NZmarine
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

News

AUTUMN 2026

CELEBRATING SUCCESS!

COMMERCIAL

NZ'S COMMERCIAL MARINE SECTOR REVS UP

PETER BUSFIELD

FAREWELL TO NZ MARINE'S TOP MAN

ENL TURNS 80

EIGHT DECADES OF INNOVATION

What's inside

- 25 years of Auckland Boat Show
- Membership growth
- Celebrating Women in Marine
- Industry statistics
- MAST Academy report
- Customs update

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NZ marine News
Autumn 2026

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President's Report

Tracey Stevenson
President
NZ Marine Industry Association

Advocacy and representation – and a farewell

THE ECONOMIC PRESSURES OF 2024 carried through into 2025 for marine businesses dependent on local sales. Despite reductions in the OCR, consumer spending in New Zealand has remained cautious. Even so, it has been pleasing to see a slight increase in our membership numbers despite the challenging environment.

More recently, rising fuel prices and economic uncertainty stemming from hostilities in the Middle East have again contributed to market unease.

The 2026 edition of the Auckland Boat Show enjoyed four days of stunning weather and once again served as an outstanding showcase of the New Zealand marine industry. The show formed part of the Moana Auckland Festival, which also included SailGP in February and the Wooden Boat Festival shortly after the Auckland Boat Show. The show was also the launching pad of our inaugural and very successful Women In Marine event attended by 115 guests from NZ and Australia. It was fantastic to see the waterfront buzzing with activity throughout these events. MAST Academy also held its graduation ceremony a day before the show, filling the RNZYS ballroom with enthusiastic graduates, their families, and employers.

A wide range of events and activities took place during 2025, with the NZ Marine conference at Trinity Wharf in Tauranga standing out as a highlight. Bringing the industry together to learn from one another and from our speakers is always both valuable and engaging. Other events throughout the year have been well covered in this edition by Stacey, Caroline, and Peter.

Advocacy and representation were major priorities in 2025, particularly our work with NZ Customs on proposed changes to the temporary importation of small craft. Collaborative discussions with the Customs team resulted in significant revisions to the original proposals. We will continue to advocate for policies that support positive experiences for cruising yachts and superyachts arriving in New Zealand for tourism or refit purposes, along with clear guidelines regarding the sale of foreign-owned vessels in New Zealand.

Additional engagement included consultation with MPI on clean hulll requirements for arriving vessels, requests to the Hon. Nicola Willis for additional support for exporting businesses, a request to the Hon. Erica Stanford to include boatbuilding and related trades on Immigration NZ's Green List, and participation in discussions on the formation of new vocational training entities, among many other networking and consultation opportunities.

I'd like to take this opportunity to shine a light on Peter Busfield, who retired at the end of March after 30 years of dedicated service to the Boating Industries Association. Over the decades, Peter has driven so many initiatives, events and collaborations that it's difficult to select just a few to highlight.

Peter has always been a strong champion of industry training, and the world-leading training institution we have today simply wouldn't exist without his persistent advocacy through countless changes over the past 30 years. Another standout achievement is the success of the CPC standards for power trailer boats. Very few people could bring together so many competitors to collectively lift industry standards — and then go on to secure recognition of our certification as an Australian Builders Plate, reducing compliance barriers for exporters.

Peter has worked tirelessly across all 25 Auckland Boat Shows, consistently supporting businesses, fostering collaboration and advocating passionately for the benefit of the marine industry. He has also built a highly capable team within the NZ Marine office, ensuring the organisation is well positioned for the future.

I wish Peter all the very best in his retirement, and I extend my best wishes to his successor — who will no doubt have very big shoes to fill.

Tracey Stevenson
President, NZ Marine Industry Association

The 2026 Auckland Boat Show was again the perfect showcase for our industry.

A Note from the Executive Director

Peter Busfield
Executive Director
NZ Marine Industry Association

My final report

THIS ISSUE OF 2026 NZ MARINE NEWS covers the wide diversity of activities that your association has been involved with over the past year.

NZ Marine is more than a trade association - it is a catalyst for many sectors and individual companies to have a sound footing from which they grow their business both in domestic and export markets. From MAST's world-leading apprenticeship and management industry training programs, to networking at Boating After 5s, Boat Shows, conferences, and representation to government departments - to ensure the New Zealand marine industry remains a major manufacturing sector - we cover a lot of ground.

The association is now serving 525 members, up from 512 this time last year, and is financially very stable.

International markets are currently going through a pause stage as the geopolitical issues are being worked through but at the end of this we look forward to a steady market for boats, marine equipment, refits and maintenance in NZ and offshore.

As I sign off this final report, in my capacity as Executive Director, I reflect back on where the marine industry and the association have come from 30 years ago when I started with the Boating Industries Association of NZ Incorporated (now trading as NZ Marine Industry Association).

It is you the members, well assisted by our longstanding team members of Caroline Gibson and Stacey Cook and the ten board presidents and respective boards over the past 30 years that I have had the pleasure in working with, that has got our association and industry to the respected level it is today.

It has been a privilege and a great journey for me and I wish you all the very best for the future.

Kind regards,

Peter Busfield
Executive Director, NZ Marine Industry Association

Peter Busfied's final day at NZ Marine was marked by NZ Marine President Tracey Stevenson (fifth from left) and the full NZ Marine and MAST Academy teams gathering together to wish him a happy retirement. Peter is pictured centre front, with his wife Rachael (to his right).

Celebrating Peter Busfield

The New Zealand marine industry came together on Thursday 26 March to celebrate the remarkable career of Peter Busfield, marking his retirement after 30 years of outstanding leadership and service to the sector.

PETER'S LONG INVOLVEMENT WITH THE ASSOCIATION began with as President from 1995 to 1997 when he then became the first Executive Director.

Held in the Ballroom at Auckland's Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, the retirement function brought together Peter's family, the NZ Marine team and board, and a wide cross-section of industry leaders and stakeholders who have worked alongside him over the past three decades. Members travelled from throughout the country and from Australia to join the special celebration.

Tributes reflected on Peter's calm, considered leadership, his professionalism and his unwavering commitment to guiding the marine industry through periods of significant change and growth. Many acknowledged his ability to bring people together, maintain focus during challenging times and advocate strongly for the sector he has served since 1996.

The event was both a celebration and a heartfelt farewell — an opportunity to recognise Peter's lasting contribution to the New Zealand marine industry and to wish him well as he transitions into a well-earned retirement, with more time for family, friends and life on the water.

TOP Peter and Rachael Busfield. **CENTRE** Outgoing Executive Director Peter Busfield receives a certificate of appreciation from Darren Vaux, on behalf of the International Council of Marine Industry Associations (ICOMIA). **ABOVE LEFT** Denis Kendall, Jason Dickey and Andrea Kendall. **ABOVE MIDDLE** NZ Marine President Tracey Stevenson was MC for the evening. **ABOVE RIGHT** Sir Ken Stevens, Gary Paykel and Bill Upfold.

NZ Marine Board of Management

NZ MARINE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2025-2026

The NZ Marine Board of Management, led by NZ Marine President Tracey Stevenson, is responsible for strategic planning and leadership of the industry.

Tracey Stevenson
President

Jason Dickey
Vice President

Albear Montocchio
Vice President

Tristram Fink
Board member

Denis Kendall
Board member

Michael Eaglen
Board member

Richard Thorpe
Board member

Blair Geldard
Board member

Robert Knox
Board member

Peter Busfield
NZ Marine
Executive Director

At the 60th Annual General Meeting of the Boating Industries Association Inc (trading as NZ Marine), the above members were elected to the Board of Management. Tracey Stevenson was re-elected (unopposed) as President, and Jason Dickey of Dickey Boats and Albear Montocchio of HamiltonJet were re-elected unopposed as Vice Presidents for the 2025/2026 year.
We thank Tracey, Jason and Albear for their continued valuable service to the industry.

2025 NZ Marine AGM

The 60th Annual General Meeting of the Boating Industries Association was held at NZ Marine House on Wednesday 25 June 2025.

NZ Marine Export Group

NZ MARINE EXPORT GROUP BOARD MEMBERS

We welcome our Board members for the 2025 - 2026 year

Richard Thorpe
Chair

Neven Barbour
Vice-chair

Gareth Hodson
Board member

Ben Osborne
Board member

Tracey Stevenson
NZ Marine President

Stacey Cook
Export Group Manager

Peter Busfield
NZ Marine Executive Director

At the NZ Marine Export Group AGM held on 17 September 2025, the board members pictured above were nominated and approved. At the subsequent Export Group board meeting, Richard Thorpe was elected chair and Neven Barbour was elected as vice chair. Tracey Stevenson, as NZ Marine President, remains on the board. Albear Montocchio stepped down from the board and role of President and NZ Marine Export Group thanked him for his years of service.

Join the New Zealand contingent at Metstrade in 2026

THE BIGGEST MARINE TRADE SHOW in the world continues to build year on year, with more than 35 New Zealand companies attending, both exhibiting and walking the show.

If you have a product to take to the market, utilise the support of the NZ Marine Export Group to assist you.

If you are interested in attending the show please contact Stacey: stacey@nzmarine.com

NZ Marine Pacific Networking

NZ Marine networking event, Tahiti

10 July, 2025

Guests enjoying the function in Tahiti.

NZ Marine hosted an exclusive networking function at Yellowfin Restaurant in Tahiti, bringing together the superyacht industry in a vibrant and collaborative setting.

THE EVENT DREW AN IMPRESSIVE TURNOUT, with 13 superyachts represented, alongside 11 leading marine companies and approximately 77 industry professionals, including captains, yacht owners, crew members, and representatives from New Zealand companies.

The evening provided a prime opportunity for networking, strengthening ties between New Zealand's marine sector and the global superyacht community. Attendees engaged in meaningful discussions about future visits to New Zealand's world-class marinas, refit facilities and cruising destinations.

Blair Smeal of Port Nikau Whangārei commended the event, noting the enthusiasm among Kiwi crews to return home. "It was fantastic to connect with so many Kiwis working on these incredible yachts — they're eager to explore New Zealand's marine offerings," he said.

NZ Marine is looking forward to future collaborations and more superyachts sailing into Kiwi waters.

NZ Marine networking event, Fiji 21 August 2025

NZ MARINE SUCCESSFULLY BRIDGED CONNECTIONS between New Zealand and the thriving Fijian superyacht hub with an exclusive networking function at the iconic Sails Restaurant in Port Denarau on August 21, 2025.

The event drew a strong turnout of approximately 65 key industry professionals, creating a dynamic and collaborative atmosphere. The gathering was a testament to the close ties between the two nations' marine industries, featuring representation from 10 superyachts currently cruising in Fijian waters and more than 35 captains, owners and crew members, plus 12 NZ Marine companies.

The evening provided a prime platform for fostering valuable relationships and discussing the seamless transition for superyachts cruising from Fiji's pristine waters to New Zealand's world-class refit, maintenance and cruising destinations. Meaningful conversations highlighted the appeal of New Zealand's marine infrastructure and the ease of access for vessels preparing to make the voyage south.

"It was great to see Fiji buzzing with superyachts and to connect with crew and industry ahead of an exciting season in New Zealand," said Kirsty Foreman of Catalano Shipping Pacific.

NZ Marine looks forward to building on these connections and anticipates a strong season of superyachts making the passage from Fiji to explore all that New Zealand has to offer.

Stacey Cook addresses guests.

Auckland Boat Show

25 YEARS

AUCKLAND BOAT SHOW
A FESTIVAL ON THE WATER

www.auckland-boatshow.com

25TH EDITION OF THE SHOW

- **200 EXHIBITORS**
- **235 BOATS ON DISPLAY**
- **1200 ESTIMATED SEA-TRIAL TRIPS CONDUCTED**

All Boat Show images: Live Sail Die

Strong buyer interest marks successful 25th Auckland Boat Show

Quality boats, impressive innovations, serious buyers and strong industry optimism defined the 25th Auckland Boat Show.

WITH 235 BOATS ON DISPLAY, more than 200 exhibitors and an estimated 1200 sea-trial trips, boat sellers reported strong interest from genuine prospective buyers, while exhibitors launching new products and equipment also reported significant sales activity and valuable industry connections forged across the four-day event. Demand continued to grow in the lead-up to the event, with organisers expanding the show footprint to accommodate 30 new exhibitors.

Organiser Stacey Cook says the show remains an event created by the industry, for the industry, and that the combination of innovation, craftsmanship and lifestyle on display continues to make the Auckland Boat Show the standout event on the marine calendar. "We are thrilled to once again have incredibly high-quality visitors to the show. The industry makes the show what it is, and we thank everyone yet again for their ongoing support"

The show opened on the Thursday morning with the

> "The industry makes the show what it is, and we thank everyone yet again for their ongoing support"

inaugural Women in Marine event (see page 13), which brought together more than a 110 women in the industry to celebrate their growing contribution across recreational boating, marine business and ocean sport.

Many exhibitors reported extremely positive feedback on the show. Hayden McCrorie of Dickey Boats, which displayed its Semifly 45, Semifly 36 and the long-range sport fisher the Pacific 62, said it was a positive event generating strong interest, providing an opportunity to introduce new people to the brand and catch up with existing clients.

Ester Tongs of Allan Tongs Boatbuilders, which displayed its production Elite AT43, said, "We spoke to so many boaties - both new and experienced - who loved seeing our quality, Kiwi-built boat on show amongst the packed marina. What a positive and optimistic show!"

Tracey Stevenson of Lloyd Stevenson Boatbuilders also reported a good show for the custom boatbuilding specialist. "The Auckland Boat Show is the industry's pinnacle event. It's important for us to be there because we rely on relationships and collaboration across the industry."

Local tech company Boatseekr used the show to launch its brand new tendr app, and reported around 1000 downloads over the weekend.

By the time the show wrapped up, Rodney Marine was sporting sold signs on several of its Stabicraft boats, noting particularly strong interest from South Island visitors. More broadly, small boats performed strongly across the event. Takacat Inflatable Boats and Dolphin Inflatables both reported a run of sales through the four days, while Russell Carlyon told show organisers that Offshore Cruising Tenders was again delighted with its high-profile outside location in Karanga Plaza. Steven Burt of Innovision Boats also reported a healthy volume of sea trials and enquiries.

Likewise, it was a positive event for Vining Marine Group of Hobsonville, who saw plenty of genuine boaters and received some good leads and interest. The Ray White Marine NZ team was also pleased with the leads it received, including repeat visitors to the show.

Brett Hana travelled from Melbourne to display Dockpro's leading-edge dry dock systems and was impressed by the relevance of the sales leads they received. Suppliers such as Evolution Sails and Brin Wilson Boatbuilders, representing the Flexiteek synthetic decking product, both finished the show with a long list of quotes to produce for new customers.

ABOVE LEFT The Blake NZ Virtual Reality seminars were a hit with show visitors.
ABOVE RIGHT NZ Marine President Tracey Stevenson presented Peter Busfield with a certificate of appreciation for his thirty-plus years of service to the marine industry. At right are Danny Bassi of Boatgear (exhibitor function sponsor) and Show Manager Stacey Cook.

Exhibitors and patrons alike enjoyed the perfect boat show weather.

Antifoul specialists also enjoyed the event, with Richard Cleave of Hullwell indicating that he finished the show with an order book he couldn't be happier with. Lusty and Blundell's Mark Millburn said the opportunity to connect with others in the marine trade and profile the brand was excellent.

Danielle Blackmore of Pantaenius Boat Insurance also reported a very worthwhile event. It was also a good springboard for the team from Whangārei Marinas, who used the show to generate interest in the next stage of their new marina development at Ōkāra and to promote Whangārei as a destination for all things marine.

Introducing a new product into the market requires commitment to building relationships, and for electric boat specialists Naut, the show was an opportunity to streamline that process by seeing many people in one place. Ross Williamson of South Pacific Diesel Systems also said seeing clients at the show the show saves weeks of travelling time.

An estimated 1200 trips were taken from the show's Sea Trial zone, where Yamaha New Zealand started the show with a live demonstration of its freshly launched Helm Master Ex wireless control system on Breakfast TV. Yamaha brought five boats to the show to showcase its technology on the water and were busy with sea trials and demonstrations throughout the four days.

Richard Shaw of Mercury Marine said the show's on-water format continues to be the reason for its success. "Jellicoe Harbour is an unbeatable location for a boat show – people don't just look at the boats, they can see them on the water and truly experience what they're capable of."

NZ Marine President Tracey Stevenson said feedback from visitors was overwhelmingly positive. "It was a great time to get together and catch up, and we enjoyed four days of magnificent weather."

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25 YEARS

Showcasing excellence and innovation

"It's all about the boats, the equipment and the industry"
– Peter Busfield reflects on 25 editions of the Auckland Boat Show

IN 1997 PETER WAS APPOINTED the first Executive Director of the Boating Industry Association of New Zealand, which until then had been run by volunteers. Now, with 520 members providing most of the industry's $3 billion domestic and export sales, NZ Marine is recognised as one of the country's most respected trade associations.

When he started planning the first Auckland Boat Show, which took place in summer 1999, Peter had never organised a boat show before, let alone a major event on public waterfront space. But from the early days he – and the people around him – could see the need for a boat show that was organised by the industry, for the industry.

"Our mandate has always been to create a show serving the needs for the exhibitors, our members," says Peter. "For many exhibitors, the Auckland Boat Show is their main marketing and sales platform. It can take a potential customer one or two years to consider the options and buy a new boat – a longer time taken than buying a house for most people – so the repeat interactions year after year are invaluable."

The on-water section the show is justly famous for featuring at least 100 boats, measuring 8 to 30 metres in length and including power cruisers and keel boats.

Personal connections are a big part of the show, not only for clients engaging with the industry but also for the exhibitors and industry members networking and socialising with their peers from New Zealand and overseas. Alongside the main activities, the show also hosts industry seminars and meetings, including a morning tea for marine industry stalwarts where past owners and CEOs of the industry gather and reminisce.

"Making time for networking is the reason why the show finishes at 6pm each night," says Peter. "We have more than 400 people attending the exhibitor function, making it the largest gathering of the industry on the events calendar and also an opportunity for VIPs like our mayor and even the Prime Minister to experience the marine industry at its best."

Another remarkable fact about the show is the work that it enables. Surpluses from the show support lobbying and representation work, and promote boating as a lifestyle, as well as enabling NZ Marine to successfully retain its own controlled apprenticeship program (MAST). Another of the outcomes Peter is proud of is the retention of large parts of Wynyard Quarter for marine activities and events such as Sail GP and the Boat Show, amidst huge pressure for residential and commercial repurposing.

The first show was held in 1999.

Being able to display members' yachts, launches and large trailer power boats on the water at the show is the major attraction. Peter says that the location in Jellicoe Harbour, with music, restaurants and a festive atmosphere, has positioned the Auckland Boat Show as world-leading.

"Also, as the market for larger trailer boats has increased, we've seen the advantage of offering sea trials at the show, and expanded that offering. It's summer, and people can experience a boat ride and great atmosphere. The show is also a great place for Coastguard NZ to demonstrate its large rescue vessels and at the same time provide boating safety tips to show visitors."

He believes that the show's recipe for success is simple: "It's all about the latest boats, marine equipment and industry players. We We support member companies, with no sideshows for the sake of additional show revenue."

PETER WOULD LIKE TO THANK:
NZ Marine's boat show policy committee: Tracey Stevenson (President NZ Marine/Lloyd Stevenson Boatbuilders), Dean Harris (Rayglass), Mark Millburn (Lusty & Blundell), Ross Williamson (Chair Big Engine Group/ South Pacific Diesel Systems), Tim Porter (Marine Media, Boating NZ Magazine), Kingsley Fink (Tristram Marine), Jason Snashall (Chair Brokers Group/Orakei Marine), Richard Shaw (Chair Outboard Motor Group/Mercury Marine), and Stacey Cook (NZ Marine Events and Export Manger).

He also acknowledges the long-term support of Auckland Council; Viaduct Holdings Ltd; Total Floats and STF Group, the contractors who have constructed the marina structures every year; and the event managers who have planned and overseen the event through its 25 editions over the past 27 years, including Caroline Gibson, Jayshree Dayal, Michelle Khan, Kerry Ellis, and now Stacey Cook.

Women in Marine

Women in Marine event celebrates female participation in marine industry

Fake it till you make it — and you might discover you're doing much better than you think. This was the positive message behind the opening session of the 25th Auckland Boat Show, which focused on women in the marine industry.

THE BREAKFAST EVENT, which attracted round 115 participants to the Viaduct Events Centre, was hosted by marine entrepreneur and advocate Nicky Vaux, also known as The Boat Princess. On the panel were Hillary Buckman, publisher of Ocean Media; Isabell Zitzelsberger, founder of the Wild Chix outdoor skills community; and Olympian and America's Cup sailor Jo Aleh.

NZ Marine President Tracey Stevenson introduces the event and convenor Nicky Vaux.

"Women bring a different perspective and management style to the table, which improves the efficiency and success of any business," says Nicky. "An event like this with a majority of female attendees gives us the different space that we need to focus on women. We have all faced the challenges and we can share the moments and ideas of how to counteract that and how to progress."

The morning's discussion centred around 'imposter syndrome', and how women in the industry can overcome feelings of self-doubt.

Hillary Buckman said women shouldn't try to do it all. "You can't rule the world and be the mum and the partner all at the same time. Anyone who is telling you woman can do it all is lying."

As someone who had raised two children while running a major media business, she said women had to recognise their strengths. "What women have to contribute to the industry is different to men, on boards and in business — both organisational skills and bringing a different mindset."

Jo Aleh, who has won two Olympic sailing medals and is now sailing in the largely male Team New Zealand, told attendees that while she has had her share of rejection over the years, this is a great time to be a female athlete or sailor. "Times have changed and it's a very different landscape now to five or ten years ago. I'm the first female sailor on the team, and now we're bringing two more women on."

She also notes that when people's expectations of you are low, it's much easier to exceed them. Sometimes it's a matter of "fake it till you make it", she said, and "I think the guys are doing the same thing. Confidence goes a long way."

ABOVE Speakers (from left) Hillary Buckman, Jo Aleh and Isabell Zitzelsberger.

Isabell Zitzelsberger says it helps to know the market and believe in what you have to offer. "Every day I feel I don't know what I am doing but I research and I learn. We're always chasing the next big thing . . . but we need to look back and see how far we've come.

"When you feel imposter syndrome, it means you're operating outside your comfort zone, so you need to weaponise that and use it to grow. See it as a growing pain and work through it."

More than 110 women in the industry attended the event.

Marine Stalwarts Function

LEFT Ross Blackman, Hugh Stewart, Peter Allan and Tony Whiting.

BELOW RIGHT Colin Palmer, Tony Whiting and Chris McMullen.

Industry stalwarts gather at 25th Auckland Boat Show

NZ Marine hosted the annual Marine Stalwarts gathering at the Viaduct Events Centre on 6 March, during the Auckland Boat Show.

THIS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL EVENT was attended by over 50 marine industry icons. It has been held annually for the past fifteen years, to thank long-term members for their roles in shaping and developing the New Zealand marine industry into what it is today.

Guests enjoyed a morning tea and industry updates from NZ Marine Executive Director Peter Busfield and NZ Marine President Tracey Stevenson, who also took the opportunity to thank Peter for his 30-plus years of outstanding service to the New Zealand marine industry. Guests were then invited to explore the boat show.

LEFT Garry Lock and Terry Gillespie.
BELOW LEFT Stalwarts of the marine industry gather and share stories.
BELOW RIGHT Judith Marshall, Keith Eade and Vice President Jason Dickey.

Superyacht Welcome

New Zealand welcomes 30 visiting superyachts

New Zealand's annual Superyacht Welcome Function, the largest superyacht networking event in the Southern Hemisphere, was held on Auckland's waterfront on 4 December 2025.

ORGANISED BY NZ MARINE, the gathering brought together representatives from 52 marine businesses and crew from around 30 visiting superyachts. The event provided a vibrant environment for captains, crew and industry suppliers to connect, share experiences and build relationships at the start of the cruising season.

NZ Marine Executive Director Peter Busfield welcomed attendees, thanking captains and crew for choosing New Zealand and acknowledging the sponsors who support the event each year. He highlighted the strength of New Zealand's superyacht sector and the warm hospitality extended to visiting vessels.

The evening enabled crew to engage directly with specialists across refit, maintenance, equipment supply and support services, while also exchanging cruising knowledge with peers. New Zealand's favourable regulations for visiting yachts were also emphasised, including a 21-month temporary import period, tax concessions for refit work, and expanding marina and shipyard facilities across Auckland, Northland and Tauranga. These combined advantages reinforce New Zealand's reputation as an efficient and attractive destination for both superyacht cruising and refit work.

nzmarine.com
superyachtnewzealand.com

TOP Peter Busfield welcomes more than 200 industry and superyacht guests.
ABOVE RIGHT From left: Leighton Chan, Roy Charlton, Peter Busfield and Mark Wightman.
ABOVE From left: Clive Bennett, Richard Bicknell, David Minors, John Vitali, Owen Rutter and Gareth Wilson.

SUPERYACHT NEW ZEALAND

2025 Superyacht Welcome Function

Brought to you by NZ Marine and proudly supported by

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37 South
ATTEST
Auckland Boat Show
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Bravo Mike Maritime
Centro Marine
DM Marine Electronics
Doyle Sails
ENL Electronic Navigation
Fosters Harken
General Marine Services
Glengarry Wines
GMTS Group
HMB Marine Electrical
Holton Marine
Hybrid Electrical
IMED
Integrated Marine Group
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Ocean Independence
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Tidal Yachting
TNL Pindar
Viking Crew
Vining Marine Northland
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Yachting Developments

NZ Marine Industry Conference 2025

Navigating the Future

Under the theme "Navigating the Future", the NZ Marine Industry Conference 2025 brought together 140 delegates, 23 expert speakers and 10 supporting sponsors in what was the largest and most dynamic gathering in the event's history.

THE YEAR'S CONFERENCE, at the waterfront Trinity Wharf Hotel in Tauranga from 11-13 August and expertly emceed by Ross Blackman, explored technology and forward-focused strategies that are steering New Zealand's $3 billion marine sector toward global leadership. Attendees brought with them innovative ideas and the conference vibe demonstrated New Zealand's marine industry is in good heart and facing an exciting future.

Marine industry leaders, from as far afield as the Bay of Islands and Invercargill, convened for two days of presentations, group discussions, networking and sessions that inspired and informed. Trailblazers in the field of AI, Justin Flitter of New Zealand AI and Craig Fenton of Fenton Innovation, gave powerful and eye-opening sessions on the capabilities of AI, providing delegates with plenty of inspiration to take back to their workplaces. NZ Marine's training organisation MAST Academy also shared how it is utilising AI to drastically reduce the time needed to develop new qualifications and resources to train the industry's apprentices and workforce.

The conference was also an opportunity for an update session following on from the 2023 'Powering Up Boating' panel. Representatives from Q-West Boatbuilders, EV Maritime, Vessev and Naut demonstrated their progress in sustainable power solutions, electric propulsion systems, hybrid technology and foiling vessels, underscoring a commitment to clean, efficient boating. Conference delegates were also able to enjoy exhilarating demo rides, from

TOP Sir Peter Maire (left) in session with MC Ross Blackman.

ABOVE Sam Woolford of Legasea.

RIGHT Delegates engaged in the AI workshop run by Justin Flitter.

LEFT Craig Fenton of Fenton Innovation inspired delegates to embrace AI.

Delegates enjoyed the experience of electric boating aboard the Naut-powered *Game Changer*.

> Attendees brought with them innovative ideas, and the conference vibe demonstrated New Zealand's marine industry is in good heart and facing an exciting future.

the hotel wharf, on the newly launched 8 metre electric powerboat from Whangarei-based company Naut (pictured top of page).

Export strategies were another key focus of the event, with the founder of Navman and past director of Fusion, Sir Peter Maire, sharing what he had learned from his many business ventures, on developing new products, successful exporting and international marketing and distribution methods. Executive Director of Export NZ Joshua Tan enlightened delegates on the challenges and opportunities provided by the US-initiated tariff wars.

Beyond the technology and trend forecasting, the conference offered the perfect opportunity for marine industry leaders to connect and collaborate. The evening of Tuesday, 12 August, featured a lively conference dinner, where attendees were entertained by renowned New Zealand comedian Ben Hurley — a light-hearted end to a day filled with insight and innovation.

In opening the conference, President Tracey Stevenson said it was great to see so many people in the industry get together to celebrate successes and look into the future. NZ Marine Executive Director Peter Busfield added, "We're proud to see so many industry leaders uniting to navigate the future, together. This is key to our success."

NZ Marine is grateful for the support of headline sponsors Abbott Insurance Brokers and MAST Academy of NZ, supported by Altus Aluminium Industrial, One NZ, ENL, Onfire Design, RSM New Zealand, Q-West Boatbuilders, NAUT and NZ Marine Export Group.

ABOVE RIGHT Industry attendees (from left) Mark Addis, Mark Wightman, Richard Thorpe, Hayden McCrorie and Phil McCattin.

RIGHT From left: Dave Ridley, Ian Cook, Lloyd Stevenson and Michael Eaglen.

LEFT From left: Mark Harnett, Adrian Hogg, Melissa Rewi, Mat Hooper and Blair Geldard.

Moana Auckland Festival

28 February - 15 March 2026

The 2025 Auckland Boat Show was a centrepiece event of the Moana Auckland Festival.

Moana Auckland Festival turns it on

New Zealand's Ocean Festival returned for its third edition from 28 February to 15 March 2026, bringing Auckland's waterfront to life with three weeks of ocean-inspired experiences. This vibrant celebration honours our maritime heritage and deep connection to the moana, creating a unique atmosphere where culture, community, and creativity meet.

THE FESTIVAL FEATURED BELOVED FAVOURITES such as the Z Manu World Champs, the Auckland Boat Show, and the Auckland Wooden Boat Festival, alongside exciting new additions that made the 2026 event unforgettable. Among these was the Moana Auckland Shoreline Social on the opening weekend at the Eastern Viaduct, a fresh experience designed to capture the essence of summer by the sea.

Moana Auckland Shoreline Social

28 February - 1 March

Moana Auckland Shoreline Social happening on the opening weekend is the first taste of the Moana Auckland, a weekend hangout filled with great food, live music and sunshine by the water. Visitors immersed themselves in ocean stories, savoured kai moana and kina tastings, and took part in weaving workshops that showcased traditional skills and knowledge. Moana Auckland Shoreline Social was the place to meet up, try something new and enjoy the very best of moana by the waterfront.

LEFT Auckland Boat Show was a highlight of Moana Auckland.

BELOW Sail GP turned on the action on the Waitematā.

BELOW LEFT The beautiful boats on display at the Wooden Boat Festival attracted a crowd.

Auckland Boat Show

5-8 March 2026

The 25th Auckland Boat Show was a great success and was a centrepiece event for Moana Auckland. See pages 9 to 11 for the full report.

Z Manu World Championships

28 February - 14 March 2026

The Z Manu World Champs was a grand celebration of a beloved kiwi pastime - the Manu or (dive) bomb, perfected by enthusiasts at wharves, pools and secret spots throughout the country. No one Manus like Kiwis and the Z Manu World Champs proved it this summer! Qualifying rounds for the Z Manu World Champs were held in Auckland on 28th Feb - 1 March and the 7-8 March. The Grand Final was held on March 14 where the World Champions were crowned in front of an excited crowd.

manuworldchamps.com

ITM New Zealand Sail Grand Prix

14 and 15 February

The ITM New Zealand Sail Grand Prix held in Auckland was another breathtaking event, with no shortage of drama. Over the weekend, in front of the largest waterfront grandstand of the tour, the Waitematā Harbour delivered very challenging conditions. The 13 teams competing in the Rolex SailGP Championship were tested by a tight course and fresh, gusty winds, which saw the New Zealand and French teams knocked out after a horror crash in race 3 on the Saturday.

The event came to a dramatic close with an Australian win on local waters on Sunday 15 February. The three teams competing in the final – Australia, Emirates GBR and Spain – were all former event winners, and the final was tightly contested.

sailgp.com

Auckland Wooden Boat Festival

13-15 March

From 13–15 March 2026, the Viaduct Events Centre and Jellicoe Harbour was once again a sea of wooden boats and a true celebration of Auckland's maritime history.

This festival brings together the craftsmanship, heritage, and community spirit of New Zealand's classic boats, with activities for all ages. Spread across four iconic waterfront venues including the Viaduct Events Centre, Jellicoe Harbour, the New Zealand Maritime Museum, and the Percy Vos Heritage Boat Shed, it was a highlight of the Moana Auckland Festival.

aucklandwoodenboatfestival.co.nz

Whangārei Maritime Festival 2025

Whangārei Maritime Festival 2025 Showcases Northland's Marine Sector

The 2025 Whangārei Maritime Festival again positioned Whangārei's Town Basin as a working showcase of Northland's maritime capability, attracting more than 20,000 visitors across the weekend of 11-12 October.

TOP The festival showcased Whangārei's strong marine industry and heritage.

ABOVE *Iona M*, a 23.95 metre utility workboat operated by Heron Construction, was popular with festival visitors.

THE FESTIVAL PROVIDED STRONG visibility for the region's marine industry, from traditional craft through to modern commercial and electric vessels.

Unlike a conventional boat show, the festival deliberately presents vessels of different eras, functions and build types, reflecting the diversity of boats operating in New Zealand waters. Two voyaging waka, *Okeanos Palau* and *Hinemoana*, were on display this year, underscoring the cultural importance of ocean voyaging in the Pacific and Aotearoa.

On the innovation front, *Game Changer*, a locally built fully electric boat, attracted interest from industry professionals interested in alternative propulsion systems and sustainability trends within the sector.

One of the most popular commercial vessels at the event was *Iona M*, a utility workboat owned and operated by Heron Construction. *Iona M* is a 23.95 metre multi-cat utility vessel built in 2011, with a beam of 9.54 metres and a gross tonnage of approximately 164 tonnes. The vessel performs a range of marine-support roles including anchor handling, dredge support, supply, towing, hose handling and survey work. Capable of approximately 25 tonnes bollard pull and around 10 knots service speed, it was one of the most photographed and visited boats over the weekend.

New to the programme this year was the Boatyard Challenge — a practical building and racing activity using recycled materials supplied by Northland Waste — which showcased basic marine construction principles.

Complementing the on-water display, the festival programme included live music, maritime talks and market stalls, ensuring broad industry and community engagement. The 2025 event reinforced the role of the Whangārei Maritime Festival as a practical forum for celebrating skills, innovation and the enduring importance of the marine environment in Northland.

whangareimaritimefestival.co.nz

Hutchwilco NZ Boat Show 2026

70 Years Hooked on Boating and Fishing: 2026 Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show

The Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show, which returns to Auckland Showgrounds from 14–17 May, marks a milestone, as the country's longest-running boat show celebrates 70 years.

SINCE ITS EARLIEST DAYS, the Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show has evolved alongside the country's boating and fishing culture. In 2026, that legacy is front and centre, with special activations and a programme designed to honour the past while showcasing the very latest in marine innovation. With more than 40 new companies on board, emerging technology and fresh industry releases, the show has cemented itself as New Zealand's largest marketplace for boating and fishing.

Alongside the anniversary celebrations, visitors can expect a host of new features at this year's show. Families are firmly in focus, with new kids' and women's fishing workshops hosted by Nicky Wilson, designed to introduce beginners to fishing skills in a fun, inclusive, hands-on environment.

The New SnapCatch Fishing Competition will run for six weeks prior to the show, with prizegiving to take place at the show on Saturday 16 May. The prize pool is valued at over $15,000 and anyone across the motu is welcome to compete. Eight species can be entered into the competition.

The hugely popular Shimano Masterclasses return in 2026, once again offering anglers the chance to learn directly from some of the country's most respected professionals. Confirmed Shimano Pro Staff include Matt Watson, Chad Prentice and Dan Govier, with sessions covering big-game fishing, surfcasting and snapper tactics.

There will also be free kids' entertainment including bumper boats, a rodeo shark and a giant inflatable pirate ship, and an expanded Kai Collective food and beverage zone.

The Safety and Education Seminars return with updated content, including Coastguard bar-crossing sessions, VHF communications, lifejacket and EPIRB safety, and immersive experiences for kids through the Blake NZ VR underwater programme. The Hutchwilco Pool will again host demonstrations focused on safety, drowning prevention and practical on-water skills.

To celebrate the 70th anniversary, organisers have announced the largest grand prize ever offered at the show: a Surtees/Yamaha prize package valued at over $380,000. The boat is fully loaded, featuring Garmin electronics, bow thruster with Helm Master integration, Zipwake trim control, premium lighting, sound system, custom wrap and a tandem axle trailer from The Trailer Shop. Shimano has contributed an impressive $10,000 rod and reel package, while Hutchwilco and O'Brien Water Sports have teamed up on a $4000 watersports bundle.

Attendees will also have the chance to win one of four Viking kayaks, with daily giveaways on all four days of the show.

From heritage displays to cutting-edge innovation, the 2026 Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show will be a celebration of everything that has made the event an institution for seven decades, while firmly looking ahead to the future of boating and fishing in Aotearoa.

boatshow.co.nz

Boating After 5 Events

Navico Group
Auckland – 8 May 2025

Over 100 members enjoyed the Boating After 5 function at Navico Group on 8 May. Members enjoyed the chance to view the impressive new Navico premises, including design, manufacture and distribution, in Albany, Auckland and to network with their industry peers.

NAVICO GROUP CEO Jarrad Sagar gave an informative presentation on the growth of the company, from its origins as Navman in 2001 to the present day as part of the Brunswick Group.

ABOVE LEFT From left: Lloyd Stevenson, Tracey Stevenson, Debbie Howarth and Ricky Jakaus. **ABOVE CENTRE** Navico's Doug Anderson demonstrates the lobby display to guests. **ABOVE RIGHT** From left: Adrian Hogg, Lachlan Trembath and Blair Geldard.

MAST Academy campus
- 30 April 2025

Members enjoyed a Boating After 5 function at the MAST Academy new campus at Westgate, Auckland on 30 April.

SINCE LAUNCHING the new MAST campus in February 2025, two cohorts of students had been fully engaged in the pre-trade course, A Taste of Marine Trades on the site.

Members enjoyed viewing the campus facility and meeting the MAST team, and heard about plans for a larger campus and the exciting industry opportunities ahead.

TOP LEFT MAST CEO Chris van der Hor addresses guests.

TOP RIGHT Smuggler Marine team with Tracey Stevenson.

ABOVE RIGHT From left: Peter Thomson, Joe Daw and Terry Bailey.

RIGHT Members enjoyed networking and exploring the MAST campus.

LEFT From left: Richard Kestle, Genevieve Walden, Steve Collinson, Steven Ferguson and Chris Mellow.

Q-West Boat Builders – 11 February 2026

The first Boating After 5 of 2026 was held at Q-West Boat Builders in Whanganui on 11 February.

THE EVENING ALSO MARKED PETER BUSFIELD'S final Boating After 5, with Q-West owner (and former NZ Marine President) Myles Fothergill acknowledging Peter's 30 years of outstanding leadership and service to the marine industry.

Attendees were able to view Q-West's second hybrid ferry nearing completion for Auckland Transport, plus two patrol vessels under construction for police in Auckland and Victoria, Australia.

The event was enjoyed by more than 60 NZ Marine members from as far afield as Whangārei, Nelson and Christchurch.

ABOVE From left: Myles Fothergill, Whanganui Mayor Andrew Tripe, Peter Busfield.

LEFT Q-West's second hybrid ferry nearing completion.

Elite Marine and Weber Marine – 16 October 2025

Over 70 members gathered at Weber Marine at Auckland's Gulf Harbour Marina to attend the joint Weber Marine and Elite Marine Boating After 5 function.

ATTENDEES WERE INVITED to view Weber Marine's latest project, a stunning 22 metre flybridge motor yacht designed by Elite Marine Design. Guests heard from Braden Weber of Weber Marine and designer Bill Upfold of Elite Marine on the development of the project.

The event offered a unique opportunity to experience the vessel as it neared completion and to witness the craftsmanship and innovation it showcased.

ABOVE Paul Powney and Blair Geldard.

BELOW From left: Richard Thorpe, Brad Watson, Hamish Moore and Hayden Whitburn.

Rotterdam, in the Aroma Aquaculture fleet, built by Aimex to work on open-ocean sub-surface mussel farms.

Commercial sector running hot

While on the surface the recent Auckland Boat Show had a recreational focus, the commercial side of the industry was also there in full force to meet, connect and do business – and interact with the latest equipment including engines and power systems, electronics, paints and antifoul coatings.

NZ MARINE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PETER BUSFIELD pointed to the success of locally designed and manufactured ferries (including hybrid and electric models), search and rescue craft, fishing vessels and specialist vessels used by navies, police, customs, and eco-tourism vessels around the world.

"The exchange rate, our reputation for high-quality craftsmanship and our expertise at aluminium boatbuilding in particular mean that New Zealand is in demand at the moment," he said. "You don't have to look far from home to see how well we do in these specialised areas – the one hundred boats used by the New Zealand Police and Coastguard are locally built, fifty support boats were built here and shipped to Barcelona for the 2024 America's Cup and similar boats are heading to Australia, the South Pacific and Europe – this is a market with huge potential for New Zealand."

Waikare II, built by Circa Marine for Northland Regional Council.

Many of these are highlighted in the new 2026 Commercial Vessel Directory, a comprehensive showcase of New Zealand's commercial boatbuilding, naval architecture, marine engineering, vessel repair, maintenance, and refit capability.

The directory profiles the depth of New Zealand's commercial ship and workboat expertise and highlights the innovation, technical excellence and global competitiveness that have earned the country an international reputation for delivering world-class commercial vessels.

The first of two electric ferries being built for Auckland Transport by Q-West.

Peter Busfield said while member companies operate independently, the Commercial Vessels Group provides a coordinated 'umbrella' under the leadership of the NZ Marine Industry Association. This structure presents the collective capability of the sector as a formidable, integrated one-stop-shop for commercial vessel projects and services. "By working collaboratively, member companies can deliver comprehensive, turnkey solutions to both domestic and international markets with greater efficiency and scale.

"New Zealand's marine industry is widely respected as one of the most innovative and efficient creators of high-technology vessels and marine equipment in the world. From advanced aluminium and composite craft to specialist workboats and complex offshore support vessels, New Zealand companies continue to deliver robust, high-performance solutions to demanding operators both nationally and worldwide."

nzmarinevessels.com

New NZ Marine Commercial Vessels directory released

The New Zealand Marine Commercial Vessels Sector Group has released the 2026 Commercial Vessel Directory, a comprehensive showcase of New Zealand's commercial boatbuilding, naval architecture, marine engineering, vessel repair, maintenance and refit capability.

THE NEW DIRECTORY PROFILES the depth of New Zealand's commercial ship and workboat expertise, and highlights the innovation, technical excellence and global competitiveness that have earned the country an international reputation for delivering world-class commercial vessels.
Members of the New Zealand Marine Commercial Vessels group provide products and services across a broad spectrum of commercial vessel operations, including:

- **Ferries – passenger and vehicular – hybrid and electric**
- **Search and rescue craft**
- **RHIBs and tenders**
- **Fishing vessels**
- **Harbour support craft**
- **Cruise, charter, and expedition vessels**
- **Police, customs and patrol vessels**
- **Naval specialist surface craft**
- **Offshore support vessels**
- **Survey, seismic and research vessels**
- **Eco-tourism vessels**

Meetings in Auckland and Whanganui

THE COMMERCIAL VESSEL GROUP, chaired by Jeff Porter, held their 2025 meeting on 8 May at the impressive premises of the Navico Group in Albany, Auckland. NZ Marine Executive Director Peter Busfield gave attendees an industry update and an overview of current activities and promotions. Members also heard updates from Margaret Wind of the Marine Transport Association and Chris van der Hor, CEO of MAST Academy.

Another productive meeting of the Commercial Vessel Group was held at Q-West Boatbuilders in Whanganui on 11 February 2026. Over 30 group members heard from Whanganui Port Chair Mark Peterson and owner of Q-West Myles Fothergill, on the port development, and from Whanganui Mayor Andrew Tripe on doing business in the city.

Peter Busfield gave members a further update on NZ Marine activities, including the release of the updated Commercial Vessel Directory at the 2026 Auckland Boat Show.

Following the meeting members joined more than 30 additional members who had travelled from far and wide for the Q-West Boat Builders-hosted Boating After 5 function.

ABOVE Meeting held at Q-West.

LEFT Meeting held at Navico.

Career Pathways with MAST Academy

School to Work & Pre-Trade

New Zealand Apprenticeships

Leadership & Post-Trade

School Experiences:

- School to Work: *Launch it* programme
- Career Expos and Industry Tours

Pre-Trades:

CAMPUS-BASED

- Pre-trade (Level 3) With strands in:
  - Boat Building
  - Composites
  - Marine Systems

Apprenticeships:

- Boatbuilding with specialisations in: Alloy, Composites or Wood (Production & Custom)
- Composites (Level: 3 & 4)
- Engineering
  - Marine Systems
  - Outboard Technician & Powerboat Rigging
- Industrial Textiles
- Marine Coatings (Interior & Exterior)
- Marine Interiors
- Marina Operations
  - Boatyard or Facilities
- Sailmaking
- Yacht Rigging
- Yacht Spar Making

Leadership Training:

- MAST Workplace Trainer
- NZ Certificate in Business
  - Introduction to Team Leadership
- Productivity Excellence
  - NZ Certificate in Competitive Systems and Practices

Post-Trade:

- Project Management
  - NZ Diploma in Vessel Technology Project Management (Level 5)

Visit our **Virtual Expo** and explore the **Career Pathways**

MAST ACADEMY NEW ZEALAND

Chris van der Hor
Chief Executive
MAST Academy

Inside our vision for excellence

There's a certain confidence that comes not from standing still, but from knowing exactly where you're headed. Recently MAST Academy's focus has been on fine-tuning operations and building steady momentum.

Progress for us isn't always marked by big, dramatic leaps, although there have been a few, more often it's the purposeful, day-to-day work that moves things forward – enhancing support for apprentices and learners, developing smarter systems, strengthening industry ties, and a clear vision for what comes next.

A SMOOTHER JOURNEY FOR LEARNERS

For apprentices in training, what often matters is knowing you are supported and feeling that you are making real progress along the way.

Since increasing field visits, MAST Training Advisors have seen a lift in credit completions. Improved digital learning management systems have made it easier for apprentices and learners to access resources, track progress, and stay connected with their advisors. Together with learner journey mapping and stronger frameworks for company workplace trainers, these changes have created clearer visibility of each apprentice's training — making it easier to provide the right support at the right time.

That visibility matters. When apprentices can see how far they've come and what's ahead, it builds confidence, motivation and momentum.

MAST CAMPUS AND PRE-TRADES TRAINING

What began as a bold step into pre-trade training has quickly gathered pace. Setting up a campus and laying the groundwork for something larger was no small undertaking, but what's followed has made it clear it was the right call.

Since the campus launch in 2025 and following a review of that first intake, the programme was expanded and strengthened, evolving from a 12-week course into a new six-month certificate qualification, which welcomed its first cohort in February 2026.

Aimed for school leavers and career changers, the campus-based training provides a strong foundation to launch careers, creating a pipeline of motivated, work-ready people for industry.

BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP COURSES

Our business and leadership programmes continue to go from strength to strength, with many companies now enrolling multiple team members – a clear sign of the value they're seeing.

Recently, we launched a new and unique qualification, the NZ Diploma in Vessel Technology Project Management, supporting professionals leading complex projects across the marine and aerospace sectors.

These programmes are designed to support career pathways, whether straight after an apprenticeship or at key stages in a career, giving skilled tradespeople the confidence to lead people, manage projects and deliver results beyond their technical expertise.

Our lean management courses run year-round and are tailored specifically to our industries, helping businesses lift operational excellence while embedding more sustainable ways of working.

EMBRACING INNOVATION

As part of our early move into AI, we're continuing to improve the learning experience. The partnership with SupaHuman AI, our own MAST Intelligence, is another step forward, streamlining resource and programme development.

LOOKING AHEAD

While we've made significant progress, we know there's more to do. Our approach has always been industry-led, through regular forums and close engagement with our partners. This collaboration is also shaping what comes next, with a strong focus on anticipating future skills demand.

Looking ahead, our priorities are clear: strengthen apprentice retention and completion, expand support for regions, and communities, and use sharper data insights to guide decision-making.

We're also working closely with the new Industry Skills Boards to make sure our programmes stay aligned with national and industry priorities. It's steady, purposeful work that doesn't always make headlines, but it's exactly what keeps vocational education and the industries we serve, moving forward.

Pakuranga College student Leah Martin (left) with apprentice Aimee Dawson from The Boatbuilders, Half Moon Bay.

From school to industry

Many students don't realise what careers are possible until they see the industry up close. That's where MAST Academy's *Launch it* – School to Work programme comes in.

Through career expos, roadshows, classroom sessions and hands-on experience, the MAST team works directly with schools to introduce students to the skilled trades within the marine and specialised technologies sectors, helping them build a clearer picture of the career pathways available.

HOW THE 'LAUNCH IT' PROGRAMME WORKS

For Year 12 and 13 students, the journey begins by connecting with a MAST Pathways Consultant, either directly or through their school careers teacher. From there, MAST helps students explore career options and identify where their interests lie. Students are then matched with potential employers, giving them the opportunity to interview and present themselves – taking that first exciting step into a possible career.

Once placed, students typically spend one to two days a week on the job while continuing their studies at school. Alongside gaining practical skills, they can also earn NCEA credits, which can count towards a future apprenticeship.

INDUSTRY SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The programme goes beyond just skills training – it's about helping young people discover their potential, gain confidence and see that a fulfilling career can start with a skilled trade.

It's a model that creates a win on both sides. Students discover an exciting trade career and gain early industry exposure. While industry can really get to know motivated, work ready young people prepared to show their potential to likely employers.

Industry Tour: Students visit Dickey Boats in Napier.

A visit to Sealegs in Auckland gives teachers a behind-the-scenes look at industry in action.

VR headsets are a hit at career expos, giving students an immersive look into the marine industry.

Shape a career. Discover your next apprentice

Help students explore trades, gain skills and launch their careers, while meeting potential apprentices for your business.

Want to know more? Contact us. Email: careers@mastacademy.com

Launch it SCHOOL TO WORK

Campus pre-trade students in action

There's something fitting about a group of pre-trade students learning their craft by building stand-up paddleboards. It's practical, hands-on work – and if all goes to plan, the end result floats.

MAST Academy's 2026 campus students began their six-month pre-trade certificate in February and have approached the paddleboard project with enthusiasm.

Guiding them is tutor Art Doodes, a third-generation cabinetmaker whose career spans both fine furniture and the marine industry. For Art, the project is about more than just the finished product. "It's more than just theory, it's the kind of experience that only comes from getting in there and making something real," he says

The six-month programme covers three strands: boatbuilding, composites and marine systems, followed by industry work experience.

Once the paddleboard is complete, students move on to the marine systems engineering component. "The idea of dismantling an engine and putting it back together is already creating a buzz," says Art. "They started not knowing what to expect and within a few weeks, they're asking the right questions and backing themselves – so they are definitely up for the next challenge!"

Looking ahead, MAST's sights are firmly set on its future purpose-built campus. "We're preparing for where the industry is heading," says Chris van der Hor, "with the ultimate goal of creating a technology centre of excellence." For now, MAST's interim campus is the right place to start, offering a practical pathway into the industry. "By the end of the course, these students will leave with practical skills, industry insight and the confidence to take the next step."

As a leading boatbuilding employer mentioned: "If they come to us with their eyes wide open, having tested the waters and chosen boatbuilding, combined with a solid foundation of skills, that makes them valuable team members from day one."

> If you're an industry partner interested in connecting with MAST's pre-trade training, we'd love to hear from you.
>
> Email **careers@mastacademy.com**

Build leaders to drive business

MAST's Business and Leadership programmes focus on what really happens in the workplace, helping teams work better together, boost productivity and grow strong leaders.

MAST Academy Workplace Trainer Certificate

An online module for company trainers who support apprentices.

Learning to Lead

NZ Certificate in Business – Introduction to Leadership

This six-month course (delivered over six workshops) combines practical workplace application with leadership development.

Productivity Excellence

NZ Certificate in Competitive Systems and Practice

Introductory and advanced courses run throughout the year, designed for team leaders, managers and business owners ready to embed a culture of continuous improvement.

Project Management

NZ Diploma in Vessel Technology Project Management (Level 5)

This programme is for professionals who want to build their capability and confidence in leading complex vessel technology projects in the marine and aerospace sectors.

Find out more at mastacademy.com

A Celebration of Achievement

2026 MAST Academy Graduation

A real sense of energy and occasion marked the MAST Academy graduation in March, as a record number of graduates gathered at the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron on 4 March 2026. They were supported by proud families, workmates, and the industry partners who helped get them there.

The diversity in the room was a powerful reminder of how far trades training has come across the country – from aerospace and composite manufacturing to custom and production boatbuilding, marine engineering, yacht rigging and sailmaking, outboard servicing and rigging, and advanced textiles.

The evening's motivational address came from Kiwi legend Steve Gurney – nine time Coast to Coast champion, world record holder with one of the country's most compelling comeback stories. His message that resilience is not a trait you're born with, but a skill you can build, landed well with an audience who know better than most what it means to push through the hard yards.

The special award winners, featured here, were a highlight of the night, recognising excellence, potential and the professionals who are shaping the future of our industries. And on the night, the industry stood up to celebrate them!

2026 AWARD WINNERS

For the first time, the **MAST Workplace Trainer Award** was proudly shared by two recipients, a reflection of the exceptional impact both **Clarke Jones** and **Graham Allen** (right) from Rocket Lab have had on the apprentices they train. This shared recognition highlights not only their individual excellence, but also the strength of their collective contribution to workplace learning. Their dedication to sharing knowledge and building capability makes this historic joint award especially well-deserved.

From left: Clarke Jones, Dylan Ewing (Rocket Lab), Graham Allen, Daniel Brookes (Rocket Lab) and Mike Birdsall (MAST Academy)

Luca Symmans from G & T Marine received the **Outstanding Marine Graduate Award**, our longest-standing recognition, celebrating graduates who demonstrate exceptional commitment, skill and dedication to the marine industry. This year, Luca proudly continues a family tradition, following in the footsteps of his father, Grant Symmans (right) who has spent decades building boats and serving the marine community through his own business. Growing up around the trade, Luca has developed a natural aptitude for marine work. A quiet achiever, he combines a strong work ethic with skills beyond his years, bringing precision, dedication, and calm confidence to every task he undertakes. Presented by Tracey Stevenson, NZ Marine President (left), the award recognises Luca's professionalism, perseverance and passion for excellence.

Chathuranga Weeramuni from C-Tech received the **Outstanding Composite Graduate Award**, recognising his dedication, skill, and commitment to the marine and advanced composites sector. He has gained experience across a range of projects, providing a strong foundation for a successful career ahead. Known for his enthusiasm for the trade, Chathuranga consistently demonstrates a willingness to learn, improve, and take on new challenges. Presented by Professor Mark Battley from CANZ (left) and supported by C-Tech Director Chris Kitchen, the award recognises his ongoing commitment to developing his skills and contributing to the industry.

2026 AWARD WINNERS

The **Icehouse Leadership Award** recognises leaders who invest in their people and business. This year's recipient, **Lachlan Trembath** of Ovlov Marine, champions training at all levels, supporting pathways from MAST's *Launch it* – School to Work programme through to apprentices and post-trade professionals. Presented by Andrew Martin (left) from Icehouse, the award reflects his commitment to building capability across the marine industry.

Alex Shaw from Bayswater Marina received the **Outstanding Marina Graduate Award**, recognising his exceptional teamwork, dedication, and leadership within the marina industry. While completing his qualification, Alex has grown into a respected leader, guiding others with patience, skill, and commitment. He is known for his incredible way with people and his willingness to support those around him. The award was presented by Sharron Beck (left) and Kim Passmore (right) of the Marina Operators Association.

Receiving the **Dale Carnegie Emerging Leader Award**, **Lucca Jeanne** from Yachting Developments reflected a journey of growth, resilience and dedication. After facing challenges early in his career, he took time out to travel and gain life experience, returning with renewed focus and determination. Recognised as a mature, hardworking and highly motivated professional, Lucca has been acknowledged in his workplace as an emerging leader. He received the award on graduation night from Brett MacLeod (left) of Dale Carnegie.

The **Industrial Textiles Future Leader Award** recognises craftsmanship, precision, and a commitment to excellence. Although unable to attend graduation, **Adriana Hayden** of Canvas and Covers Whangārei was recognised for her strong skill and attention to detail, with precision stitch work and standout fitted canvas solutions.

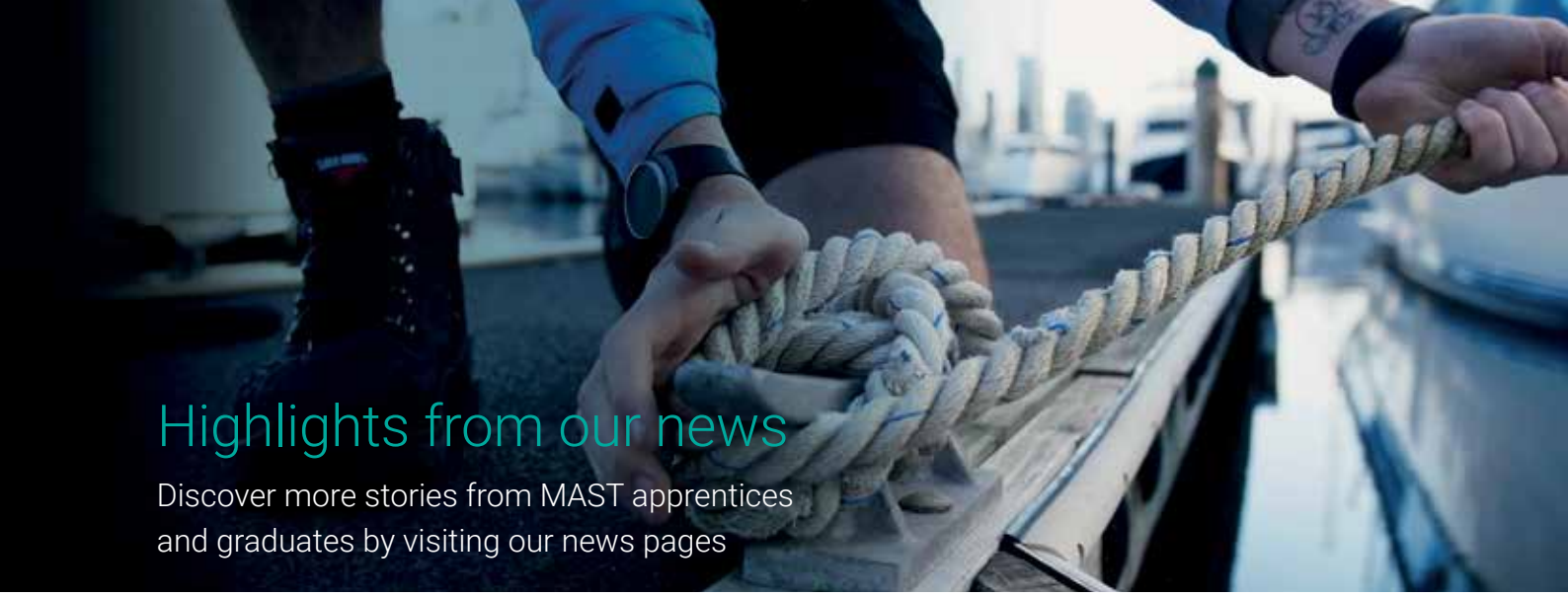
Two outstanding marine professionals will attend the **RYLA** (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) programme in June this year. The week-long, live-in course takes participants out of their comfort zones while building leadership and teamwork with other emerging leaders.

Kyle Jonson of Rayglass Boats has shown initiative, enthusiasm and dedication, along with resilience and a strong work ethic. He received his **RYLA scholarship** from Chris van der Hor, MAST Academy CEO (left), and was proudly supported by Dean Harris, CEO of Rayglass (right).

While unable to attend the graduation ceremony, **Chris Alvey** from Southern Spars was recognised as a **RYLA scholarship** recipient for his positive attitude, determination, and dedication to training. Chris consistently approaches challenges with focus, working hard to achieve his goals.

A special recognition at graduation honoured Peter Busfield, outgoing Executive Director of NZ Marine, for his outstanding contribution to New Zealand's marine sector over three decades. "Peter has been the leading face of our industry for 30 years," said MAST CEO Chris van der Hor, noting that his dedication and tireless efforts have helped shape the industry today. Chris reflected on the scale and impact of the role, from representing members and engaging with government and council policy, to guiding the organisation through significant economic challenges with steady leadership. "Peter has consistently managed to chart a course through it all," he said. "That is no easy feat." Chris also highlighted Peter's role in building and protecting New Zealand's international reputation for marine innovation, quality, and skills, particularly through his strong support for industry training. On behalf of the MAST Academy team and Board, we thank you,"

Peter Busfield (left) and Chris van der Hor



Highlights from our news

Discover more stories from MAST apprentices and graduates by visiting our news pages

Teaching, Tools and 'Eureka' Moments

When MAST's Scale and Lofting tutor Roger Rhodes rolls out the brown paper, he knows something special is about to happen—even if his apprentices don't. For over 25 years, he has turned curious learners into confident thinkers, often spotting that "eureka" moment as it happens. From helping establish boatbuilding courses to seeing former students graduate, Roger's impact is reflected in a teaching style that blends deep industry knowledge with patience, humour, and a knack for making complex ideas click.

One Team, Many Talents

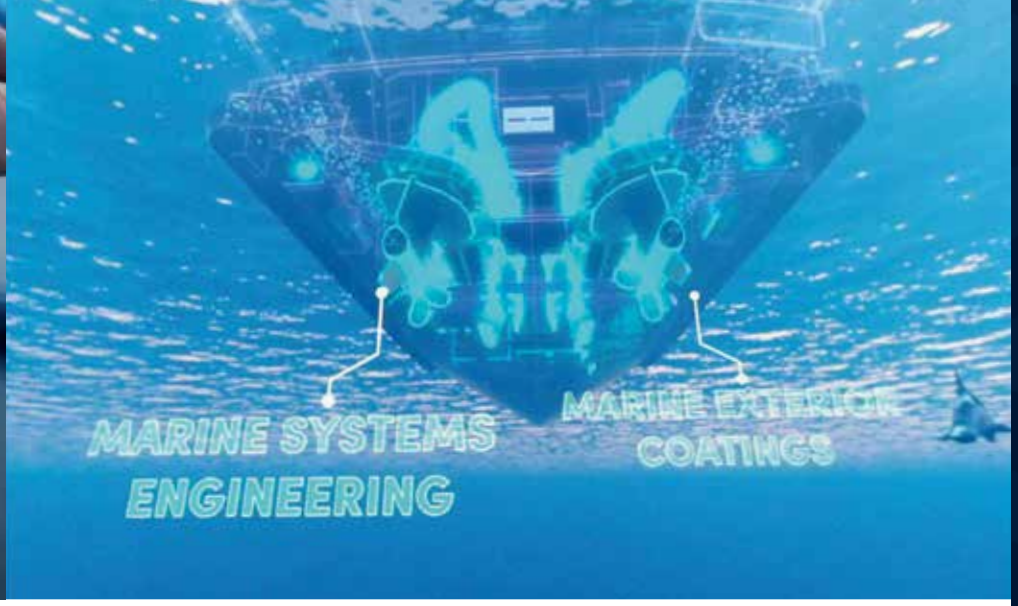
With diverse operations at Haines Hunter Boats, apprentices are building strong career foundations, while team leaders are developing their leadership capabilities. "What's exciting at Haines Hunter Boats is the blend—apprentices just starting their journey working alongside experienced specialists stepping into leadership roles," says MAST Training Advisor Robert Howatson. "You can really see skills accelerating in a business focused on training and growth."

From left: Sam Van Helsdingen, Robert Howatson and Zahn Boyd

Skills That Travel

Peter Gamble from RigPro turned his passion into a global career. During his time based at RigPro in Auckland, he completed his apprenticeship, one that has already taken him from local projects to remote boatyards in places like Finland, Turkey and Thailand, building a diverse skill set in real-world conditions. Peter is combining practical experience with deeper knowledge, laying the foundation for a dynamic and rewarding future in the marine industry.

Scan the QR code here or go to: mastacademy.com/news-video



Building MAST Intelligence: A new era in vocational learning

MAST entered into a strategic partnership with SupaHuman AI in 2025, to develop a purpose-built artificial intelligence solution designed specifically for the needs of New Zealand's marine, composites and specialised industries. Rather than adopting a generic AI tool, our focus has been on creating a system that understands the structure and requirements of New Zealand Qualifications Authority unit standards and reflects the realities of vocational training and industry practice.

The result of this work is MAST Intelligence – an AI-powered learning resource development platform tailored to our training environment. The platform brings together MAST's existing learning materials and expertise into a single, structured knowledge base built on NZQA aligned, peer reviewed content. By drawing only from trusted, qualification aligned resources developed through years of programme delivery, the system ensures that generated materials remain accurate, relevant and consistent with qualification outcomes.

One of the most significant benefits of MAST Intelligence has been the efficiency it brings to the development and maintenance of learning resources. Tasks that previously required extensive manual effort can now be completed far more quickly, allowing our team to update study guides, learning activities and supporting materials in a fraction of the time. This enables MAST to respond more rapidly to changes in industry practice and training requirements while maintaining high quality standards.

Looking ahead, this custom-built foundation opens the door to the next stage of development: an intelligent learning companion for students. By understanding unit standards, assessment expectations, technical terminology and study resources, MAST Intelligence will be able to provide context aware guidance to learners when they need it. Rather than simply supplying answers, the system will encourage learners to explore concepts, strengthen their understanding, practise assessment tasks and work through real world scenarios at their own pace.

The collaboration with SupaHuman AI represents an important step toward a more innovative and responsive future for vocational education in New Zealand. As the platform evolves, it has the potential to transform how learning resources are developed and how apprentices engage with their training – supporting confidence, capability and lifelong learning across the industries we serve.

MAST was proud to receive the GWC Award from SupaHuman AI, recognising partners who Get it, Want it, and have the Capacity to do it. The award reflects a strong, collaborative partnership, built on shared curiosity and a commitment to using AI to strengthen learning and create meaningful impact for learners.

MAST ACADEMY NEW ZEALAND

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Chris van der Hor

TRAINING MANAGER
Joe Daw

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
Lesley Southwick

TECHNICAL OPERATIONS MANAGER
Erlina Ocdao

TRAINING ADMINISTRATION TEAM LEADER
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PATHWAYS CONSULTANTS – SCHOOL TO WORK
Tracey Eaton

Fiona van der Hor

Amanda Newport (Hawkes Bay)

TRAINING ADMINISTRATORS
Sweet Bromwich

LMS CO-ORDINATOR
Inna Medyannikova

ACCOUNTS ADMINISTRATOR
Helen Roach

IT SUPPORT ADMIN
Ji Woong (Jamie) Park

QUALITY ASSURANCE & PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT LEAD
Michelle de Heer

LEARNING & ASSESSMENT DESIGNER
Rachel Smith-Hanvey

MARKETING LEAD
Fi August

DIGITAL MARKETING SPECIALIST
Shawn Thomas

Marine and Specialised Technologies Academy of New Zealand
09 360 0056
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85 Westhaven Drive, St Marys Bay, Auckland 1011

Customs Update

Temporary Import of Small Craft (including cruising yachts and superyachts) to New Zealand

Approximately 500 cruising yachts and superyachts (all defined as small craft) visit New Zealand each year – mainly for the owners to tour New Zealand and to have maintenance and refits done to the yachts. The NZ Marine Industry Association, with New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) support, provides the following as a guide:

ANY YACHT PLANNING ON VISITING NEW ZEALAND is required to provide advance notice of its arrival to NZ Customs.

Customs' role is to protect the security of New Zealand and the integrity of the revenue regime. Customs make their decisions regarding each visiting small craft from the information provided by the yacht owner including the reasons for temporary importation, the intentions regarding any offering of the craft being for sale, and the length of time the craft will be in New Zealand. The rules regarding the above can be viewed on the NZ Customs website: **www.customs.govt.nz/travel-to-and-from-new-zealand/travel-to-and-from-new-zealand-by-small-craft**

Visiting vessels are encouraged to contact Customs ahead of their arrival if they have any questions about small craft requirements.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL CRAFT (INCLUDING CRUISING YACHTS AND SUPERYACHTS)

- All yachts entering New Zealand are required to be imported into New Zealand, either temporarily or permanently.

TEMPORARY ENTRY

- The temporary entry period is up to 21 months from the date of arrival in New Zealand.
- The 21-month period from the date of arrival in New Zealand allows temporarily imported craft that often arrive in New Zealand between September and December to have the following 21 months before departing in May to July nearly two years later.
- Payment of duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not required provided the small craft is exported before the temporary period expires.
- Customs will, however, require a security equal to the duty and GST amount. In most cases this is a written undertaking.

Customs is currently trialing a process to enable visitors to provide information about their small craft and trip ahead of time, to enable them to have greater certainty about whether their small craft will qualify for temporary entry, and the type of security they can be expected to provide.

REPEAT VISITS

Small craft not owned by a New Zealand resident, that have previously visited New Zealand on a Temporary Import Entry (TIE), can revisit NZ on a 21-month TIE. NZ Customs will allow non-resident owned craft that have previously visited NZ on a TIE to again enter New Zealand and gain a TIE provided they are satisfied that the vessel is in New Zealand temporarily for tourism and maintenance/refit/refurbishment purposes.

However, small craft owned by a New Zealand resident that have previously visited NZ on a TIE will be restricted on the number of times they can visit New Zealand on a TIE.

VISITING SMALL CRAFT OFFERED FOR SALE AND /OR SOLD WHILE VISITING NEW ZEALAND

- Customs may allow temporarily imported small craft (on a TIE) to be offered for sale provided certain conditions are met. Visitors should seek permission from Customs prior to advertising their small craft for sale.
- Sales will be permitted only to non-residents of New Zealand, and this needs to be reflected in the marketing material.
- Customs will re-evaluate the security on offer and will likely require a written undertaking to be upgraded to a monetary security like a cash deposit or bank guarantee. (This is refundable, with interest, if the small craft is exported before the end of the temporary import period.)
- Customs will also require acknowledgement that the original importer is aware they remain liable for the payment of duty and GST if the small craft is not exported before the end of the temporary import period. This liability cannot be passed on to the new owner if the small craft is sold.

IF THE YACHT IS SOLD WHILE IN NEW ZEALAND (WHILE ON A TIE) TO A NON-NATIONAL THEN:

- The yacht stays in New Zealand for the duration of the original TIE and when it departs New Zealand the security will be released to the original yacht owner or security provider that is named on the TIE that the visiting yacht gained on arrival to New Zealand. If the security was a cash security paid to NZ Customs, this would be refunded, including interest earnt, to the original yacht owner or security provider following departure.

ANOTHER OPTION THAT ON OCCASION HAS BEEN USED IS:

- The yacht departs New Zealand at such time the NZ Customs held deposit is refunded to the original owner or security provider. The new, non-New Zealand resident, owner of the yacht after departing New Zealand, is entitled to sail the yacht 12 nautical miles off the shore of New Zealand or to another country and then advise NZ Customs of intent to re-enter New Zealand. After re-entering New Zealand a 21-month TIE can be gained in the name of the new owner, provided they meet the criteria already outlined above.

If the small craft is at any time offered for sale to residents of New Zealand, the vessel is no longer considered temporarily imported and any unpaid duty and GST will become payable.

NOTE: Duty rates may vary. This depends on the country in which the vessel was manufactured (country of origin) and any free-trade agreement New Zealand has with that country. Duty rates range from zero to 5%. As at November 2025 the New Zealand Goods and Servies Tax (GST) is 15%. When duty and GST are to be paid, the GST is applied to the value of the yacht at the time it arrived in New Zealand plus the duty. If a freight charge is involved (e.g. professional delivery crew) then GST is charged on this as well.

www.customs.govt.nz/travel-to-and-from-new-zealand/travel-to-and-from-new-zealand-by-small-craft

The platform connecting marine industry talent with employers.

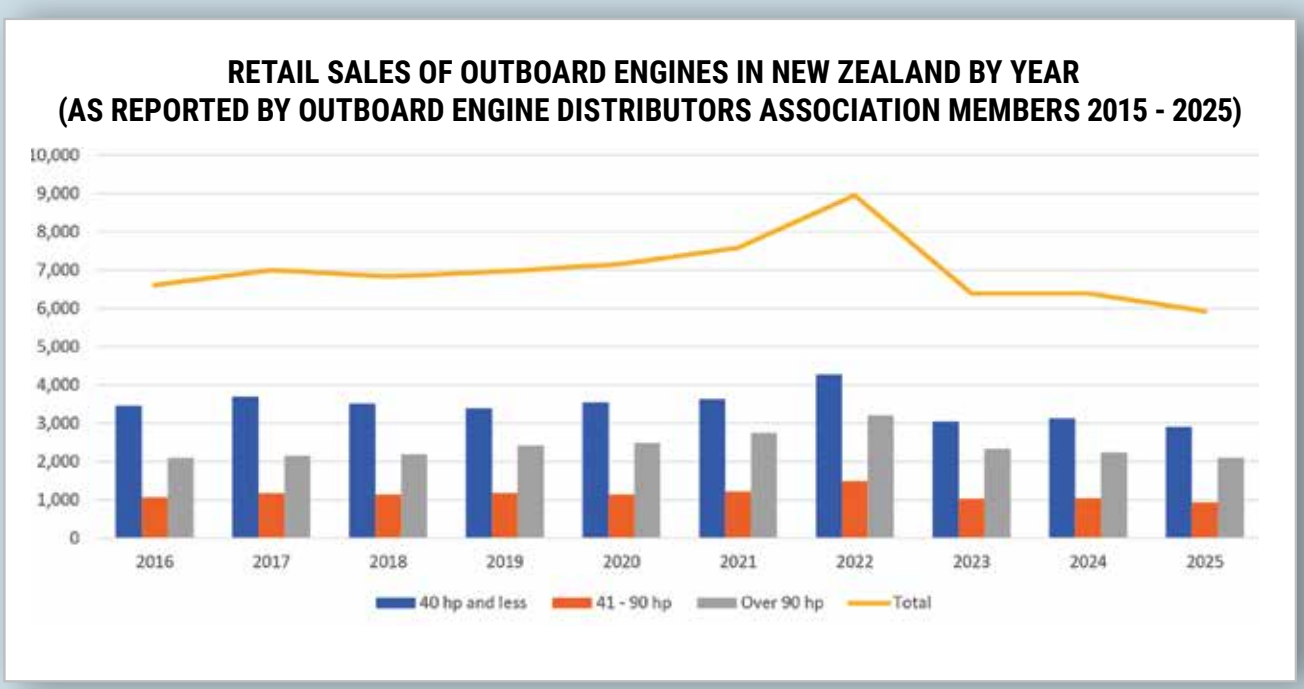
NZmarine jobs
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

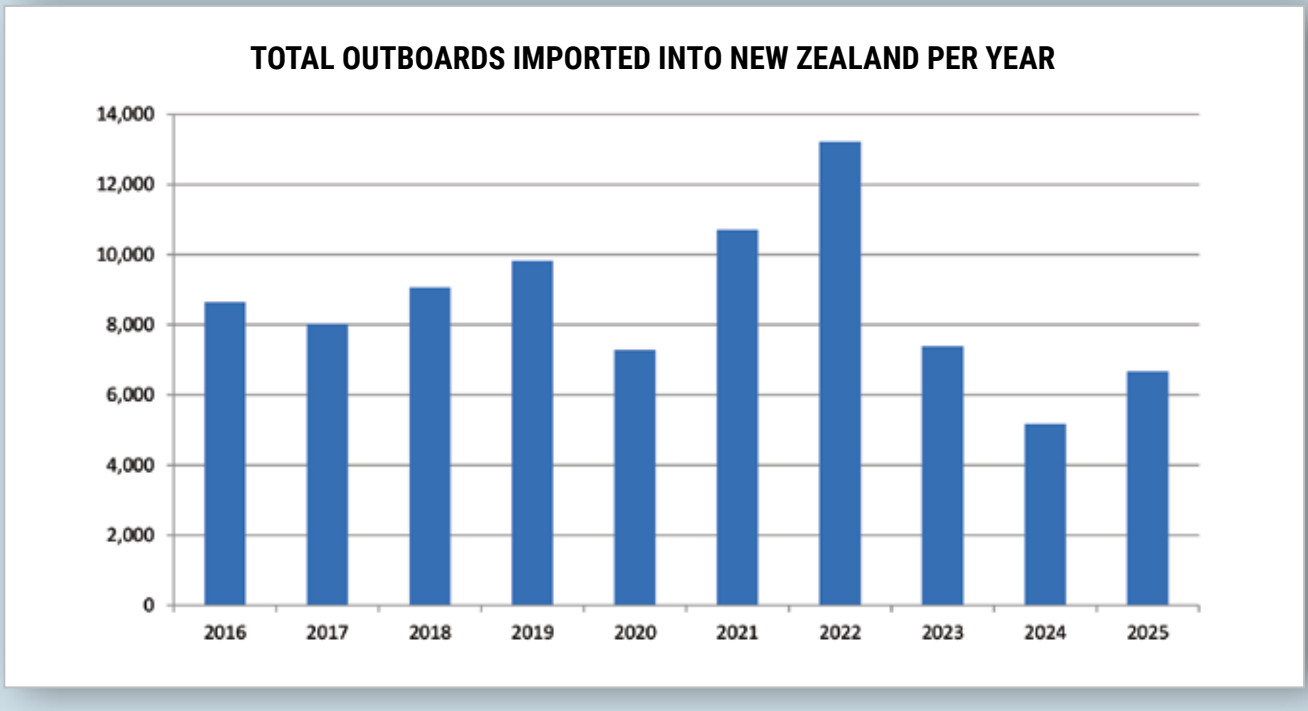
www.nzmarinejobs.com

Industry Statistics

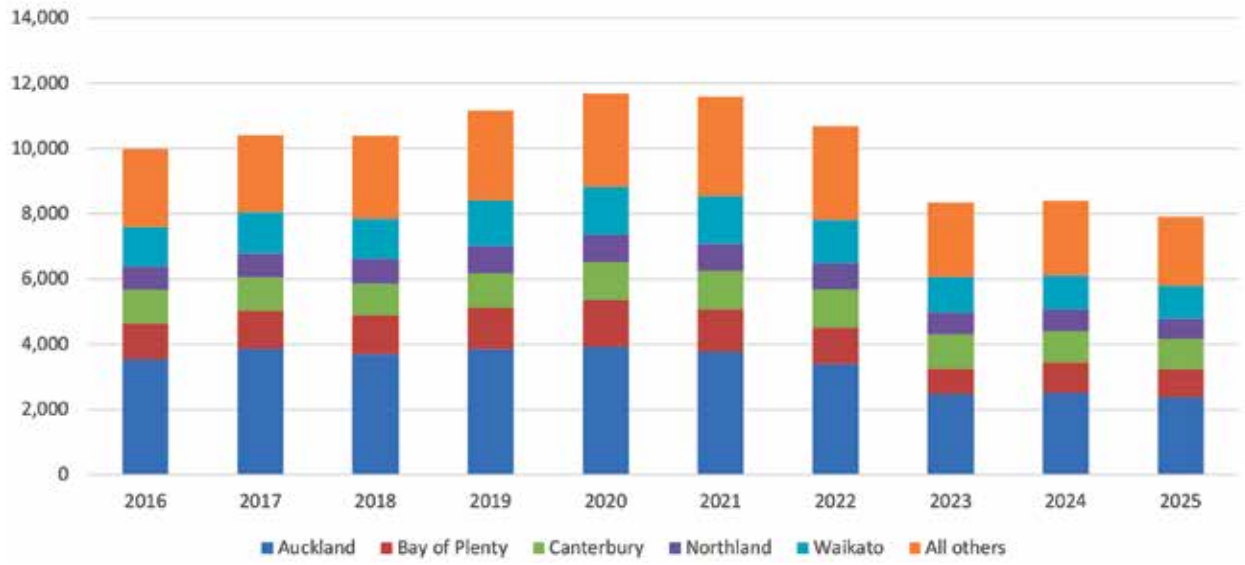
New Zealand outboard motor and diesel engine sales and trailer registrations to December 2025

The New Zealand Marine Industry Association (NZ Marine) commissions PowerStats to carry out ongoing research into specific sectors of the New Zealand marine industry. This insight will allow NZ Marine members to make better-informed business decisions.



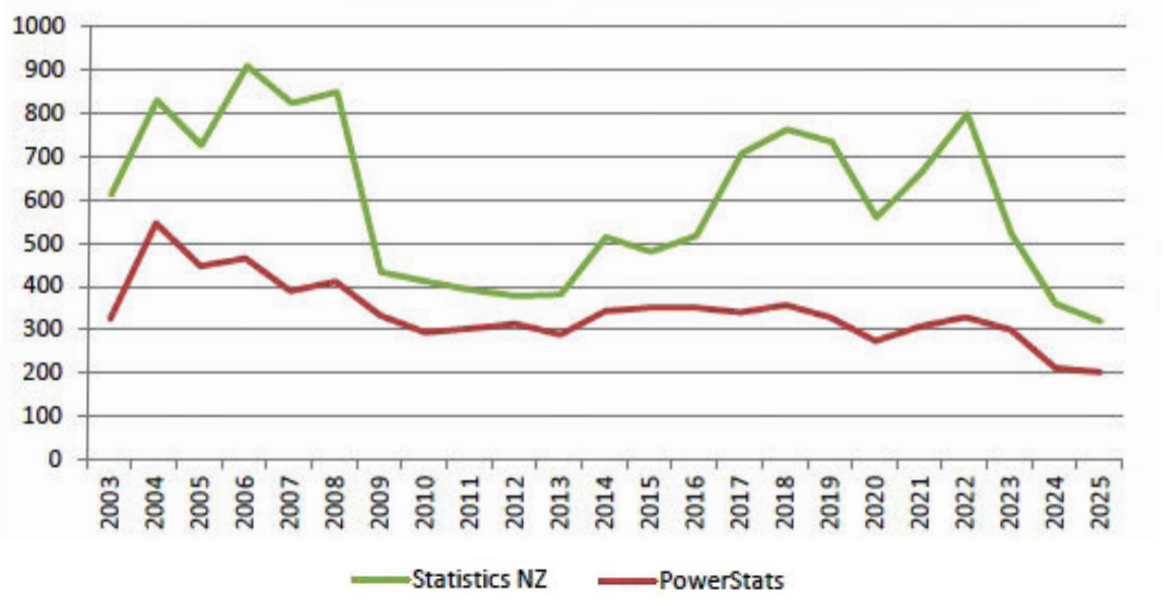


TOTAL NEW BOAT TRAILER REGISTRATIONS BY YEAR, BY REGION



NEW ZEALAND MARINE DIESEL ENGINES (FOR PROPULSION) IMPORTS VS SALES REPORTED BY SELECTED DISTRIBUTORS* PER YEAR

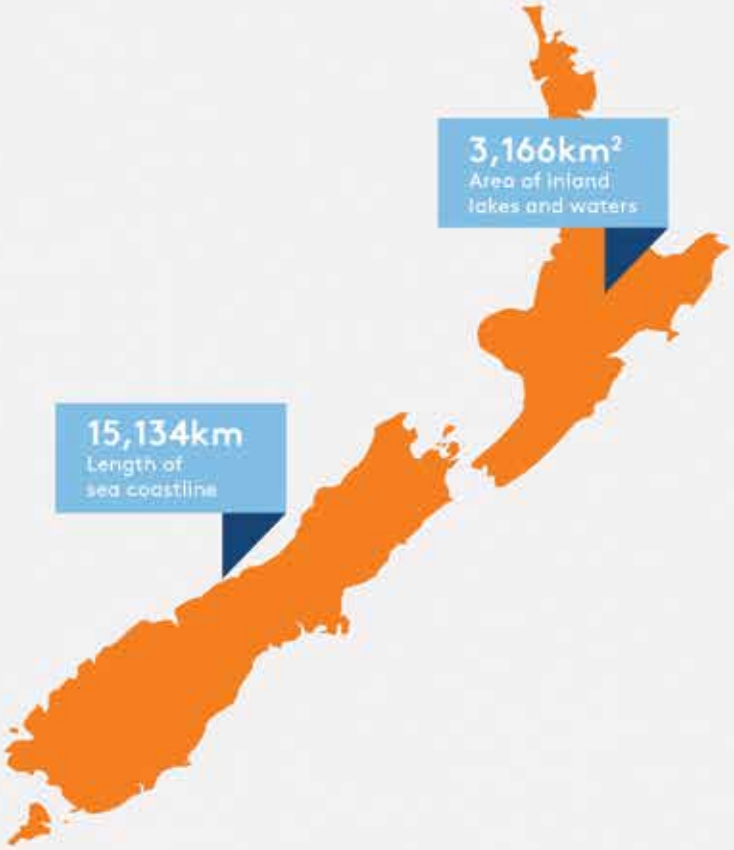
(AS REPORTED BY VOLUNTARY PARTICIPANTS VIA THE POWER STATS PROGRAMME FOR NEW ZEALAND DIESEL ENGINE DISTRIBUTORS, WHICH MAY NOT INCLUDE 100% OF DISTRIBUTERS)



New Zealand

COMPANIES AND EMPLOYMENT

	Companies	Employees
Boat builders	149	2,202
Engine manufacturers	-	-
Boat accessory and marine equipment manufacturers	113	987
Service providers	842	2,262
TOTAL:	1,104	5,451

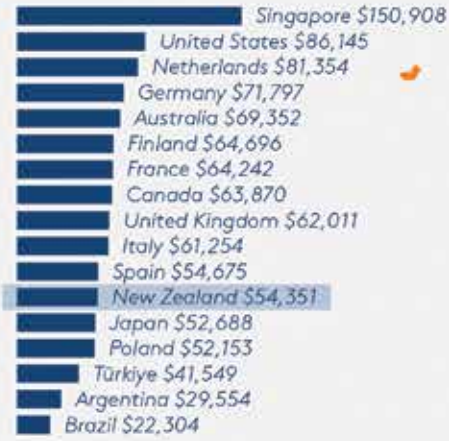


ECONOMIC DATA

2.9%
Inflation rate

GDP

GDP dollar estimates are derived from PPP (Purchasing Power Parity) calculations per capita. Values are in international dollars.
Source: International Monetary Fund.



BOATING FACILITIES

215
Total Yacht Harbours/ Clubs/Marinas

13,595
Total number of wet berths/slips

2,303
Total number of dry facilities

9,000
Total number of moorings (without land access)

260
Total number of boat ramps

CHARTER STATISTICS

42
Total number of charter businesses

100
Sailing boats providing charter

150
Motor boats providing charter

185
Charter boats for coastal waters

65
Charter boats for inland waters

NEW ZEALAND

BOATS		Domestic production		Imports		Domestic retail sales		Exports		Owned boats
		Units	Value	Units	Value	Units	Value	Units	Value	Units
Sailboats/ yachts	2.5m (8ft) - 7.5m (24ft)	675	€5.9m	-	-	675	€5.9m	-	-	22,511
	7.6m (25ft) - 12m (39ft)	10	€1.5m	-	-	29	€4.9m	-	-	5,133
	12.1m (40ft) - 24m (80ft)	16	€6.4m	-	-	49	€8.9m	-	-	2,574
	Above 24m/80ft	2	€16.3m	-	-	-	-	-	-	157
	TOTAL:	703	€30.2m	159	€17.3m	753	€19.8m	108	€20.3m	30,375
Inboard/ sterndrive motor boats	2.5m (8ft) - 7.5m (24ft)	155	€6.4m	-	-	175	€7.9m	-	-	2,549
	7.6m (25ft) - 12m (39ft)	59	€8.4m	-	-	32	€4.9m	-	-	3,713
	12.1m (40ft) - 24m (80ft)	10	€9.9m	-	-	19	€18.3m	-	-	6,622
	Above 24m/80ft	2	€36.6m	-	-	-	-	-	-	305
	TOTAL:	226	€61.3m	54	€15.3m	226	€31.2m	83	€59.3m	13,189
Outboard motor boats	2.5m (8ft) - 7.5m (24ft)	3,968	€92.5m	-	-	2,716	€69.2m	-	-	191,963
	7.6m (25ft) - 12m (39ft)	95	€11.4m	-	-	67	€8.4m	-	-	21,116
	12.1m (40ft) - 24m (80ft)	14	€7.4m	-	-	9	€4.9m	-	-	1,168
	TOTAL:	4,077	€111.3m	501	€14.3m	2,792	€82.6m	1,673	€42.5m	214,247
Inflatable boats	Less than 100kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	100kg and over	1,542	€30.7m	-	-	483	€9.4m	-	-	34,970
	TOTAL:	1,542	€30.7m	53	€1.5m	483	€9.4m	1,157	€22.3m	34,970
PWCs		-	-	N/A	N/A	1,578	€20.3m	N/A	N/A	96,268
Other boats (none of the above)		19,278	€18.3m	N/A	N/A	26,287	€25.2m	N/A	N/A	1,196,546

ENGINES		Domestic production		Imports		Domestic retail sales		Exports	
		Units	Value	Units	Value	Units	Value	Units	Value
Outboard engines	Less than 30kW (40hp)	-	-	-	-	3,278	€6.4m	-	-
	Above 30kW (40 hp)	-	-	-	-	3,429	€46.0m	-	-
	TOTAL:	-	-	5,170	N/A	6,707	€52.4m	269	N/A
Inboard engines	Less than 50kW (65hp)	-	-	-	-	39	N/A	-	-
	50 - 220kW (65 - 295hp)	-	-	-	-	27	N/A	-	-
	Above 220kW (295 hp)	-	-	-	-	156	N/A	-	-
	TOTAL:	-	-	439	N/A	222	N/A	6	N/A

OTHERS	Domestic production	Imports	Domestic retail sales	Exports
	Value	Value	Value	Value
Boat accessories & marine equipment	€220.0m	€60.7m	€194.8m	€106.2m

NZmarine INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Membership

Welcome to our newest members

The NZ Marine Industry Association extends a warm welcome to its newest members who have joined us in the past twelve months.

NZ Marine Industry represents members' interests internationally, domestically and at local and national government levels, with the wider NZ Marine team focussed on the association's role of growing business opportunities for member companies.

If you know of a company that would be interested in membership please let us know.
Contact Caroline Gibson, Manager Membership & Communications, (09) 376 7732, caroline@nzmarine.com

Arcryte Ltd/Walker Boats NZ Brett Moore 022 534 9736 www.arcryte.co.nz	**Berth Control Ltd** Graham Hill 09 623 1111 www.berthcontrol.co.nz	**Bluewater Marine Sales Ltd** Sam Fenwick 021 493 668 sam@bluewatermarinesales.co.nz	**Charter Yachts Australia** Melanie West-Hill 61 0749 466666 www.charteryachtsaustralia.com.au	**Dolphin Inflatables Ltd** Mike McGlone 027 4419734 www.dolphininflatables.co.nz
Elastomer Products Ltd Mark Field 09 389 2125 info@eplgroup.com	**Expression Boatworks Ltd** Kris Stephenson 022 157 2097 www.expressionboatworks.co.nz	**Extreme Boats International Ltd** James Horman 07 308 6063 www.extremeboats.co.nz	**Fenton Innovation Ltd** Craig Fenton 021 240 4699 www.fentoninnovation.com	**H2 Yacht Solutions** Louise Bielecki 021 091 33960 www.h2yachtsolutions.com
Hawkes Bay Motorcycles Ltd/ Taupo Power Sports Duncan Macphee 07 929 8669 www.taupopowersports.co.nz	**Hercules Tanks 2026 Ltd** Jamie Marsh 07 549 3570 ww.herculestanks.co.nz	**Heritage Expeditions 2018 Ltd** Aaron Russ 03 365 3500 www.heritage-expeditions.com	**Herley Boats Ltd** Nick Herd 027 434 8330 www.herleyboats.com	**Hurricane Products Ltd/ Parsun Outboards** Robyn Strampel 06 759 1990 www.parsun.co.nz
HPi-CEproof NZ Ltd Georgi Yankov 021 108 8793 ww.hpi-ceproof.com	**Hydraulink & Metal Technologies Tauranga Ltd** Chris Weber 07 572 3960 www.hydraulinktauranga.co.nz	**Kaleo Designs/Hana Hou Ltd** Christine Makaweo 027 937 4595 www.kaleo.co.nz	**Lannika Yacht Ltd** Will Wang 021 217 6557 www.lannika.com	**Marine Design and Survey Services Ltd** Patrick Clissold 021 193 5345 www.mdss.co.nz
Master Marine Projects Roger Tweddell 021 953 060 www.mastermarine.co.nz	**Mitchell Machines Ltd** Perron Mitchell 027 222 7546 speedboats.co.nz	**New Zealand Boat Register Ltd** Sam Allen 022 111 8668 www.nzboatregister.co.nz	**NZ Boat Sales Ltd** Garry Phillips 0275 480 253 www.nzboatsales.com	**Oceania Power & Solutions Pty Ltd** Nick Flavel 6.14E+10 www.oceaniapower.com.au

Pacific Sailing Ltd
Mark Langenhoven 021 231 0967
www.pacificsailingltd.co.nz

Paint Smart Group Ltd
Jason Barry 07 571 8921
www.paintsmart.co.nz

Quality Marine Clothing
Michelle Crooks 09 886 0961
www.qualitymarineclothing.com

Squirter Jet Ltd
Perron Mitchell 027 222 7546
www.scottwaterjet.com

Striker Engineering and Marine
Mike Jamieson 027 440 4075
www.strikermarine.co.nz

The Nautical Group Ltd
James Dalzell 09 888 5042
www.thenauticalgroup.co.nz

Transformarine Ltd
Blair Lewis 021 613 990
www.transformarine.com

Trayne Holdings Pty Ltd
Danielle Wayne 61 487 471 122
www.topargee.com.au

Vessev Ltd
Erik Laakmann 09 922 6861
www.vessev.com

We Find Your Boat Ltd
Nick Crabtree 022 678 0749
www.boatseekr.com

Whitehaven Motor Yachts
Bruce Scott 61 0438 227 022
www.aquilaboats.com

Promote your NZ Marine membership

IT IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE the number of members who are displaying their NZ Marine membership by adding the 'Recognised Member' logo to their company literature, signage, advertisements and websites. Some members have also added the logo to their company uniforms and vehicles.

We would love to see many more members promoting their NZ Marine membership, so please contact us if you do not have the Recognised Member logo.

The logo is available in various sizes and file formats, and can be obtained from Caroline Gibson: **caroline@nzmarine.com.**

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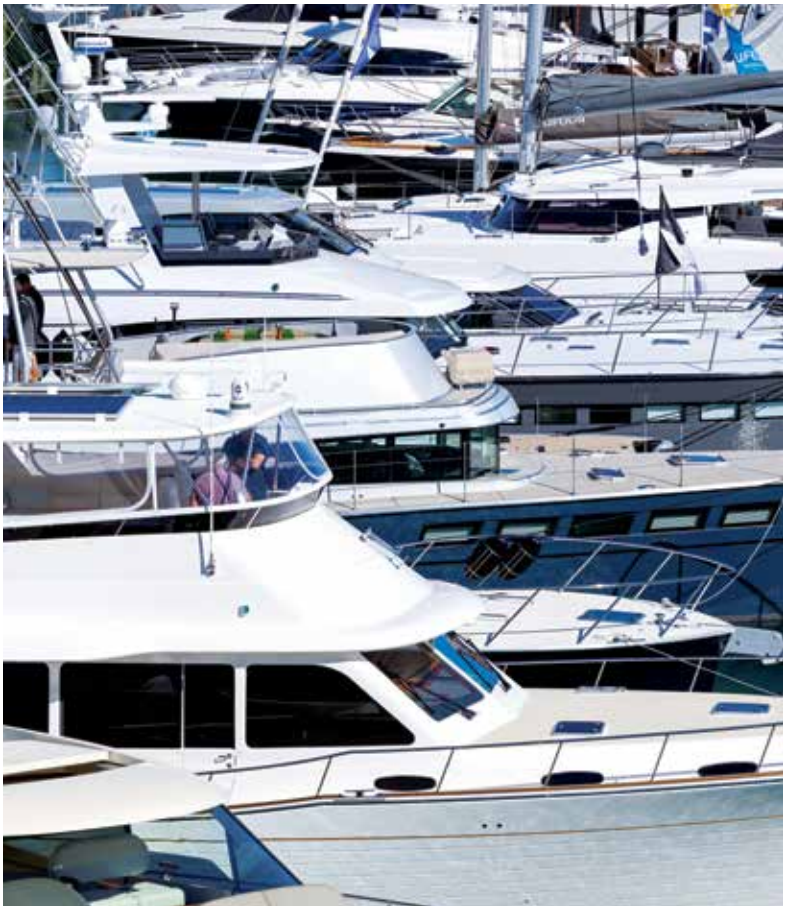
Sector Groups

NZ Marine Brokers Group

Over 20 NZ Marine brokerage companies met in February 2026 to discuss issues facing their sector.

ONE OF THE MAIN AGENDA items discussed was the new brokers training micro-credential being developed by MAST Academy. A small sub-committee was formed to give feedback on the draft training material, and it is expected that the micro-credential will be finalised in July/August this year.

The meeting was also an opportunity to elect a new committee for the 2026/2027 year. The committee members were confirmed as Jason Snashall, Rob White, Sophie Hool, Colin Rees, Blair Harkness, Bryn Jensen, Paul Macdonald and Ron Mossman. Jason Snashall was re-elected as chairperson.



LEFT Many brokerage companies reported good sales at the recent Auckland Boat Show.

NZ Boat Register keeps boaties connected

NZ BOAT REGISTER is steadily building a more connected ecosystem for Kiwi boaties and their gear. Soon, AquaGPS will add location awareness to complete that capability.

Using the register, owners can already keep key details in one secure place, including photos, serial numbers, maintenance records and key contacts. AquaTAGs add a simple physical-to-digital ID layer, making it easier to identify found boats or gear and securely contact the right people without exposing private information. The next and most exciting step is almost here.

The introduction of AquaGPS is the next stage. Designed to seamlessly switch between cellular and satellite connectivity, it is being developed to keep tracking working when traditional cell-based trackers drop out. Linked to a digital record on NZ Boat Register, it will help owners, or people they choose to share access with, see where a craft or gear is and where it has been.

Whether it is tracking a multi-craft race, checking whether your jetski is still parked at home or helping recover a stolen tender, AquaGPS will add a new layer of visibility for boaties and marine businesses alike.

Together, AquaTAG and AquaGPS are helping create a smarter way to locate, identify and connect boats, gear and the people linked to them across New Zealand.

aquaGPS.co.nz
nzboatregister.co.nz

Member News

Boatgear makes waves after bold rebrand

Boatgear has set a new course by rebranding from Tenob Wholesale Marine, and the journey has been nothing short of smooth sailing.

THIS STRATEGIC SHIFT has propelled Boatgear into deeper waters of growth and innovation, strengthening its position as a trusted supplier of marine gear and equipment worldwide.

Director Danny Bassi says the rebrand was more than a name change — it was a decisive tack towards a future that reflects the company's expanded product range and global partnerships. Under the Boatgear banner, the business is charting new waters, delivering quality marine gear to boating professionals and enthusiasts across international markets.

"Rebranding to Boatgear was about steering our brand toward a horizon that truly represents our vision," Bassi says. "The response from our customers and partners has been overwhelmingly positive, and we're excited to keep the wind in our sails as we continue to grow."

Since the rebrand, Boatgear has firmly anchored its reputation by introducing innovative products such as the Searebbel Autopilot, Acoustica Soundproofing, Frigomar Marine Air Conditioning and Razeto and Foresti Door

Hardware — propelling the company into superyacht waters.

"With these advancements, we're charting a course towards premium marine solutions while staying true to our commitment: exceptional service, trusted support and product excellence under a name that resonates globally."

boatgear.co.nz

Boating NZ turns 40

NEW ZEALAND'S LONGEST-STANDING MARINE MAGAZINE, Boating New Zealand, is celebrating 40 years of publication in 2026, as it expands from a print medium into exciting online opportunities.

ABOVE The Boating team back in the 1990s.

First published in September 1986 by yachtie and journalist Bruce Laybourn and his business partner Mal Taylor, the magazine survived the sharemarket crash the following year and went from strength to strength in the 1990s, with readers loving its large-format, in-depth boat reviews and articles, and a range of regular columns.

The magazine was sold to INL/Fairfax in the late 1990s but in 2016 was bought back by current owners Tim Porter and Brett Patterson, both of whom had worked for Boating and knew it intimately. Since then Boating New Zealand has expanded from being solely a print magazine to having a digital edition and an in-depth website featuring regularly updated stories and articles, and an active social media presence.

In 2024, Boating New Zealand took over the Trade-A-Boat online boat sales platform, to boost its reach through print and digital advertising. Alongside the monthly print magazine, Boating now has a range of channels to reach readers

and those in the industry, keeping them informed and entertained.

Tim Porter, who has worked with the magazine since the 1990s, says the publication's success comes down to teamwork.

"It's a matter of having a great team around you: editor, writers, photographers, art directors and print manager. You have to trust and back your people. As a publisher, you don't want to get too involved — the magazine's far bigger than one person."

boatingnz.co.nz

Vessev sets course for Australia

New Zealand technology company Vessev is expanding into Australia, with Perth-based ENAUTIC Group set to introduce its electric hydrofoiling passenger vessels to Western Australia.

IT'S A HUGE MILESTONE for New Zealand marine innovation: there are currently only three commercially-certified electric hydrofoiling vessels in operation in the world – two of which are Vessev VS–9s.

The VS–9s will operate on Perth's Swan River, initially focused on premium tourism experiences, with plans to introduce commuter routes once established. Where traditional ferries are restricted to 5–8 knots along much of the river, the VS–9 cruises at 25 knots with virtually no wake – opening up a new model of water-based transport for one of Australia's most underutilised waterways.

"New Zealand has always punched above its weight in marine innovation, and we're proud to be a part of that story," says Vessev CEO and Co-Founder Eric Laakmann. "Australia is a natural next step, and we're excited to be working with operators like Enautic Group who really get what this technology can do."

The VS–9s are expected to be delivered to Perth in early 2027.
www.vessev.com

New hydraulic steering helm responsive and durable

DOMETIC HAS RELEASED ITS GEN 4 steering helm, which delivers superior boat control through cutting-edge valve technology and engineering improvements. This hydraulic steering helm features an enhanced check valve design that increases durability and extends service life. Engineered for performance, the Gen 4 significantly reduces chatter noise from overrunning steering loads while eliminating flow noise when moving off hard-over positions. The improved lock valve spool produces less clicking sound during steering reversal, creating a quieter boating experience.

Boaters will notice immediately responsive handling with tighter steering feel and improved "regrip" performance for superior control, whether cruising or manoeuvring in tight spaces. The advanced valve technology ensures smoother steering action across all conditions.

Built for reliability, this hydraulic helm maintains consistent performance in challenging marine environments. The robust construction and refined internal components work together to deliver precise, dependable steering .

The Dometic Gen 4 steering helm integrates seamlessly with modern helm stations, providing quiet operation, responsive control and long-term reliability.
dometic.com

Brokers merge and launch new brand

Vining Gulf Group had a strong presence at the recent Auckland Boat Show, marking the first major appearance of the unified national brokerage following the merger of Vining Marine and Gulf Group Marine Brokers.

WITH 20 PROFESSIONAL BROKERS across 13 locations nationwide, Vining Gulf Group offers reach, local expertise and coast-to-coast support for buyers and sellers across the New Zealand marine market.

The show also marked the official debut of Icon Azure, a new premium yacht brokerage specialising in world-class offshore sail and motor yachts. Operating independently while supported by the national strength of Vining Gulf Group, Icon Azure combines luxury and boutique service with unmatched market reach.

Through its association with Multihull Central, Icon Azure represents a curated portfolio of the world's most distinguished marine brands, including Seawind, Outremer, Allures, Garcia, and Corsair Marine — alongside the bespoke Knysna Yacht Company.

viningmarine.co.nz

1980s Pelin gets elegant refit

RESPLENDENT AFTER HER REINCARNATION by Clevedon's Scott Lane Boatbuilders, this 41-foot Pelin Columbia first launched in 1984 now carries cleaner, sleeker lines. While the interior layout is largely unchanged, she's received a major facelift, with all electronic and mechanical systems updated and a new engine.

Zamari, which began life as Kailanui, has a triple-skin kauri hull and was built by Don Webb (Modern Craft Ltd). She'd had three previous owners before being bought by Clevedon local Rick Anderson.

The original 400hp V10 MAN diesel, weighing 1500kg, was replaced with a straight-six, 600hp QSC Cummins. As well as being much smaller and half the weight, the Cummins also brought an important weight-distribution improvement.

A large, intrusive radar arch was removed from the flybridge and replaced with a slim, minimalist tower that carries the radar, aerials, nav lights and GPS receiver. The flybridge dash was gutted and remodelled, and recliners have been added to the settees.

The vessel's two-cabin accommodation is unaltered: a master suite up in the forepeak, with a double bunk cabin immediately aft, to port. Her two heads have been reduced to one, with a separate (and very spacious) shower cubicle.

In the saloon, the entire starboard side was gutted and rebuilt to create a new settee (which houses a pull-out double bed), a double helm seat, and a new dash. The galley configuration hasn't changed, but there's a new oven, benchtop and capping, and a domestic, full-size Fisher & Paykel fridge.

scottlaneboatbuilders.co.nz

Port Whangarei Marine Centre built for modern demand

The Port Whangarei Marine Centre (PWMC) has marked a significant milestone, ten years on from hauling out its first vessel using what was then a new 100-tonne travel lift.

THE ORIGINS OF PWMC date back to 2012, when the shareholders of Oceania Marine set out to modernise their operations. At the time, haul-out capability was limited to a traditional railway slipway at North Shipyard in Port Whangarei. Extensive research informed a move toward travel lift haul-out capability supported by efficient, flexible hardstand facilities better suited to modern vessels.

Oceania Marine Group Managing Director Martin Gleeson says when the former BAE Systems shipyard site, located a few kilometres south of North Shipyard, became available for lease, Oceania began to build the foundations of what would become South Shipyard. Over the following three years, Stage I of the South Shipyard development was completed. This included the installation of a 100-tonne Cimolai travel lift, purpose-built piers, and supporting onshore infrastructure, an investment of approximately $3 million.

At the same time, the Port Whangarei Marine Centre was established as a separate business entity. PWMC was created as a dedicated travel lift and hardstand operation for smaller vessels (up to 20 metres LOA), while Oceania Marine continued to focus on larger vessels and complex refit projects. Full shipyard services were available through Oceania Marine's experienced marine trades team, supported by a strong network of specialist contractors and suppliers.

Gleeson says the establishment of PWMC — and particularly the completion of the $7 million Stage II development in November 2022, with the commissioning of a 560-tonne travel lift — has acted as a catalyst for wider marine infrastructure growth at Port Whangarei.

Ten years on from its first lift, PWMC is well positioned to meet future demand and to remain a cornerstone of the Port Whangarei marine ecosystem for decades to come.
www.portwhangarei.com

New standard in yacht club support from electric coach boat

SOUTHERN PACIFIC BOATS has launched the Cormorant Electric 490, a new model combining the southern hemisphere's most popular coach-boat platform with the innovative ZeroJet 30kW electric jet propulsion system.

The Cormorant Electric 490 is built upon a highly efficient 16-degree aluminium hull, renowned for its ruggedness and superior handling. By integrating ZeroJet's 30kW system and 22kWh of high-capacity batteries, Southern Pacific Boats has created a vessel that offers an unrivalled combination of performance, safety and sustainability for the coaching, tender and commercial markets.

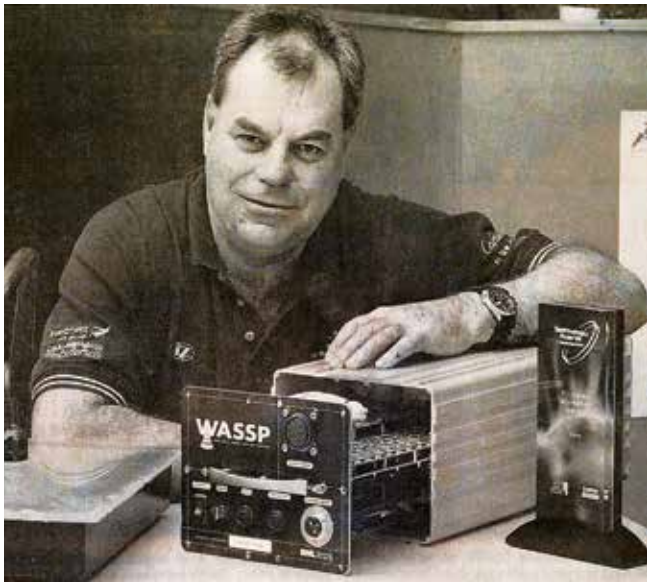
Dean Barker, Director of Southern Pacific Boats, says combining the Cormorant 490 platform with the electric

ZeroJet technology opens up many different possibilities.

"This platform is ideal as a mark-layer and safety boat for yacht clubs, and the added manoeuvrability from the jet unit makes it a great boat for coaching also," he says.

The transition to electric jet propulsion offers distinct advantages, including safe shallow-water operation and the total elimination of petrol and complex mechanical maintenance. Featuring thermally welded tubes and a robust aluminium build, the Cormorant Electric 490 is engineered to withstand the most demanding marine environments.

ZeroJet's CEO James Morton says the companyy is thrilled to partner with Southern Pacific Boats to bring the Cormorant Electric 490 to life. "This project perfectly showcases our 30kW system's ability to deliver high-performance, commercial-grade power in a lightweight package."
southernpacific.co.nz
zerojet.com



Eight decades of innovation from Electronic Navigation Ltd

New Zealand's leading marine electronics distributor and manufacturer, Electronic Navigation Ltd (ENL), will mark an extraordinary milestone in 2026 — its 80th year in business.

WHAT BEGAN IN DECEMBER 1945 as a small public company focused on designing and supplying radio direction finders (RDF) specifically for fishing vessels has evolved into a global leader in the design, manufacture and supply of marine electronics. Today, ENL operates from offices in Auckland and Nelson, supported by more than 40 WASSP (Wide Angle Sonar Seafloor Profiler) distributors worldwide .

The company has represented Furuno exclusively in New Zealand for more than 60 years, a partnership that deepened when Furuno acquired a significant shareholding alongside Managing Director Gareth Hodson and former Director Mike Hodson. Furuno also champions WASSP globally, distributing it across more than 40 countries since 2010.

Gareth Hodson says the 80-year milestone is more than a celebration — it reflects the company's enduring spirit. "Like many great New Zealand companies, ENL began with humble roots and a passion for innovation — that number-eight-wire mindset, where anything's possible. To celebrate 80

years after navigating both challenges and achievements is something truly special for us," says Hodson.

Since 2006, a core part of ENL's business has been the manufacture of WASSP, leading to the company's systems operating in nearly every corner of the world. Today, WASSP is a market leader in multibeam sonar technology, trusted across commercial fishing, defence, mapping, surveying and superyacht sectors.

Looking ahead to the next decade and towards the company's 90th year, Hodson says the focus is on growth, future product development, and embracing new technologies — particularly AI.

"Over the next five to ten years, for WASSP it will be about strengthening our offshore operations and focusing on AI integration to better manage our data. Beyond commercial fishing, we're looking at further expansion into the growing hydrographic, aquaculture, defence and superyacht markets."

With WASSP firmly established as a leading platform across commercial fishing, hydrographic survey, defence, research, and superyacht markets, ENL is now focused on scaling its capabilities to meet increasing international demand.

enl.co.nz

TOP Former ENL CEO Mike Hodson with an early iteration of the WASSP.

ABOVE Electronic Navigation Ltd's WASSP Multibeam Sounder has sold over 3000 units globally.

LEFT ENL technicians in the 1970s.

RIGHT ENL engineers at its Auckland headquarters.

Pacific rally 2026 builds strong momentum

The Island Cruising Pacific Rally 2026 is shaping up for a significant offshore season, with more than 150 vessels registered to depart New Zealand and head into the South Pacific in May. Early registrations reflect strong confidence among Kiwi sailors and continued interest in Pacific cruising.

THIS FLEXIBLE RALLY SUPPORTS New Zealand-based vessels planning offshore passages and, while up in the Pacific, also encourages international vessels to visit New Zealand. With over 260 rally vessels arriving in New Zealand in 2025, the rally fleet represents over 50% of the recreational vessels visiting New Zealand each season.

Participants range from first-time offshore sailors to highly experienced cruisers, all focused on preparation, safety and community, and hungry for information on New Zealand marine trades.

For members of the New Zealand marine industry, the Pacific Rally presents a valuable opportunity to connect with a motivated group of boat owners actively investing in refits, servicing, safety gear, electronics and provisioning. It also reinforces New Zealand's reputation as a world-class cruising hub.

Businesses can engage with Island Cruising to promote their products and showcase the expertise and services that make New Zealand a preferred destination for international cruisers.
islandcruising.nz

Firebird Marine celebrates 40 years of family-owned marine expertise

FIREBIRD MARINE IS PROUDLY CELEBRATING 40 YEARS in business, marking four decades of continuous operation as a family-owned and operated New Zealand marine company.

Founded in 1986 by Aucklanders Alf and Jo Pinker, Firebird Marine began life as a boatbuilding business, with a small range of imported marine components supporting its builds. Over time, the company evolved alongside the industry, transitioning into a specialist after-market marine engine parts supplier, becoming a trusted name to workshops, retailers and boat owners throughout New Zealand.

Today, Firebird Marine is still proudly family-owned and –operated, by Alf and Jo's son David and his wife Nicole. The business now focuses exclusively on quality replacement marine engine and drive components, supplying a wide range of proven brands to the trade and retail market. The business is known for its technical knowledge, customer service, long-standing supplier relationships, and a strong emphasis on real-world product performance.

"Reaching 40 years is something we're incredibly proud of," says General Manager David Pinker. "We've grown and adapted over the decades, but what hasn't changed is our commitment to quality, service, and supporting the marine industry with parts we trust ourselves."

Remaining family-owned throughout its history, Firebird Marine has built its reputation on consistency, reliability and long-term relationships, both with suppliers overseas and customers here in New Zealand. Many of the brands Firebird represents have been partnered with the business for decades, reflecting a shared focus on durability and value.

As part of its 40-year milestone,

David Pinker – Owner and General Manager of Firebird Marine

Firebird Marine will be celebrating throughout 2026 with a series of promotions, customer initiatives and anniversary highlights that acknowledge the people, partnerships and products that have shaped the business over four decades.

"From our early days in boatbuilding to where we are now, this milestone really belongs to our customers, suppliers, and staff who have supported us along the way," says David.
firebirdmarine.co.nz

From cargo to keel with NZ Marine's insurance partner

New Zealand's marine sector is dynamic, innovative and globally respected. It's also complex to insure.

FROM WORLD-CLASS DESIGN AND BUILD, to refit, service, charter, marina operations and freight logistics, marine businesses face a unique mix of high-value assets, tight timeframes, specialist workmanship and risks that don't fit neatly into standard commercial insurance.

That's where Abbott Insurance Brokers comes in. As the New Zealand Marine Industry Association's longstanding insurance broking partner, we've proud to support its goal to grow New Zealand's marine industry through member collaboration, advocacy and training.

Our role is to help you see the whole picture, structure your programme properly, and advocate for you when it counts.

We help clients across the marine ecosystem, from importers and exporters to boatbuilders, repairers, tradies and owners, with advice-led cover solutions to meet their real-world needs, including:

- **Marine cargo/transit and storage exposures**
- **Marine hull, including specialists and hard-to-place risks**
- **Liability options aligned to the realities of working on vessels on water and in dry-dock**
- **Specialist protections for marine services businesses where ship repairers-type liability covers can be critical**
- **Personal watercraft and recreational boating options.**

Abbott's breadth matters because many marine operators also have risks relating to premises, staff, vehicles, tools, contracts and obligations across freight, custody and handling.

We're a nationwide New Zealand broker with broad market access to all major insurers and specialist marine insurers and underwriters. We can also access global insurance markets through our Steadfast Group membership, including the renowned Lloyd's markets in London, placing complex risks that fall outside of standard policy coverage.

Our purpose is to understand you and your business, and to negotiate and advocate on your behalf from cover to claim. If you're thinking about marine risks – cargo, hull, liability or the grey areas in between – we'd love to meet for an obligation-free chat.

abbott.co.nz

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Celebrating 30 years of powerboating passion

This year marks 30 years of D&B Publishing's dedication to New Zealand and Australian powerboating.

FOR DOUG DUKESON, founding publisher, it's a chance to reflect on three decades of sharing stories, testing boats and supporting the industry.

When New Zealand Propeller launched in 1996, it filled a gap for hands-on, practical coverage of trailer boats, written by boaters for boaters. From early successes at the New Zealand Boat Show to engaging readers through innovative buyer's guides, engine shootouts and nationwide Poker Runs, the publication built trust with readers and the industry alike.

Over the years, D&B adapted to market changes and the rise of digital media. Titles evolved as Propeller and MotorYacht merged to become Pacific PowerBoat, while online platforms expanded access to reviews, classifieds, and digital editions. The editorial approach remained accurate, practical and independent.

Thirty years on, Pacific PowerBoat continues to cover the full spectrum of powerboating, supported by the PowerBoat Weekly e-news and a PowerBoat Magazine website featuring nearly 1000 boat reviews. Dukeson credits the publication's enduring success to meaningful relationships with readers, contributors and industry partners.

From local harbours to international shows, the team's passion for boating remains unchanged, and they look forward to the next chapter of exploration, testing and sharing the powerboating story.

powerboatmagazine.co.nz

New leadership role at Stabicraft

STABICRAFT MARINE HAS APPOINTED Daniel Upperton to the newly created role of General Manager, Design & Operations.

Upperton previously served as General Manager of Marketing for the Invercargill-based aluminium boat manufacturer. The new position has been established to leverage his extensive experience across both the technical and commercial aspects of the business.

The role combines two former leadership positions, bringing design and operational oversight under one leader. According to Upperton, this alignment will support clearer decision-making and more efficient leadership within the organisation.

While his recent focus has been on marketing strategy, Upperton originally trained as a boat designer and led the design team during his early years with Stabicraft Marine. His appointment reflects both his long-standing contribution to the company and his strong grounding in product development.

www.stabicraft.com

Yachting Developments showcases 34.9 m Custom Sportsfisher

Yachting Developments is pleased to share the story of Gramac VII, a 34.9 metre fully custom sportsfisher that exemplifies the yard's capability to design, build and support highly complex, owner-driven projects at the highest international standard.

DESIGNED BY WARWICK YACHT DESIGN, Gramac VII is the result of close collaboration between the owner, designers, engineers and the skilled in-house team at builders Yachting Developments. Constructed in advanced carbon fibre composite, the yacht combines performance, durability and refined aesthetics in a platform engineered for serious cruising and long-term ownership.

Since entering service in 2024, Gramac VII has already accumulated significant miles throughout the South Pacific. The yacht has spent close to five months cruising Fiji with the owner onboard — a real-world proving ground that speaks directly to the reliability, comfort, and functionality of both design and build. Few yachts are tested so thoroughly so early in their lifecycle.

yachtingdevelopments.co.nz
warwickyachts.com

War Machine pushing the ski-race limits

FOR VETERAN BOATBUILDER and ski-racer Nic de Mey of Tauranga, the Phantom Powerboats F2 War Machine was not just another build. The lightest, most experimental ski-race boat to wear the Phantom badge, every part of its design, down to the resin ratios and ballast layout, tests the edge of what's possible before the 2027 World Championships.

The Phantom F2 line already holds a reputation for world-class engineering. Each hull is vacuum-infused carbon over foam, fitted with twin 300-litre ballast tanks and Mercury's 300R engine. The design meets IWWF Formula 2 regulations while offering the strength and precision that elite skiers demand.

De Mey's goal was to reduce weight and push rigidity to new extremes. The hull and internal structure are 100% carbon, including the transom and ski-pole mount. Every component, from the fuel tank to the deck reinforcement, was weighed, logged, and analysed for performance gain.

The boat's first on-water test came at the NZ Bridge 2 Bridge Waterski Classic in November 2025. The team logged two clean time-trial runs and a solid showing in the long race. Testing continued over summer, with performance data fed back into new lay-ups and tooling refinements. What emerges from this process will influence the next generation of Phantom hulls heading to the 2027 World Championships.

phantompowerboats.com
demeyyachts.com

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- ✓ Smuggler Marine
- ✓ Southern Boats
- ✓ Stabicraft
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