NZRYA Council Update

Welcome to 2026 and the fun this sport provides to us all!

Retiring Council Members

A huge thanks to Council members, Mike McLauchlin and Chris Koskela who have each completed many years of contribution to NZRYA and other aspects of the sport.

Mike referred in his chairman's report to the AGM, to his 10 plus years of service to various aspects of the sport's administration including:
- most recently as chair of the New Zealand Radio Yachting association:
- NZ representative on the International Radio Sailing Association(IRSA):
-NZ representative on the International IOM Class association:
-Assisted to establish, and committee member of New Zealand IOM Class Association.

This is all on top of involvement in his local club where he occasionally has had time to actually participate.
Mike has a long history with IOMs, and may now get some time to have his boat on the water more often.
A really impressive contribution-thanks Mike.

Chris also leaves the NZRYA Council after many years, commencing around 2019.
In addition to that Chris been at different stages:
14 years as measurer for the EC12 association;
taken roles in Canterbury Model Yacht Club (CMYC) including Sailing Master , Vice Commodore and Commodore;
Canterbury J Class association committee (and measurer):
Pegasus Radio Sailing Club Commodore:
New Zealand IOMNCA Committee (as registrar)

Although moving on from some responsibilities Chris remains a current IOM and DF96 measurer, and retains plenty of boat choices in his workshop including IOM, EC12, Canterbury J, DF95, Mini 40, DF95 Foiler !

Thanks for your time administering the sport Chris!

New Council:

After the December 2025 AGM, the “new” council met in January where I was honoured to be selected as the new Chairman.

I’m pleased to introduce each of the council members to you:

Chairman:

Laurie McArthur-Canterbury based, sailing IOM and DF95 classes after starting with RC Laser

Sailing Master:
Stephen Casey-Taranaki based , sailing IOM, DF95 and DF65 classes

Webmaster:
Errol Thompson-Whangarei based, sailing IOM and DF95 classes

Council:
Justin Brosnam-Bay of Plenty based, sailing IOM

Council: Chris Greer-Canterbury based , sailing Canterbury J, DF 95, DF 95 foiling multihull, J Class

As you can see the council includes representatives from many regions/clubs and classes of Radio Controlled yacht.

Help Please:

The NZRYA council operates on goodwill from those in the sport.
Right now we have the ability to add others either as council members or “in the background” as assistants.

In particular can you (or someone you know), help out with the website maintenance.
Current webmaster Errol is keen to have assistance and train others in tasks, thorough the year as Errol completes his term in the role at the AGM around September.

There are also opportunities in secretary and treasurer roles so don’t hold back…give me or any Council member a call.

2025 AGM

You may have seen the voting summary of the December 2025 AGM posted recently on this website.

There are are couple of “take outs” from the voting:
Firstly, although only around 12% of members voted, around half of those were keen to focus on club memberships (and eliminate personal members) . This wasn’t sufficient in terms of percentage to make the change to the constitution, however it does show that the club/class based structure most of us sit within, is an important part of how the sport is managed.

The NZRYA will continue to assist groups to establish new clubs and build existing ones so the consistent growth of the sport over recent years continues.

Secondly note the revised constitution that is now in force, brings forward the NZRYA accounting year, AGM etc by 3 months , so the 2027 year subs and member stats will be asked for a little earlier, to avoid the usual end of year rush to complete these, so we know who are members and this eligible for by 1 January.

NZRYA main functions:

NZRYA exists in a large part to support the broader Radio Yachting community by:

-ensuring organised Radio Controlled Sailing activities in New Zealand are covered by Public Liability Insurance (without the need for individuals or each Club/Class to arrange their own)

-supporting establishment of new clubs-this includes the potential for “big” boat clubs to have a radio controlled sailing division).

-maintaining a centralised events schedule

-maintaining an efficient race documentation writing and approval process.

-establishing a centralised membership register.

-providing a broad range of sport information within the NZRYA website, including specific club and class information.

-In a legal sense NZRYA have delegated authority from Yachting New Zealand to manage Radio controlled sailing in New Zealand.
Just as Yachting NZ manage racing schedules and national class regattas in dinghies and larger, NZRYA do the same in Radio controlled boats, in conjunction with class associations.

-NZRYA also represents the sport within the international scene..

Future direction:

The council is always open to opportunities to support the sport so feel free to communicate ideas that will help us in this aim.

We trust you will all participate and enjoy whatever level of Radio Controlled yacht sailing you do, from informal developing, testing and sailing yachts through to social weekday sailing, club competitions and even national or international competition.

Regards

Laurie McArthur

NZRYA Chairman
Ph 027 565 8810
chairman@nzrya.org.nz