



# NZIODA AGM Minutes

8.00 pm Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026 – Zoom meeting

**1. Present** - Bree Lornie (GBC), Chris Xiong (RAYC), John Oldfield (WBBC), Winstone MacFarlane (QCYC), Simon Briscoe (MBSC), Wayne Holdt (NPYC), Tony Robb (QCYC), Leny Woolsey (Ohope / TYPBC), Kris Perano (CBYC), Claire Sinnemara (WBC), Matt Harker (RAYC), Vaughn Wood (MBSC), Sarah Nicholl (NZIODA secretary), Claire Johnson (KYC)

**2. Apologies** - Rob Burn (QCYC), Doug Sommerville (HSC),

**3. Minutes of the previous AGM**

**Accepted:** Wayne Holdt / Tony Robb

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

No matter arising

**5. The President's report**

Dear Members,

I'm pleased to report that NZIODA is in a very healthy position. Participation remains strong, our finances are sound, our sailors continue to perform on the international stage, and perhaps most importantly, we continue to see hundreds of young New Zealanders enjoying our sport.

I'd like to begin by thanking all of our sailors, families, coaches, volunteers and host clubs for another fantastic year in Optimist sailing.

One of our priorities over the past year has been continuing to strengthen our Green Fleet programme. The revised Green Fleet guidelines are now well embedded across clubs around New Zealand, helping provide a more enjoyable and consistent introduction to racing for our newest sailors.

Our development pathway also continues to grow. Both the North Island and South Island clinics were very well supported, and our May Team Clinic brought together sailors from our Worlds, Europeans, Asians and Development squads. These opportunities continue to play a vital role in preparing sailors for international competition while helping build friendships across the country.

Internationally, New Zealand sailors have once again represented the class with distinction. Over the past season our sailors competed at the Worlds in Slovenia, the Europeans in Turkey, the North Americans in Puerto Rico and the Asian & Oceanian Championships in Hong Kong. More recently, our 2026 World Championship team has just completed a successful campaign in Morocco, with the Europeans in Poland and the Asian & Oceanian Championship in Sri Lanka still to come later this year.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the Optimist class is seeing our sailors continue their sailing journeys after graduating from Optis. It has been fantastic to watch former NZIODA sailors representing New Zealand internationally in classes such as the 29er and 420. Their success is a reflection of the strength of the pathway that begins in our class.

I'd particularly like to acknowledge the outstanding National Championships hosted by New Plymouth Yacht Club. Hosting a Nationals is a huge undertaking, and the club delivered an exceptional event both on and off the water.

I'd also like to thank Toyota New Zealand for their continued sponsorship of our National Championships. Their ongoing support is greatly appreciated and helps us deliver an event that provides a fantastic experience for our sailors and families year after year.

I would also like to make special mention of Sacha McGregor, who did an outstanding job as Race Officer. On behalf of NZIODA, thank you Sacha, and thank you as well for your willingness to assist Worser Bay Boating Club as they prepare to host next year's National Championships.

I also want to acknowledge Veronica and Sarah for everything they do behind the scenes to keep NZIODA running so professionally. Their organisational expertise, attention to detail and continuity are invaluable to the Association and make the work of the committee so much easier. Thank you both for everything you do.

I'd also like to thank Kathie Elliott for her continued service as our Class Registrar. Kathie quietly performs one of the Association's most important roles, ensuring the integrity of our class records and supporting countless families through registrations and ownership transfers. Through Sail One, she also continues to provide valued support to our National Championships and the wider Optimist community.

Our class measurement team also deserves special recognition. Equipment measurement is fundamental to fair competition, and we're fortunate to have such an experienced and dedicated group. In particular, I'd like to thank Dani Briscoe and Bob Witham for their leadership in this area, along with all of our volunteer class measurers for the significant amount of time they devote to supporting our sailors and events.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the OWNZ Trust for its continued financial and practical support of NZIODA. Their ongoing commitment enables many of the development opportunities we are able to provide for our sailors.

Likewise, thank you to Yachting New Zealand. We continue to work closely together to strengthen junior sailing pathways and ensure young sailors have clear opportunities to progress from Learn to Sail through Optimists and on to youth and high-performance classes.

This AGM also marks the end of an era for several long-serving committee members.

Paul Blundell, Tony Robb and Francis de Jager are all stepping down after many years of service. What makes their contribution particularly special is that each continued serving well after their own children had moved on from the Optimist class. That demonstrates a genuine commitment to giving back to the sport and supporting the next generation of sailors. On behalf of everyone in NZIODA, thank you for your wisdom, your time and your countless hours of volunteer service over many years.

At the same time, I'd like to warmly welcome Bree Lornie, John Oldfield, Claire Johnson, Claire Sinnema, Winstone MacFarlane and Leny Woolsey to the committee. Thank you for stepping forward to volunteer your time. Fresh perspectives and new energy are vital to ensuring NZIODA continues to grow and evolve, and we look forward to your contribution.

I'd also like to acknowledge our coaches. The time, enthusiasm and expertise they invest in developing our young sailors is one of the key reasons New Zealand continues to produce sailors who are competitive on the world stage. Thank you for everything you do.

Finally, I'd like to thank our entire community of volunteers. Every regatta, clinic, international team, development programme and governance initiative relies on volunteers—or, more accurately, parents!—giving up countless hours behind the scenes. It is a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated and passionate group of people, all united by a shared commitment to providing the very best opportunities for our young sailors.

The Optimist class is where so many sailing journeys begin. The friendships formed, the life skills learned and the confidence gained through the Optimist class stay with our sailors long after they've moved on to other classes—and often for the rest of their lives.

Thank you to everyone who gives their time to make those opportunities possible.

## **6. The Treasurer's report**

This had been circulated amongst the membership. Chris reported a strong financial position for the organisation with a net profit of \$5,600 and a total income of \$70,000 for the year ended February 28, 2026. The organization's financial position remains healthy with total assets of \$201,000, including \$110,000 in term deposits.

**Accepted:** Matt Harker / John Oldfield

## **7. The Registrar's report**

Sarah read Kathie Elliot's registrar report to the meeting:

### Stock

Sail labels: 5

### Boats registered in last 12 months: 8

(Boats registered 2025 = 9, 2024 = 10, 2023 =12, 2022 = 25 and 2021 = 11)

### Change of ownership: 6

I would have liked to have seen more change of ownerships.

IODA has implemented a Sail Digital System from 1/1/26. This means that all new boats will have a digital Registration Book, builders declaration and measurement section all completed and accessible through the IODA digital system. Sail numbers will be obtained and issued by the Registrar of NZIODA through the IODA portal. All registerable equipment will have RFID chips embedded in them to enable scanning. I have yet to do this as no new equipment has been registered under the new system.

If the Club Opti reps could add to their information packs the need to keep the Registration Books in a safe place and that if you are purchasing a secondhand Opti make sure you get the Registration Book and you update your details as the new owner with the NZIODA Registrar.

I am happy to continue as Registrar.

## **8. Motions to be considered**

No motions have been received to consider.

## **9. Election of Committee members**

**President** - Matt Harker (RAYC) **Moved:** Sarah / John

**Secretary** - Sarah Nicholl (NZIODA Administrator - CBYC) **Moved:** Matt / Tony

**Treasurer** - Chris Xiong (RAYC) **Moved:** Matt / Tony

**Committee Members** - James Wells (GBC), Sam MacKay (YNZ), Simon Briscoe (MBSC), Wayne Holdt (NPYC), Bree Lornie (GBC), John Oldfield (WBBC), Claire Johnson (KYC), Doug Sommerville (HSC), Leny Woolsey (TYPBC/Ohope), Winston Macfarlane (QCYC), Claire Sinnema (WBC)

Simon Briscoe let the committee know that he is currently looking for a replacement committee member from MBSC due to his other commitments at the club.

It was noted that the committee would also welcome representation from Nelson YC, Canterbury and Napier SC as areas with active Optimist fleets.

## **10. General Business**

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August at 8pm.

Development committee meetings are generally held monthly, a week prior to the full committee meeting. Winstone has agreed to be part of this subcommittee alongside Doug Sommerville, Simon Briscoe, Sam Mackay and Sarah Nicholl