



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 before stints in Canada and the US and then joined Tom Schnackenberg to bring the North Sails brand to New Zealand. This led to his first foray into the America's Cup with the 'Big Boat' challenge in 1988 and he was involved in subsequent campaigns in roles ranging from sailmaker and business manager to chief executive of Team New Zealand. In between, Ross and his wife Jo have cruised extensively throughout New Zealand, the Pacific, Mediterranean and Caribbean in their own yacht.

Arabella Brawn



Arabella has spent the past 25 years working in the IT industry and currently works at Amazon Web Services in their professional services team in a sales lead role. 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 then in funds management, and is a chartered member of the Institute of Directors. He also has a strong grassroots sailing background, and was the Paremata Boating Club's treasurer for a number of years and is a former Starling national champion.



John Butcher

John is a commander in the Royal New Zealand Navy and specialises in navigation and warfare. He's also had 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, his love of sailing and his commitment to Gulf Harbour Yacht Club as commodore for three years.



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 chief executive of the Wellington Culinary Events Trust (WECT) and director of Food + Drink New Zealand. The WECT owns and delivers some of New Zealand's largest food and beverage events, including Visa Wellington on a Plate, Beervana, the Road to Beervana and Highball. Sarah has had extensive experience in both the food and tourism sectors over the last 20 years and has a large network in the food sector in New Zealand and internationally.



Viki Moore

Based in Canterbury, Viki owns Island Cruising New Zealand. 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 director at PwC, specialising in investment advisory and wealth management for UHNWI and family offices. A non-practising lawyer, she transitioned into private wealth in 2011. She has held several governance positions in the private and public sectors and is a member of the Institute of Directors. Bridget played for the Black Sticks women's hockey team from 2005-09 and is passionate about helping organisations be more socially and environmentally responsible.