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## Newsletter – December 2006

Well summer is upon us but it certainly doesn't feel like it at the moment here in Auckland. Spring in New Zealand has suffered more than its fair share of gales and cold rain. Apparently it is an El Nino Year which means lots of depressions coming up from the Roaring Forties.

We hope that our members in Australia are not getting the same treatment.

Despite the weather there has been lots of activity here in Auckland and in the Hauraki Gulf.

14 1020s took part in the annual Auckland to Russell Coastal Classic. Very close racing with exciting finishes was the order of the day. A separate account of this event is contained later in this newsletter.

In addition six to eight 1020s have participated regularly in the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron's Wednesday Evening Series with a smaller number regularly turning up for the Friday Night Rum Race. The Squadron held a special Rum Race for us on the night of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November. We hope to repeat this event some time in 2007.

Two to three boats have been regularly competing in the Ponsonby Cruising Club R&R Friday evening series.

With Christmas rapidly approaching we are all looking forward to some extended cruising followed up by participation in the Auckland Anniversary Regatta. This takes place on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January with a special start at Rakino Island racing back to the harbour. Details of this race and entry forms can be obtained from the Anniversary Regatta representative [joycetalbot@xtra.co.nz](mailto:joycetalbot@xtra.co.nz).

On the preceding day Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January there will be a Farr 1020 picnic on Motuihe Island. We will anchor either in the east or west bay depending on the wind. We have picked this particular venue to encourage more members to attend the event. Please look out for the 1020 flag on the beach. Look forward to seeing you there.

Remember if you see another 1020 at anchor in the same bay during your Christmas cruise make contact and socialize.

### **COASTAL CLASSIC – AUCKLAND TO RUSSELL, BAY OF ISLANDS**

Once more this event attracted a good number of 1020s, some 14 teams in all who enjoyed some keen racing from start to finish.

The start itself was spectacular with one of the shortest spinnaker runs on record. Most boats crossed the line flying their No. 1 kites only to find that they had to go onto a very tight reach once they reached North Head.

In addition about a third of the division in which 1020s participated started at the North Shore end of the line on port whilst the remainder of the fleet started at the other end of the line on starboard. Naturally this led to a great deal of convergence with some interesting conversations taking place.

However it quickly sorted itself out and the fleet charged off to Russell in a 15-20 knot Norwest wind.

This is excellent 1020 weather and keen racing was therefore enjoyed over the next 10 hours with good speeds being recorded and the added impetus of having at least one or two other 1020s in sight throughout the daylight hours.

After dark as usual things changed. The wind was forecast to go lighter and possibly swing around to the north. We were also warned that there would be wind holes.

Some of the fleet decided to hoist kites and fall to leeward of the rhumb line while others decided to take the straightest and shortest course. Whether or not you fell into a hole during the night was mostly a matter of luck.

Just before dawn at around 5.30 am the leaders of the 1020 pack had rounded Cape Brett and were hungrily looking for wind in the Bay of Islands.

The next 6-7 hours proved very exacting. There was very little wind and an outgoing tide. These conditions appeared to favour the boats that went inshore. However for the hardy souls who decided to go to the middle of the bay and stick it out in anticipation of a wind shift this tactic finally paid off at around 11.30 am.

The finish as usual proved to be extremely exciting with several 1020s racing each other to the line with only inches to spare.

Congratulations to the teams on *Share Delight*, *Max Headroom* and *Mesmerise* who came 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively.

In particular congratulations to Dale Felton in *Mesmerise*. Dale participated in the 2-handed division where he also gained a 3<sup>rd</sup> place. This is a fantastic effort – well done.

The closeness of the results with the teams from *Ambience*, *Azure* and *Unity* only minutes away from the leading 3 boats at the finish shows how exciting one design racing can be over long distances.

There was an informal get-together at the Game Fishing Club that evening. Many tall tales were exchanged across the table and the consensus appeared to be that we should all repeat the exercise in six months time for the Easter Race to Tauranga.

Good sailing.

Trevor Dunn –Chairman  
*Choice Transport*