC have a Saturday adventure programme in the pipeline, with Rotorua and Port Ohope to follow.

We held open days in April at each club and have secured grants for eight new boats to join our charter fleet of Technos and Optimists. Charter rates have been sharpened and we expect all classes to be in hot demand!

School team sailing

Team sailing is in good heart around the Bay and nationwide. Teams were fielded by TBC, TGC, Aquinas, Otumoetai, Western Heights and Whakatane High School. We based boats in both Rotorua and Port Ohope as well as Tauranga this season.



This led to a successful BoPSAT Trophy regatta event in March, with most of the crews going on to the CNI regatta in Taupo and TBC and TGC competing at the Nationals in Algies Bay in April.

These regattas have shown that we need a bigger pool of skilled and experienced sailors in each school, and more specialist team sailing coaching and training, to return to the top level.

Sponsored school programmes

We again funded the TYPBC Sailing School to run daytime courses for a number of lower decile Tauranga schools, but the departure of new MP Jan Tinetti and the unavailability of our volunteer coaches meant we did not work with Merivale School this year. Gate Pa, Greerton Village and Brookfield continued, and we opened discussions with Welcome Bay School which Peter Burling attended, and Bellevue School. We need more funds and/or volunteer coaches!

Sailing scholarships

This year we have had success in finding our first and second ever scholarship recipients, the first of whom (Noah) is now racing regularly at the club in one of our Far East Optimists and will be attending the AIMS Games. Our second scholarship sailor, Justyce, is still learning to race and we hope for big things from him next season.

Disabled Sailing

Having been instrumental in kickstarting Sailability Tauranga last year, we supported them this year by giving them the use of some of the BoPSAT area at the Sailing Centre for their new 20' container. We look forward to watching their future success and will support them whenever possible.

Overseas Sailors Fund

We were delighted to support Max van der Zalm and Veerle ten Have this year to compete at the Youth Sailing Worlds in Texas, both sailing RS:X 8.5. Each received a \$500 grant towards their travel costs.

Media and communications

Our website remains mostly unchanged this year but we have posted regularly to our Facebook page, which has a growing number of 'likes'.

The launch of our Mackay 420s was attended by Andrew Murdoch and family, with christening by TECT chair Bill Holland, and generated a story in the BoP Times. We were also delighted to be the subject of a television sports news story about the sponsored schools programme on Newshub following the America's Cup, after Heather Burling tipped off a reporter in Bermuda.

We are now working on a hopefully high profile launch of our new Open Bic fleet in the spring.

Volunteers

Finally I would like to thank my fellow trustees Tina Kennedy, Phil West, Sue Davy, Roger Clark, and Fi Charman, for their hard work between meetings and patience during our trustee meetings; maintenance heroes Dennis Webster and Gun Caundle; and all the parents and teachers who kept the 420s programme ticking over beautifully. Our costs remain very low thanks to our volunteers and sponsors, and we want to keep it that way.

Fair winds and following seas!

Stuart Pedersen
Chairman