



Yachting New Zealand Board



Ross Blackman

Originally from Dunedin, Ross has worked and sailed internationally for the past 45 years and now calls Russell home. He started his career as a sailmaker in Sydney then after Christchurch, Canada and the USA he joined Tom Schnackenberg to bring the North Sails brand to New Zealand. This led to his first America's Cup campaign with the "Big Boat" in 1988 and every America's Cup since in roles ranging from sailmaker, business manager and CEO of Team New Zealand. In between, Ross and his wife Jo have cruised extensively throughout the Pacific, the Mediterranean and the Caribbean in their own yacht.



Arabella Brawn

Arabella has spent the past 25 years working in the IT industry and is currently a practice lead for Amazon Web Services. She campaigned for the 1992 and 1996 Olympic Games in the women's single-handed class (Europe dinghy) and was a member of the Olympic Development Squad, competing at national and world championship level.



Murray Brown

Murray has spent more than 30 years in the finance sector, initially in share broking but more recently in funds management, and is also a member of the Institute of Directors. He also has a strong grassroots sailing background, and is a former Starling national champion, and was the Paremata Boating Club's treasurer for a number of years.



John Butcher

John is a professional Naval Officer who is specialized in Navigation and Warfare and who also has significant experience in leadership and exposure to governance structures within the Navy, Defence Force and other Government Departments. The sea is in John and John is in the sea, through his 31 years' service in the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN), his love of sailing and his commitment to Gulf Harbour Yacht Club as Commodore for three years. John enjoys yacht racing and cruising and investing in people and organizations through making a positive difference. John holds the rank of Commander in the Navy and is the Navy's Fleet Navigation Officer where he enjoys coaching, teaching, mentoring, encouraging, assessing and evaluating the RNZN's Bridge Warfare Officers, Navigating Officers and Commanding Officers.



Ian Cook

Ian has been the Managing Director at Yachting Developments for the past 30 Years. He has spent 16 years in governance roles at the New Zealand Marine Industry; 8 years as Chairman of the Industry Training Organisation and 7 years as president of the industry, he is also a life member at the Marine Industry Assn. Ian has spent a lot of time training young apprentices in his business and this led to his involvement in developing the unit standards for apprenticeship training. Ian has been on the General Committee of the RNZYS for the last 10 years, completing 2 years as Commodore in September 2020. Ian's daughters' involvement in the RNZYS Youth Training Programme led to his involvement in the Yacht Club's Committee. A dedicated yachtsman, Ian has been involved in and supported numerous NZ yachting events at home and off-shore and has been involved with the Auckland Anniversary Regatta Committee and is an elected vice-patron for the event. Ian's involvement with the Classic Yacht Association has seen the restoration of several NZ classic yachts, which are regularly raced in Auckland by Ian and his daughters.



Jenny de Lisle

Jenny is a chartered accountant and since 1991 has been a principal in an accountancy practice specialising in small businesses. Sailing is in Jenny's blood and she has been heavily involved in the sport, as a sailor, finance manager for major regattas like the P-Class and Optimist national championships and she was also one of the founders of the Women on Water (WOW) programme which encourages women to try sailing.



Sarah Meikle

Sarah is a highly accomplished marketing and brand management professional, having led the Positively Wellington Tourism marketing team since 2007, and recently stepped into the role of Wellington Culinary Events Trust chief executive and Visa Wellington on a Plate festival director. She has plenty of international experience, having worked in Australia, the UK, Europe, India, Latin America, South Africa and the Middle East.



Viki Moore

Based in Canterbury, Viki has a background in sales and marketing in the travel industry, and more recently in politics. She is very active in the sailing community, from working in the industry and racing and cruising in her Young 88 to presiding over the Little Ship Club of Canterbury and founding the Women Who Sail New Zealand Facebook group. In 2016, Viki received a Yachting New Zealand Service Award for services to yachting in Canterbury.



Bridget Winstone-Kight

Bridget is a non-practising lawyer, and transitioned into private equity and venture capital investing after moving to London in 2011. She grew up on a sheep and beef station in a coastal fishing village, and comes from a family of recreational sailors, power-boaters, divers, and lovers of all things outdoors.

Bridget was a member of the New Zealand women's hockey team from 2005-09 and more latterly has completed marathons and triathlons, and generally enjoys running and cycling when she is not chasing after or being chased by her young family.