



ROTAFLOAT

Official newsletter for the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians

VOLUME 56

May 2003

ISSUE 5

From the Commodore

Time for change.

As I am writing my last RotaFloat and looking back at the last two years, I must admit it has gone very quickly, and yet at the same time a lot of events have taken place.

Bente and I wish to thank every one of you for the support and warm welcomes we have received in the travels and places we visited.

The fleets we visited are certainly in good shape and they revel in good fellowship and wonderful activities.

It is important to have quality instead of quantity, in the IYFR movement.

By the time you receive this newsletter many of us will be on the way to Brisbane in Australia for the Rotary International Convention.

On the 3 June we gather in Snug Harbour for the 56th Annual General Meeting. A good agenda will be tabled and should provide stimulating debates, to open possibilities for the future.

At this meeting we hand over the Mariner's "wheel" to Ferit Biren from Turkey.

He will be the new International Commodore for the years 2003-05

Ferit is a dedicated Rotarian and has served Rotary in the following ways; as Director on many committees in his Club and district 2420, District Governor 1992-93, as Regional Commodore 1993-99 for IYFR, served



Ferit Biren the new International Commodore

as President of the Turkish Ocean Shipmasters Association and is also the owner of a Marine Equipment and Transportation company in Istanbul.

The Rotary Mariners will have a very capable leader and I wish Ferit his family and the new committee the very best for the next two years.

Incoming Commodore Ferit's aim will be to consolidate the fleets around the world and to encourage new ways to develop fellowship and friendship among fleets world wide.

The AGM in Brisbane is an important meeting as we will introduce the newly elected Commodore for the years 2007 to 2009.

The successful Candidate is Rotarian Max Cribb from Australia.

Please turn to page 12 for the full story.

Look forward to seeing you in Brisbane in June.

Ken Winter, Commodore 2001-03

The inside story

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AGM in Brisbane

On the 3 June this year the annual General Meeting will take place and we have two important rules to talk about, and also to vote on.

Due to the costs of travel and lots of other related expenses, most qualified Mariners cannot afford to run for the International Bridge.

If we expect our keen, upcoming volunteer International Commodore to attend all Rotary World Conventions and visit fleets around the world, we should also be prepared to give financial support to this task.

Therefore, the Past International Commodore, Joe Phillips has moved and Incoming International Commodore Bill Robinson has seconded that:

The IYFR General Rule, Section D 2 c. be amended to read that: on change of command the minimum funds, passed on to the following administration be US \$ 10,000.

The present rule allows for US \$ 2,000.

2)

The IYFR General Rules, Section D 2 d. should be amended to read: that the amount of travel expenses be US \$ 10,000 provided that the minimum under D 2 c. are met.

The present rule allows for \$ 3000.00.

Some very good and positive comments has been received already, but we would still like to hear from more members.

If you have not told us already, please express your views and comments on these two amendments.

They will be voted on, at the next Annual General Meeting Tuesday, June 3, 2003.

Please send comments before 1st June to:

Ken Winter at:
pacific-mermaid@xtra.co.nz

or Fax to:

Ken Winter
+64 9 357 0172

Notice of Meeting

On Tuesday June 3, the Annual General Meeting and luncheon of the Rotary Mariners will take place in Brisbane.

The details are:

Date: Tuesday 3 June 2003

Time: Fellowship 13.00-13.30

Lunch: 13.30-14.30

Meeting: 14.30-15.30

Place: Restaurant Dockside
Snug Harbour Marina
44 Ferry St.
Kangaroo Point
Brisbane

Tickets available from Bente and Ken Winter at the
IYFR Boat at the House of Friendship
in the Brisbane Convention Centre

New Rotafloat Editor

This Rotafloat is the last from New Zealand, as the change of office takes place in June this year.

The new editor will be Mustafa Yalkin

Mustafa is a member of the Incoming Commodore Ferit Biren's team.

The address for fleet news, pictures and other newsletter content is:

Mustafa Yalkin
4. Levent Oto Sanayii
Barbaros Cad No: 78
34396 Istanbul
Turkey

Mustafa is a publisher and printer of many good publications in Turkey and very skillful on a computer. Please use email where possible to:

mustafayalkin@lebibyalkin.com.tr

or fax Mustafa at: + 90 212 279 03 45

New Cruising areas The Black Sea,

The black sea is in fact a misnomer. The previous name was Pontus Euxinus, and translated into English it means "The Hospitable Sea"

The first yachting activity took place in the summer of 1997 in the undiscovered waters of KAYRA.

The first rally to cruise the Black Sea was organised by the Atakoy Marina Yacht Club. It was realized the waters had much to offer. We covered six different countries with a wide range of cultures.

It was such a success that each year the rally was repeated. The countries visited were Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, The Russian Federation, Georgia and Turkey.

Visiting Yachtsmen were welcomed everywhere by local citizens and with an open attitude.

Kayra made headlines in many news papers. TV programmes were made and visitors looked forward to repeating their experience. The success could never have happened without the painstaking step by step planning of the Atakoy Marina and the Atakoy Yacht Club, under the leadership of its President Sedat Altunay.

The difficulties have been overcome, by sowing seeds of unity among the Black Sea countries.

The rallies hit their targets – to get new leisure activities established in the Black Sea. This has certainly not been overlooked by the Ukraine Ministry of Tourism as Mr. Altunay received The Medal Of Honour, for outstanding achievements for this region.

The pictures to the right illustrate the cruising areas in the "Hospitable Sea"

So successful were the rallies that the Ministers of Tourism called a meeting in Turkey and resolved to establish the Black Sea Cruising Association.

Mr Sedat Altunay was elected President for a period of four years.

Atakoy Marina Yacht Club is a members club, open to the owners of visiting yachts from abroad.

Situated at the end of the breakwater the luxurious and air conditioned Clubhouse provides comfort and meals and wines to an international standard. The private lounge is an excellent place for business meetings or for a social gathering after a day at sea. Next to the Clubhouse is a 20 metre salt water swimming pool with a terrace bar also serving snacks. This is a wonder place for a sundowner as there is an uninterrupted view over the sea.

Atakoy Marina Yacht Club is one of the sponsors of KAYRA and MAYRA

thus assisting in the opening of other ports and countries to yachting tourism. Sedat Altunay is a Rotarian and belongs to the Rotary Club of Kadikoy, and likewise a member of IYFR and Commodore of the Marmara fleet.

Should you wish to obtain more information, feel free to write to:

Rotarian Sedat Altunay
Atakoy Marina ve YAT.A.S.
Atakoy 39710
Istanbul

Email:
a-marina@atakoymarina.com.tr

Web site: www.atakoymarina.com.tr

It is very good web site.



Look at this

For those of you who were not at the dockside in Honolulu or didn't see last night's channel 2 news or this morning's news at 0800hrs or yesterday's Star Bulletin, here it is:

After months of planning, four experienced sailors from the Hawaii IYFR fleet set out March 6th, for a 2300 mile sail from Honolulu, to Tahiti, in a 42 foot cutter "Orion"

They planned to explore islands in the French Polynesia, returning to Hawaii in May.

As Helmsman, you take care to bring the boat up a little toward the wind, before the oncoming wave hits, then you crack off slightly to leeward as

you slide down the back of the wave

Newspaper and TV reporters were on the wharf in Tahiti when they arrived after 21 days at sea..

True sailors love to be at sea and after only a few days they set sail again for Moorea, perfect for mooring.

On the way they stopped at Bora Bora atoll, Huahine and Raiatea. After a few days at each island they returned to Tahiti for stores and plan for the trip north to the Marquesas, and homeward bound for Hawaii.

Many boats filled with young, adventurous men and women sail the oceans, without farewell parties, press and TV coverage, so why all the fanfare over four guys sailing to

Tahiti? **They are all Rotary Mariners, all over 70 years of age.** Proving to us all that true sailors over 70 can still enjoy a challenge and an adventure.

Congratulations to Captain Max Besenbruch, age 78, Herman Allerstorfer, 76 Peter Pohl, 74 and Don Rudd 72.

These four Rotary Mariners are living proof that they still have the "right stuff" to sail the great ocean.

When Herman was asked about rough weather, he responded, "It was nothing, we are all sailors!" Both Max and I are veterans of the German Navy.

By Joe Phillips, Past International Commodore.



The Hawaii sailors

Join us in the Whitsundays

After the Brisbane Rotary Convention, the IYFR Post-Convention Cruise will take place in the sunny Whitsunday Islands.

A full program has been arranged and we can still accept a few more participants.

WHAT DOES THE REGISTRATION INCLUDE ?

Hotels for 5 nights, all breakfasts and Rotary Ball, 2 dinners, transfer to hotels, ferries, and excursion trip to Barrier Reef

COST OF THE TOUR:

Air fare Brisbane-Whitsundays & return: \$ 355.00
5 nights (6 days) in the Whitsundays \$ 595.00
Total per person US \$ 940.00

=====

Items of a personnel nature such as phone calls, laundry, drinks, additional tours and extra meals are not included.

please send deposit US 200.00 per person

**to: Rotarian Eric Bottle
Whitsunday Travel Centre**

Fax + 61 7 4946 6087

E-mail: whitrav@whitsunday.net.au

Registration Details:

Names.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Telephone No Fax No

Email Address.....

Payment by: Visa Master card Name on card.....

Card number..... Expiry date.....

Inner Strength:

If you can start the day without caffeine or pep pills,

If you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,

If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,

If you can eat the same food everyday and be grateful for it,

If you can understand when loved ones are too busy to give you time,

If you can overlook when people take things out on you when, through no fault of yours, something goes wrong,

If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,

If you can face the world without lies and deceit,

If you can conquer tension without medical help,

If you can relax without liquor,

If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,

If you can do all these things,

Then you are probably the family dog

Sent in by Richard Hughes, Orcas Island

WHY START A FLEET?

- Because it's a lot more fun to go hoating with people whom you know in both Rotary and boating. (ie: 3,000 hoating Rotarians with over 1,000 yachts.)
- Because it will enhance your contacts with Rotarians who have special common interests both at home and throughout the Rotary worlds. Some of your future best Rotarian friends may come from IYFR fleets in places like England, Holland, Japan, the USA, or the many IYFR Fleets around the world – and especially from your own hometown.
- Because there are:
 - meetings with interesting speakers on yachting, navigation, new boat designs and exciting stories of adventures on the high seas, lakes, rivers and streams.
 - numerous and different local yachting **events scheduled** during each year for your enjoyment.
 - adventures to close and far-away lands, **fun parties and** hilarious boat activities.
- Because you will be invited to enjoy inter-fleet **exchanges**, regattas, yachting racing and land touring with others from IYFR's more than 100 fleets **around the globe**.
- Because the IYFR has a splendid Annual **General Meeting (AGM)** luncheon and fun for you to enjoy and, whenever possible, puts on a Post Convention **Cruise** for the exclusive enjoyment of Iyforians and their guests.
- Because it can enhance your enjoyment of life and make Rotary itself much more meaningful. Many Rotarians maintain their Rotary membership because of their affiliation with the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians.

HOW TO FORM A NEW FLEET

The following notes are for general guidance for any **Rotarian "creator"** interested in forming a new fleet. A **successful fleet** can be launched with 20 members or as few as 10, **provided that** those members are sufficiently keen. Since **"fellowships"** are among the best kept secrets in Rotary", your area **IRRC** has been trained to assist you as your assistant **to get a fleet** started.

Each IYFR Region has an International Regional **Rear Commodore (IRRC)** as the International Commodore's (IC) representative. Their function is to be a **"Creator's Helper"** to you, the **"Fleet Creator"**, to help expedite the creation of your successful fleet. Use your IRRC as an advisor and **please contact** the international office, directly, for paper work details and other assistance.

"Feasibility Committee"

Before you get started you may want to form a **"Feasibility Committee"**. Gather together a few Rotary friends with an interest in boating and tell them that you feel it would **be of value** to Rotarians and the community to form a Yachting Rotarian fleet in the district. Brief them about the IYFR and give them a copy of the IYFR Brochure. Ask them if they agree that a fleet should be started and get their help to **share Rotary's best** kept secret with their Rotary club by making a short presentation at a Club meeting. They can sign up **applicants "on the spot"** and leave copies of the brochure with the Club.

Congratulations!

The IYFR member, for 36 years, Bob Cole from Great Britain celebrates his 90th birthday on the 26th June 2003.

Bob is a boat builder by profession and known as a tireless supporter of giving sailing opportunity to others, especially young and had the handicapped.

From the age of 13 he sailed as an oyster fisherman in the winter months and in the summer on "Gentlemen's" yachts, notably on the 12 metre "Clymene" and later on the motor sailor "Fidelma"

In 1939 Bob joined the Navy and was posted to HMS "Europa" and later to a wooden fishing vessel that was to

be used as a minesweeper in the North Sea. Amine exploded directly under the boat and all crew, except two were killed.

In 1930 he and a few others formed the Burnham Sailing Club and raced 16 footers and Squibs until he was 80.

He joined the boat building yard Tucker Brown and retired in 1980.

By joining Rotary in 1967 Bob was able to support all the organisations he became involved in, particularly the Handicapped Children. He is a great supporter of The Jubilee Sailing Trust and devoted many hours to the vessel "Lord Nelson"

He is Vice President of United Hospitals Sailing Club and also Flag Officer of

the Royal London Hospital Sailing Club.

Bob Cole has a remarkable lifetime record of involvement in sport.

Congratulations, Bob.



The Fellowship weekend.

In UK we have two fellowship weekends in the year, and this year the AGM and Fellowship weekend was combined and held in Ipswich in March. Nearly 60 people attended the meetings, representing 10 of our 14 Fleets.

We had written apologies from International Commodore Ken Winter and incoming International Commodore Ferit Biren. Both sent their best wishes.

We started with an informal fellowship dinner, Friday evening.

Saturday morning continued with a 2 hour trip on a motor launch, through the harbour and into the river as far as Pin Mill. This was organised by the Chief of the Harbour Authority, who later on joined the Suffolk Fleet, and his helpers. It was a lovely day and was made most interesting by the informed commentary. A light lunch was enjoyed next to the harbour office.

At 4 pm. back at the hotel, and we gathered for the AGM.

A lively meeting it was.

Reports from all the Bridges, indicates some very good fellowship among the members. On average they meet once a month and partake in many different activities.

For example, "Kids Day Out" by the Sussex Fleet for about 130 children

A disabled day out by the Suffolk Fleet, on a Thames Barge. Likewise several joint weekends were arranged on the water between Fleets, including two on the Continent.

As Commodore, I visited many of these events and will be joining the two Scottish Fleets in September, for a cruise on the Clyde.

In February, by invitation from our International Commodore Ken Winter, I had the great pleasure of assisting him to crew Pacific Mermaid for the America's Cup. It was an experience I will never forget, especially the enthusiasm and jubilation noise made by the thousands of spectators gathered around the harbour, at the time the teams went out, and returned, likewise from the 3000 or so boats who accompanied them around the race area.

I have already spoken to several clubs about this event.

During my year, I have visited one National Conference and three District Conferences, using our new stand to promote IYFR.

As a result of this and the efforts of many dedicated Bridge members, we have increased membership by about 45, to almost 400.

We ended the day with a formal dinner, at which we were addressed by a fire officer from the Port of Southampton. He demonstrated the horrors of fires on small boats, and inspired us all to check our extinguishers.

The whole weekend was a great success and a chance to meet up with old friends and make many new. We now look forward to the next weekend get-together by the Lake Windemere in the Lake District.

Bryan Skinner
Commodore GB&I

From Seattle,

*by International Rear Commodore
Bill Robinson*

Fleet promotion and the regional Mariner fellowship activities are a major emphasis of activities in the Pacific North West region of the Americas.

The Seattle Mariners Fleet (formed in 1949) are having a rendezvous in Victoria, British Columbia during the District 5030 conference, and are working with PDG Bob Wilson and Regional Commodore Dave Kelly to promote IYFR and the formation of a new Cascade Fleet during the conference.

A new Columbia River fleet is in the making for Rotary Mariners living in the greater Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington area.

PDGs (5010) and Independent IYFR members Alana Bergh and Lloyd Morris are exploring development of a Mariner fleet in Alaska.

As a result of Pacific Northwest connection with Russia and our involvement to extend Rotary in Russia, we are working with four

Rotary clubs in the Lake Baikal region of Siberia to form what may be the first IYFR fleet in Russia. (There are 70 Rotary clubs in Russia). With the help of District 5010 Governor Elect Vladimir Donskoi from Irkutsk, and the District 5030 Seattle number 4, the Russian Rotary Matching Grant Program, the Lake Baikal Rotarians are planning a "Kayaks for Kids" project to take disabled children who have been confined in institutions, out in double kayaks to experience the joys and freedom of kayaking.

At the 7th Annual meeting for Extending Rotary in Russia, we met a Rotarian from Vladivostok. He had researched Rotary Fellowships and was very enthusiastic about starting a fleet.

Networking and fleet development are important. We developed an IYFR brochure for use with our local fleet development that can be easily adapted for fleets and fleets in formation in other regions. If you would like a copy, please send me a message at: wtr@wtrobinson.com.

We will discuss fleet development brochures and other promotional materials at IYFR meetings in Brisbane during the RI convention,

and will make these available on the IYFR website.

On April 13th. My wife, Katia, and I had the opportunity to join the Puget Sound Mariner Fleet during their opening day for the "The Daffodil Parade". It was a wonderful time for fellowship, and an excellent way to shake off our winter hibernation and get back on the water.

Members of the Puget Sound and Seattle Mariner Fleets will have two boats participating in the historic Seattle Yacht Club opening day ceremonies and parade in Seattle on May 3rd, followed by a Mariner potluck at the waterfront home of Seattle Commodore Mike O'Byrne.

The two fleets, Vancouver and Vancouver Island continue their fellowship activities and will join the Seattle Mariner fleet in August for the 19th annual Vancouver Island-Seattle rendezvous. This traditional event provides another opportunity for inter-fleet fellowship with independent members and Mariners from other fleets in the Pacific North West Region.

by Bill Robinson. Incoming International Commodore 2005-07



Motor Yacht "ROTAYAT"

Most Rotarians are interested in sailing and love to be on water. However, it is not always easy for an individual to purchase a large boat.

Supposing you could afford such an investment, even then the maintenance requires a substantial amount of your budget and lots of time, which can create overwhelming problems.

However, we must have hobbies and allow time for recreations to make life worthwhile. Therefore, we should look for other solutions as a compromise. A compromise that can satisfy our financial resources and dreams. Turkish IYFRians have come up with a solution. They commissioned a yacht to be used collectively.

An incorporated company has been established and some sixty shareholders have joined the company so far.

Even some IYFRians from overseas, such as Dr. Joe Shirley and Mrs. Roselyn Pierce from Texas Fleet joined the company.

The yacht is named M/Y "ROTAYAT". Rota , in Turkish Maritime language means "course".

She is a 22.5 m (73.77 foot) steel yacht powered by two diesel engines.

Capacity is 100 people for day excursions and cocktails on the main and sun deck, or 70 people seated around tables at lunch or dinner meetings

The yacht will serve as a training boat for Coastal Navigation, Nautical Astronomy, Seamanship, Meteorology, Oceanography, Rules of "Road", Signaling, Anchoring, Mooring, Steering, GPS, Radar, E/S reading, Chart work etc. for Rotarians who want to obtain a certificate as Yacht Skipper.

Likewise training will be offered to outstanding school pupils and sea scouts.

The yacht will welcome visiting IYFRians for cruises along the "Bosphorus" strait of Istanbul and around the Princess Islands.

In order to cover operational and running expenses and repay our initial investment, M/Y "ROTAYAT" will be used commercially for day and night cruises and cocktails, dinners, lunches for VIP clients and major corporations as well.

The yacht also will occasionally be available to entertain teachers, students, orphans, handicapped, veterans and retired dignitaries on special dates.

Likewise for GSE teams and exchange students , the IYFRian yacht will also be an additional attraction for Turkey.

We extend herewith an invitation to all Rotarians, and Rotary Mariners to participate in this investment and become a part owner in this fine craft.

Please request details from Commodore Ferit Biren about this investment

WELCOME ON BOARD



New Shirts,

As part of the regalia the new shirts have proven very popular.

They were featured on the back page of the February Rotafloat.

48 have sold to date and we still have good stocks available.

The shirts are made of polycotton and available in the following sizes:

Womens: 10 is petite, 12 is small, 14 medium, 16 is large and 20 extra large.

Mens, collar size: 38 is small, 40 is medium, 42 is large, 44 is extra large and 46 xx large.

Price: US \$ 40.00 each,- any size.

Please write or fax your order to:

Ken and Bente Winter

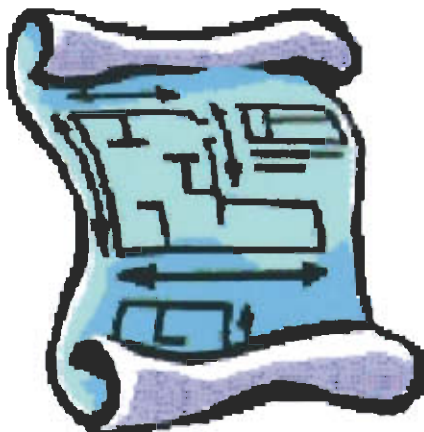
Email:

pacific-mermaid@xtra.co.nz

Fax + 64 9 357 0172

From July 1 please order from the new International Commodore Ferit Biren

Email: iyfr2003@yahoo.com



IYFR Web site is:

www.IYFR.rotary.org.nz

From here you will find links to other websites, with lots of good information.

The Membership list

The February Rotafloat featured a change to the way we issue the membership list, we call the roster.

Page 6 illustrated the different methods we can use and replies were overwhelming in favour of Choice 5.

Some 80% of respondents preferred to have the list available on the web site.

Therefore we have moved in that direction and will place the full Roster on the web as from June 1 this year.

The other 4 Choices listed on page 6 in the February issue are still available, in addition to choice 5. You have to tell us which choice, you will go with, or you will not see the roster.

Some members may not wish, to have their name published, and although it is already available in the present roster just as most of are recorded in Telephone books around the world. Now with phone listings freely available on the web, world wide, we are members of this century's citizens. We are already out in the open, whether we like it or not.

However we do respect members privacy and should you not wish to have your name published, please let us know.

Fax or email me before June 1 to record your wish.

A protective password is still required for members to use.

On the web site, the password will be " Rotary Yachting "
The web address is: www.iyfr.rotary.org.nz

To use the membership list for commercial purpose is illegal and there are legal remedies we can introduce to stop this practice.

Love to hear from you,

Ken Winter,

Email: pacific-mermaid@extra.co.nz

Fax +64 9 357 0172

So true !

Those who lose money, lose much.
Those who lose a friend lose more.
Those who lose faith, lose all.

From Canada.....

On Nov 3, 2002, Commodore Ken Bassam, and his First Mate Andrea, toured the Indian Arm, in convoy with 2 boats from the Vancouver fleet ,

We departed and returned in brilliant sunshine. The adventurers included the following:

Ken and Andrea Bassam "Rollick", Bernie and Mairi Graves "Natica", and friends of Ken Bassam, Ken and Barbara Suthern "Far Cry".

Deck hands were Otto Rieve and Yukiko (photographer) Onley, Bob (who forgot the food) and Jacqueline Christie, Dudley (Commodore Emeritus) Barnes, Kurt Rudzewski and Wilma Grantham, Rick and Ann Graves.

It was a glorious day, IYFR fun and Rotary fellowship – what a day to spend together! Dudley is a member of the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club and this allowed us to land at and tour the Wigwam Inn, which harkens back to turn of the century existence.

While all enjoyed our **frost-biter** this year, we surely look forward to a **summer cruise** next year.

- Otto Rieve, Scribbler

From Sweden.....

A summary of Gunnar Jardelov's report from the AGM:

59 members and invited guests attended the February meeting. Points discussed were:

How to extend membership.

We recommend spontaneous contacts, when visiting other clubs, as well as asking Club President a short presentation on "Rotary Mariners". The aim is to offer a stronger network, not competition.

We support the name to ROTARY MARINERS as this explains better what we are about.

We encouraged members to think about how best to contribute to the POST CONVENTION CRUISE in 2006, in Sweden and Denmark. We aim to make it a memorable, enjoyable and cost effective event.

The aim is not only to put together a good programme but it is essential to achieve a high level of involvement by each member. Gunner also reports that the big trip last year, to Hawaii and New Zealand was a tremendous success.

Finally we thank Birger Lindeblad for his excellent presentation of his 3-month sailing from Ellos to Göcek in south Turkey.

Gunnar Jardelov

From New Zealand.....

Commodore Julie Simpson writes:

During the two year term of Ken and Bente Winter as International Commodore, the NZ Fleet has enjoyed a great deal of sun, fun and fellowship.

New Zealanders are good at enjoying themselves. The New Zealand Fleet has a great fellowship attitude.

New Zealand Fleet events have included :

A boat trip to Riverhead which is a small, historic part of Auckland. You can reach it, by road, however the more interesting way is to get there is by boat, by winding through the narrow river that is totally tide dependent for access.

We chartered a 45 ft. boat for this event and a happy boat load of Rotary Mariners enjoyed great hospitality on board. At the Riverhead "jetty" (not quite like any other jetty you've seen), everyone embarked for a great pub lunch.

The following month we had a Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker, Tony Hembrow of Rayglass Boats. Rayglass Boats is a NZ boat building company and makers of the well-known "Protector", an air inflated vessel with amazing speed and manoeuvrability in all extreme weather conditions. The Protector vessels came into their own during the Americas Cup Regatta.

It was great to hear such a positive success story.

At subsequent meetings we have enjoyed talks from magnificent guest speakers, such as Harvey Fergusson (NZ Ministry of Fisheries Inspector, and offshore yachtsman) and the following meeting Team New Zealand yachtsmen. Joey Allen and Grant Loretz spoke. Lately Barry Small, owner of a 70 ft English Canal Hotel boat "Lady Gwendoline" addressed us.

Also we have entertained a good number of visiting Iyforians - such as the wonderful Swedish group in January. Together we watched the Volvo Round the World race. Several folks from England, America and Australia, have also been entertained by our fleet.

We enjoyed our International Commodore's hospitality on the fabulous 105 ft cruiser, "Pacific Mermaid".

A cocktail party on board, for the Swedish Iyforians was held. We joined the 700 boat flotilla in a sail-past to honour the late Sir Peter Blake. We also took to the water to watch Louis Vuitton Cup Racing during the build-up to the Americas Cup Races - most exciting.

We have been very proud to have the International Commodore, Ken Winter and first mate Bente, in our membership, and have certainly enjoyed many great, and excellent fellowship events, in celebration of that.

Supplied by Julie Simpson, Commodore New Zealand Fleet

News from Australia !

Queensland

Erwin Spork, the IYFR Regional Commodore Administration, from Queensland Fleet writes:

The last 3 months have been full of activity.

The February lunch at Snug Harbour was attended by 26 members.

Commodore Merv. Coote reports that 8 members are visiting the Sydney fleet for the week-end of 28 February.

Bruce Duncan spoke of the planning for the Brisbane Convention. A tour of the Riviera Boat Building plant has been arranged for the 5th June and the arrangements for the post convention cruise in the Whitsunday Islands are now well advanced

Ian Johnston, of the Whitsunday Fleet, attended our meeting and reported a good response. Some 60 members and guest are expected.

A visit by Erwin Spork to the Perth fleet some 4000 miles west of Brisbane was very successful. Regional Commodore of the Perth area Reg. Willis expressed a keen interest to arrange an east-west visit at Easter 2004.

Good news was announced. Our own member Max Cribb has been elected International Commodore of IYFR, for the period 2007-09

Erwin Spork, Queensland Fleet

Gibbslands

Bob Dack the IYFR International Regional Commodore of the South Australians Fleets writes:

Last year Betty and I went to the northern part of Australia and visited Rotary clubs and Yachting fleets on route.

The Gibbslands Lakes Fleet continues to flourish with several new members joining recently.

Commodore Bruce Quennell is doing a splendid job, keeping in touch with members and circulates news sheets periodically.

In January, Betty and I visited the International Commodore Ken and Bente and past Commodore Roy Budgen in New Zealand.

A highlight for our fleet this year was to host the International Commodore Ken and Bente for 4 days in early April.

Fleet excursions were held on the lakes and a wonderful barbeque put on at the home Lindsay and Lindy Crawford..

The fellowship were at its best and different "colour" beverages were the order of the day.

A real "fence post" was presented to Ken and Bente to commemorate a very good visit to our fleet. Ken and Bente were stumped.

Bob Dack, Regional commodore

Gold Coast

Commodore John Sawyer of the Gold coast fleet reports:

The fleet is thriving well and truly, and is enjoying a good measure of fellowship.

On the 13 March a dinner meeting was held at the Southport Yacht Club and attended by some 20 members and guests.

The guest speaker Dan Cross spoke about the youth training organisation called Sea Rovers which is a voluntary organisation relying purely on donations from the public and benevolent Companies.

Likewise, Dan told us about new programmes developed for the older and more adventures youth. He commented on fitness and obesity as a necessity in our day and age.

Later in March we had a picnic lunch at Currigee. Six boats arrived and anchored off Currigee to a well "loaded lunch." great fun.

At Easter we had a raft-up in the Marine Stadium. "Footloose" were there. We were on channel 67.

On the 5 June we have arranged a visit to the Gold Coast Marina for the International Mariners.

Should be good.

John Sawyer, Commodore Gold Coast

New Commodore for 2007-2009

The new commodore for the period 2007-09 has been elected and we welcome Max Cribb to the "International Bridge"

Max comes from Queensland in Australia and is married to Merna. Joined Rotary in Brisbane in 1978. Max has held many Committee and Board positions in Rotary and was elected District Governor in the year 2000.

In the IYFR movement Max was Commodore of the Queensland Fleet in 1995-96 and his great accomplishment was to charter the Whitsunday Fleet, 7 April 2000

In his working career Max was Director and Shareholder in Australian's largest independent finance planning company. His present Classification in Rotary is Financial Planning, Retired.



Max Cribb