

	<p style="text-align: center;">Official newsletter for the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians</p> <h1 style="text-align: center;">ROTAFLOAT</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">The International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians is a group of Rotarians dedicated to promoting yachting opportunity for fellowship and service. This fellowship operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but it is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International</p>
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Message from the Commodore



IC Terry with grandson Benjamin

Hello again from the IYFR Bridge in New Zealand, where we're having glorious summer weather for the Christmas season. Christmas is always a busy family time for us, with family over from Sydney and Tasmania and the grandchildren filling the house with their antics. Still, we've managed to squeeze a few days sailing in too – because you can't keep sailors from their boating!

Also having a family Christmas were UK's Ian and Meg Ryves, visiting relatives in our neighbourhood. Having met them both at the Solent fleet lunch at Cowes, we were happy to show them a bit of Auckland sailing. Meg is the incoming Southampton Rotary President, and Ian currently sails with members of the Solent fleet. We're hoping now they may be keen to join us as members once back from their travels!



Meg and Ian Ryves and Meryl aboard Taranui

We've just returned from a week's cruising on Pacific Mermaid with Past International Commodore Ken and Bente Winter. PIC Bryan and Chris Skinner were also cruising with us.

We look forward to travelling further afield later this month when we will visit fleets and fellows of the IYFR. We will charter the South West, Western Australia Fleet in Mandurah, visit the fleet and Rotary Clubs in the Hong Kong District, visit several fleets in Japan, then charter the Cebu Mactan fleet in the Philippines. We have found meeting fleet members very rewarding and are excited to be welcomed by so many fleets.

Registrations for the IYFR Post Convention Cruise in Montreal this June are down on last year, with the economic climate playing an obvious role. While we will miss the opportunity to get together as one large fleet, we feel certain that those attending will have a rewarding and social trip. However, news to hand is that a new fleet will be chartered in Slovenia in April, and another fleet mooted in Spain, so overall we're heartened that around the world, local fleets are flourishing because, no matter the climate – you can't keep sailors from their boating!

Meryl and Terry Stretton

Commodore's Diary

2010

- **February 18th – 25th** Perth to charter a fleet in Mandurah 20th, to be called South West, Western Australia Fleet.
- **25th Feb – 3rd March** Hong Kong to visit the fleet there
- **3rd March – 11th March** Japan to visit Osaka, Kyoto Lakes, Kobe Fleets
- **11th March – 16th March** Philippines to charter Cebu Mactan fleet.
- **20th – 23rd June Montreal Convention**
 - **21st June** Open forum for those Interested in IYFR
 - **22nd June** (Montreal) AGM
 - **24th – 27th PCC – refer to p ?**

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Summer in January on a Winter Boat!

When Past International Commodore Bryan Skinner and Chris visited Auckland recently they and International Commodore Terry Stretton and Meryl were invited to stay at Past International Commodore Ken Winter and Bente's apartment, during Auckland Anniversary weekend. The apartment is perched at the end of Princes Wharf and provided a birds' eye view of a spectacular fireworks display and the start of the Anniversary Day Regatta. With 20 knots blowing freshly down the harbour from the east, this made for exciting viewing. The Auckland Anniversary day regatta is one of the biggest one day regattas in the southern hemisphere, with over 500 boats competing. It celebrates the founding of the city in 1840 and this was the 170th regatta. From there it was out on the Winter's Pacific Mermaid for a week's cruising in the Hauraki Gulf. The weather was warm, the seas calm, the sunsets stunning and there was enough fresh fish to keep everyone satisfied – a great week.



From left: PIC Bryan Skinner, Chris Skinner, IC Terry Stretton, Meryl Stretton, Bente Winter, PIC Ken Winter

Auckland Fleet Welcomes in Spring and the Advent of Summer

New Zealand's Auckland fleet has welcomed a good number of new members this year (now totals 76) and enjoys the opportunity to get together for whatever reason. One of the latest get-togethers was a weekend early in November, to Waiheke, a picturesque island within the Hauraki Gulf only a mere 20km from downtown Auckland. The island is well populated but has a great blend of farmland, forest, beaches, vineyards & olive groves.



Members admire the cliff-top views from Charles and Ann Wallis' home.

up high overlooking Onetangi Bay.

After lunch another vineyard then ready for the evening BBQ. Sunday dawned another beautiful day and after a leisurely breakfast, it was time to head home with a stop for lunch and a hand at fishing for some. (Alas, no fish for dinner) It was a wonderful weekend and what a great way to welcome and get to know new members, prospective new members, and their partners.

The weekend centred around our PIC Ken & Bente Winter's *Pacific Mermaid*, which hosted transport, accommodation, and a fantastic BBQ on the Saturday evening. Some members opted to sail their own craft and join the rest of the group ashore for the festivities.

Saturday was taken up with visits to a vineyard, a boutique brewery and a fabulous lunch hosted by our members Charles and Ann Wallis at their splendid home



Members of the Auckland Fleet enjoying a vineyard visit.

Peter Johns, Auckland Fleet, New Zealand

IYFR Regalia

Questions and orders should be sent to our Regalia Officer, Meryl Stretton. The list of Regalia is on the website: Click on Members only – enter your username and password. Click on Order Regalia – the prices do not include postage. To order – go into Bridge Officers and click on [email the Regalia Officer.](#)

David Hawkey – a Tribute

David was a highly respected Primary School Teacher and Principal who joined the Rotary Club of Mitchell River in March 1990. Over the last 20 years he has been Club President in 97/98, Treasurer for three and Youth Services Director for eight years. At a Rotary District level he served on the Friendship Exchange Committee for three years. In 1994 David instigated a Rotary program known as the Rotary Junior Community Award, based on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Program. It was not only successful in many Gippsland clubs, but it was transplanted to clubs in six English counties and also Spain and Gibraltar. David received various Rotary awards for his service to youth, in particular disadvantaged youth; he became a Paul Harris Fellow in 1999, and a Sapphire Pin followed.

When the Gippsland Lakes Fleet of I.Y.F.R. was formed in 1992 David joined and served as Secretary/Treasurer for four years, Vice-Commodore for two years prior to serving a two-year term as Commodore. David and his First Mate Lorna joined enthusiastically in the many local boating activities with the Fleet. In 2002 he organised an enjoyable Fleet visit to King Island, and in 2007 as Commodore he encouraged members to join in a successful visit to Hobart, Tasmania. Here they not only took in the famous Wooden Boat Festival, but also visited members of Lindisfarne Rotary Club to tell them about I.Y.F.R. and suggest that they might consider establishing a fleet. In February 2008 David was happy to welcome International Commodore Bryan Skinner and First Mate Chris on their most successful visit.



David Hawkey

In 2009 there was a second visit to Hobart, and this time David proudly displayed the wooden boat, a wherry, which he had managed to build himself, even though his health was beginning to fail. He had suffered for some time from adrenal cancer and cushings syndrome.

David served well all with whom he came into contact, his students and school, fellow Rotarians and all in I.Y.F.R. He also donated stem cells to his brother. He will be sadly missed.

Bob Dak, Gippsland, fleet Victoria.

New Historian



Well respected IYForian Ken Winter takes over the position of Historian

Due to the untimely death of Past International Commodore Andrew Mitchell who had been IYFR Historian for many years, Ken was asked if he would take over this position.

Many of you will know Ken Winter (a member of the Rotary Club of Mt. Roskill, Past District Governor, Past Commodore of Auckland Fleet, and Past International Commodore 2001-03) and First Mate Bente and perhaps have had the opportunity and pleasure of being aboard their pride and joy Pacific Mermaid. Thank you Ken for taking this on.

Ditty Bag

How a captain remained successful at sea.

Once upon a time there was a famous sea captain. This captain was very successful at what he did; for years he guided merchant ships all over the world.

Never did stormy seas or pirates get the best of him. He was admired by his crew and fellow captains. However, there was one thing different about this captain. Every morning he went through a strange ritual. He would lock himself in his captain's quarters and open a small safe.

In the safe was an envelope with a piece of paper inside. He would stare at the paper for a minute, then lock it back up. After, he would go about his daily duties.

For years this went on, and his crew became very curious. Was it a treasure map? Was it a letter from a long lost love? Everyone speculated about the contents of the strange envelope.

One day the captain died at sea. After laying the captain's body to rest, the first mate led the entire crew into the captain's quarters. He opened the safe, got the envelope, opened it and...

The first mate turned pale and showed the paper to the others.

Four words were on the paper, two on two lines:

Port Left,

Starboard Right.

Taken from www.marinebuzz.com

AGM and Dinner 22nd June 2010

Post Convention Cruise 24th – 27th June 2010

Dine at the Marriott Chateau Champlain.....Cruise the 1000 Islands of the St. Lawrence Seaway, on the replica Steamboat "Canadian Empress".

Register Now for the AGM and Dinner at the Marriott Chateau Champlain Hotel on 22nd June 2010

Cost: ca\$ 90.00 per person including taxes (*See registration form at www.iyfr.net and select Fellowship News and Events in left hand menu*)

Post Convention Cruise 24th – 27th June 2010

Departing Montreal 10am on 24th June, travelling by coach to historic Kingston – Canada's first Capital – stopping for lunch, and a tour of Fort Henry

- 24th June** **Board the Canadian Empress at approximately 5.30pm. Welcome Dinner- Meet old friends and make new acquaintances.**
- 25th June** **Dinner a la Francais**
- 26th June** **International Night : To feature an item from each country on the cruise.**
- 27th June** **After lunch we disembark at 2.30pm.**

*Cruise Costs are quoted in Canadian Dollars including taxes, all meals on board, entertainment, tours and attractions. **Note: Coach Montreal to Kingston (if required) = \$40.00 pp***

No. of Cabins	Type of Cabin (all have their own shower and facilities)	Price per person (based on double occupancy per cabin)
20	St Lawrence Cabins	CA\$1243.00 per person
8	Ottawa Cabins	CA\$1400.00 per person
2	Sterling Cabins	CA\$1460.00 per person
2	Premier Cabins	CA\$1590.00 per person

Register by 24th March to be in the draw for a cabin upgrade to Premier

Optional Extra: Continue on to Niagara Falls following the Post Convention Cruise, returning to Toronto on the 29th June. (*Details to be posted at www.iyfr.net, select Fellowship News and Events in left hand menu*)

Expressions of interest required for this optional extra by March 24th, to secure group rates.

Email: logeary@gmail.com

Convention News – Open Forum

With limited time for the AGM your bridge will hold an open forum on the day before to enable you to ask questions, raise issues or discuss any relevant matters. This will enable the AGM to proceed smoothly with its formal business.

The Forum will be in the Palais de Congres de Montreal, Room 521 on Monday 21st June 1600 -1800 hours.



Niagra Falls Rainbow

1000 Island

