

# Canterbury J class (One Design) Owners Association Inc. Newsletter

**February 2018**

## **Membership numbers**

We currently have 83 members. As you can see our membership has almost doubled over the last 4 years from 2014. Our association is in a healthy position.

2014-15	45
2015-16	62
2016-17	81
2017-18	83

## **Why do we join two or more model yacht organisations?**

I had been puzzled as to why there are two separate organisations, CMYC and CJOA, with most Canterbury sailors belonging to both. Well, here is the explanation. Christchurch, and at least 10 other places (Kerikeri, Gulf Harbour, North Shore, Westhaven, Northern Maritime, Waikato, Tauranga, Kapiti, Nelson, Wellington, and Otago ) have a model yacht club which hosts sailing in their ponds, lakes and estuaries. Their role is to "promote interest in the sport of model yachting".

By contrast, each of the classes of yachts (Canterbury J-class, IOM, EC12, RG65, Marblehead) have their own dedicated associations to maintain the restricted design nature of their yacht. They manage their class rules and one-class regattas. This all happens under the watchful eyes of the New Zealand Radio Yachting Association, an umbrella group formed in 1994 (Leon Blewett is our representative on this council).

If you own a Canterbury J-class boat, you should join up to both the CJOA and your local club.

## **New Zealand Radio Yachting Association update.**

"We had a face to face meeting in Auckland on the last Friday of January 2018, which some may consider an unnecessary expense but for less than \$200 all council are together in one room for the best part of a day and a lot of ground was covered and importantly, pretty well set the course for the monthly skype meetings for the rest of the year. The process to appoint its officers also took place, we have a new chairman, sailing coordinator and publicity officer and I am back as treasurer, I think council is looking pretty good and quite prepared for a fair bit this coming year.

Progress is still happening with the classes doing more of their own administration and things will move forward this year. It may or may not impact us, we are pretty well practiced at governing what we do, time will tell, but the move is positive.

An update on NZRYA can be read here,

<http://www.nzradioyachtingassociation.co.nz/2018/02/02/notice-phil-pryde-new-council-chairman/>

Remember last year I had Vern circulate information on the Nano class RC Yacht? Here it is <https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:2423426> have a look.

Leon.

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## Sail number rule change

The sail number new rules have been amended. You no longer need any room for a digit to be added IN FRONT of your numbers on both main and jib. The Committee has deleted this requirement: it is not necessary for the J-Class boats.

## Making of the first Canterbury-J

Our Canterbury J-Class Boat was developed in 1997 to solve a number of problems: a yacht that could be sailed in weedy conditions, transported easily, be cost effective, relatively easy to build, and of course to be competitive one-class design.



*Hugh Hodben, Dave Heanly and Leon Blewett with J-1 at the CMYC boat shed.*

## Dave Heanly and J-1

The first J-1 was owned by Dave Heanly. He visited us at Victoria Lake on Wednesday 17 Jan 2018. He has a long association with the CMYC, joining in 1957 when he built and sailed a 4'6" wooden model yacht steered by an elastic band and a wind vane.

His visit is important for us because he built up the first J-boat: J-1, he named her Shamrock. He wanted to have a look at her again. Its construction was a joint effort, he tells me. "The fibreglass hull was bought from Norm Sissons, the sails were designed and fabricated by Hugh Hobden, and I put it all together". On launch day, Dave was distracted with making last-minute adjustments. Consequently, he was late getting her into the water. He says "the first boats off the start-line had already passed round the second mark. Anyway, J-1, she went like a rocket. Shamrock sped past everyone and finished first!"

There is a sad twist to the Shamrock saga. A couple of years later she was stolen, and badly damaged, with the police were involved in her recovery. Dave said: "she was bashed up." Peter Vincent, who was the Chairman of the newly formed Canterbury J-Class Owners Association stepped in and saved it. He repaired the hull, gave it the blue and white paint job and fitted a new mast. However, Dave said "she never sailed as well again."

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Shamrock was eventually bought from Dave for \$800 by CJOA and now is proudly displayed in the clubhouse of the CMYC. Dave said: "I sold a boat to build a boat." When he is next in Christchurch he declared that he wanted to sail his Shamrock again - we have strongly encouraged him to do this.

### The latest Js: J-303 and J-304

The latest Canterbury Js were both launched on 20 Jan 2018, but in different Islands.



*Ralph Biggs with his new J-303*

**J-303:** This beautiful Canterbury J-class yacht, built by Ralph Biggs, was launched on Lake Victoria 20 Jan 2018. Ralph is the current Treasurer of the CMYC (by the way, he is looking for someone to take over his role). Ralph joined the CMYC about 20 years ago and made J-51 in 1999, and later built J-151. Ralph has also built motor-boats and scale model classic sailing ships. J-303 also has a sad story. Don Roberts bought hull 303 with its lead keel, mast and rudder tube. He had planned to join CMYC and build this boat. But, tragically, his wife recently died in an accident and Don did not have the heart to pursue the boat building. Ralph subsequently bought the boat bits and pieces and has crafted them into a beautiful model with a wooden deck, called *Escapade*.



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**J-304:** was launched by Patrick Newport, in Hamilton, also on the 20 Jan 2018. This is Patrick's second Canterbury J-class build. It is equally as impressive as his first J-297. Both Patrick Newport and John Hyde (J-271) have done these builds together (both with really nicely finished traditional craft).



*Recent builds by John Hyde (J-271) and Patrick Newport (J-292).*

Patrick writes: "Being a builder by trade and a love of sailing over the last 60 years. I started out by restoring an old moth, building a Sunburst, buying an Aquarius22 trailer-sailor, and now in retirement, radio controlled yachts. When the opportunity came to build a 'J' class, I took it and really enjoyed the whole experience. They are such a graceful yacht on the water. I knew that in building a second 'J' I could make some improvements. So that is what I did! If anyone wants to know how I went about building yacht J-304, I am happy to share that information."

John writes: "The building was done off and on over 15 months or so and I can say it really was an interesting project and that I thoroughly enjoyed it all . . . including the odd dramas that ambushed me along the way when things didn't go quite according to plan! I'm really enjoying sailing J-271 as a purely recreational sailor, in a retro kind of way. I'm still working on developing and improving what is a new boat and trying to figure out what it does and doesn't like in different conditions. The winch, sheeting, sailing gear and rudder set up are all

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working reliably, so improvement revolves around tinkering with the rig, sail trim and sailing technique.”

Please send me your photos and stories for the next newsletter.

### What's been happening

#### Lake Hood: Sunday 26 Nov

Wes Purves writes: "It was a sunny blustery day, with 15 sailors plus Evan plus 11 wives or partners who all got on pretty well together. Organizers: Peter Vincent and Wes Purves. Ashburton and Timaru were represented. Peter did a great job supplying a gazebo and large Sun umbrella plus his dinghy and marker buoys.

We had a picnic at noon, whilst the wind got progressively stronger - a big gust blew over the large sun umbrella and threatened to destroy the gazebo that was protecting us from the sun - the twisted frame was packed down and stowed away - we were then reliant on hats and sunscreen.

We had an excellent course set - with a tough upwind beat into the strong and persistent wind. Downwind, the bows often plunged below the water and with the rudder out of the lake, the wind tossed out boats haphazardly - there were a few boats that had to be retired as the day progressed.

We all had a wonderful day out and thank Peter and we for their encouragement and organisation. I would encourage everyone to get to this event next year.

We finished racing about 3.30 and adjourned to the Lakeside Restaurant with about 15 of us for drinks and nibbles so all in all a great day and we would like to make it an annual event. Cheers Wes”



*Lake Hood CJOA big lake and relaxed sailing day*

#### Twilight sailing

The first Twilight Canterbury J Event was held on the evening of 11 Dec, 5.30pm to 7.30pm approx at Lake Victoria. Event coordinator Wes Purves.

The second Canterbury J Twilight meeting was scheduled to be held next Monday 29th January at the Ferrymead Lake. But this had to be cancelled because of strong blustery winds. The back up date of 5 Feb was also cancelled because of the weather with it rescheduled to 8 Feb.

The third twilight session is scheduled for 26 Feb 2018 – Lake Victoria



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## Rakaia Lagoon CJOA. fun sailing day

“Sunday 21st Jan. was our annual Rakaia Lagoon CJOA fun sailing day. Turned out to be a great day starting with a light southerly and switching to a 10 to 12 knot easterly making for great racing with Keith May giving Leon a good run for his money. With 7 sailors and 4 wives to cheer us on it was all a lot of fun. Thank you Leon for once again organizing a great day and you and Heather having us all at your batch for an enjoyable lunch break.

Cheers Wes”.



*Rakaia Lagoon CJOA fun sailing day*

## What's coming up Calendar of events 2018

(open to all who are paid up with this year's subs)

The final **Twilight sailing** of the season is on Monday summer evenings again, starting on the water at 5.30pm. This is popular, relaxed sailing, with no registration or formal scoring.  
26 Feb 2018 – Lake Victoria

**Enterprise trophy** Tom Arthur will be looking after the details and working out the award for this Trophy. Dates for 2018, on Lake Victoria are these three CMYC races

10 Feb 2018  
14 April 2018  
30 June 2018

**Auld Mug** sailing date is Monday 2 April 2018, at Ferrymead.

### J-Class Championship

J Champs are set for the weekend 17 & 18 March 2018, on Lake Victoria – we are asking for your help to run this Championship – talk to Wes who is the main event organizer.

Match racing on Saturday 17 March 2018.

Fleet racing on Sunday 18 March 2018.

Be sure to lodge your intention to sail in these event, as we may have to limit numbers.

## List of J-Class Boat owners 15 years ago

I thought that this might be of interest. This is the register of first 30 J-Class boats in 2003, by which time there were 107 boats constructed. This list comes from a Newsletter that Hugh

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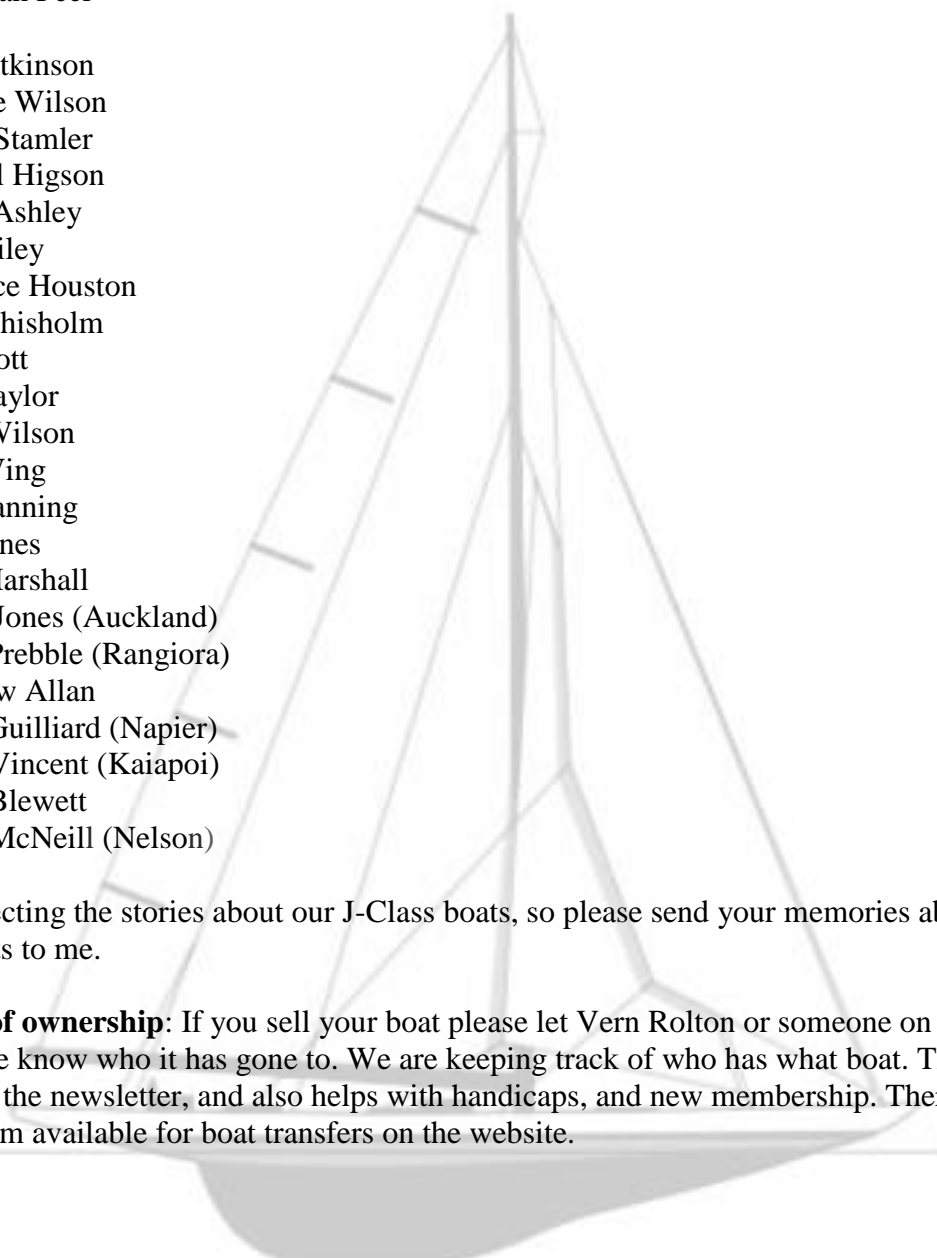
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Hobden compiled. It is an historic list and being updated. Many of these boats have changed hands.

- 1 J Assoc
- 2 Hugh Hobden
- 3 John Laycock (Kirwee)
- 4 Peter Vincent (Kaiapoi)
- 5 Irwin Gibbs
- 6 Laurie Wales
- 7 Hank Van Peer
- 8 John ?
- 9 Allan Atkinson
- 10 Robbie Wilson
- 11 Keith Stamler
- 12 Darrell Higson
- 13 Chris Ashley
- 14 Bob Riley
- 15 Maurice Houston
- 16 Paul Chisholm
- 17 Ian Scott
- 18 Ash Taylor
- 19 John Wilson
- 20 Bob Wing
- 21 Bill Canning
- 22 Jeff Jones
- 23 Tim Marshall
- 24 Doug Jones (Auckland)
- 25 Greg Prebble (Rangiora)
- 26 Andrew Allan
- 27 Brett Guilliard (Napier)
- 28 Peter Vincent (Kaiapoi)
- 29 Leon Blewett
- 30 Peter McNeill (Nelson)

I am collecting the stories about our J-Class boats, so please send your memories about these early boats to me.

**Change of ownership:** If you sell your boat please let Vern Rolton or someone on the committee know who it has gone to. We are keeping track of who has what boat. This helps us distribute the newsletter, and also helps with handicaps, and new membership. There is an online form available for boat transfers on the website.



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*If there is another boat on the water there will be a race.*

Happy sailing,  
Rodney Ford,  
(Newsletter editor) on behalf of your J Class Owners Association Committee

