1990 - the first RNZ race - the teams at Oban in their pub gear.

2012 - the second RNZ race - Leg 3 race start from Oban.
The initial Round New Zealand race was won by Provincial Cowboy, a Ross 40, but it is the story of Canon Head Office, a Ross 35 production racer/cruiser, that is most remarkable. Canon Head Office, although being 5 foot shorter, sailed hard and challenged Provincial Cowboy for the lead at times. However on the final leg they cracked the mast. Steve Ashley and Craig Torkler went on to splint the mast with their spinnaker pole and support it enough to get sailing again under headsail. Amazingly they completed the leg and still won the race overall on handicap.

The 2012 second edition of the RNZ was won on line overall by Surreal, a Beneteau 47.7 and by Truxton, a Tiller 10.5, on handicap overall.

In this, the third edition of the SSANZ Two Handed Round New Zealand Race I’m sure once again we will all be amazed with stories of bravery, determination and ingenuity. In between the howling gales and ferocious currents there will be moments of champagne sailing like no other. Beautiful sunrises and sunsets, views of the Southern Alps, the Fiordland Sounds or the numerous famous Capes, not to mention the joy of turning the final corner and seeing the stopover port come into view!

By completing, you will be a member of a pretty special and exclusive club. The Race will visit the ports of Mangonui, Half Moon Bay - Stewart Island and Napier. Any competitor of past Round North Island Races will tell you of the exceptional hospitality of the locals at both Mangonui and Napier. But Stewart Island has it’s own magical appeal. It’s a place a lot of New Zealanders have never visited and extremely scenic and beautiful. The fleet will spend enough time in Oban to recharge their batteries and also see some of the local sights such as seeing the Kiwi in the wild (as opposed to Wild Kiwi’s which can be seen at the South Seas Hotel Bar!)

It’s almost time again to bid farewell to a magnificent fleet of varied shapes and sizes. I’d like to wish you all the best in what will undoubtedly be a fantastic adventure. There will undoubtedly be a few tougher moments to challenge your determination and character, but hopefully will only serve to make your well deserved drink taste a little sweeter at each stopover.

All the best Lads....
Neil Hilder
Chairman, SSANZ

... and from the RO...

It’s great to have seven yachts make the commitment to take on the toughest challenge in yacht racing in New Zealand, as there is a huge amount of work that goes into preparing a yacht and crew just to get to the start line.

While it may be a small fleet for this third edition of the race there is a lot of shorthanded sailing experience in the crews competing. Combined with that the yachts are all very similar in size which will make a very competitive race. But the mission for all is to complete the circumnavigation of New Zealand and finish safely back in Auckland in March. Along the way there will be many challenges, weather systems, and obstacles for the crews to navigate while trying to complete that mission.

SSANZ has done a huge amount of work to make this the third running of the Round New Zealand Race happen. While I am the Race Officer, I am only one of a team of enthusiastic sailors committed to shorthanded sailing, that come together to make this happen. The race also wouldn’t happen without the support of our sponsors, stopover volunteers who rally together with the race committee to support the fleet.

Safe and fast sailing
Geoff Herd
Race Officer, SSANZ
WELCOME ABOARD...
New Zealand’s Ultimate Yachting Challenge

The SSANZ Two Handed Round New Zealand Race, proudly sponsored by the New Zealand International Yachting Trust, would have to be New Zealand’s biggest yachting challenge. This will be only the third edition of the race. 29 years after the inaugural event!

SSANZ is the biggest success story for keelboat sailing in the country, respected for it’s popular B&G Simrad Triple Series, the Two Handed Round North Island Race and Anzac Enduro. Since 1996, SSANZ has quietly grown a small niche of the sport to the point that last year, with over 170 competitors in the SSANZ Safety at Sea Triple Series, it was organising the biggest keelboat event in the country!

With huge growth and interest at grass roots level it was inevitable some crews would start looking for greater challenges. This has shown up with the increase in entrants for the SSANZ Round North Island Two Handed Race - a record 36 in 2011. With such strong interest it seemed the timing was right to reintroduce the ultimate challenge - Two Handed Round New Zealand.

So what makes the race such a challenge? First there are the great capes – North, Reinga, Maria van Diemen, Egmont, Foulwind, Providence, Saunders, Wanbrow Campbell, Palliser, Turnagain, Kidnappers, East, Runaway and Colville, not to mention Puysegur Point where there is a gale warning 300 days of the year! Typically you can expect a major weather change at some point while rounding a cape. It is rare for the weather to be the same on both sides. In bad weather the influence of the capes magnify everything. Winds increase and change direction (often for the worse) and currents rage and sweep around. Seas grow steeper and more dangerous.

Another challenge is the Tasman Sea. Infamous for its sudden weather changes and ability to brew fast moving frontal systems and stubborn low and high pressure systems. Navigators will be kept on their toes. Essentially the boats will travel 1000 miles down the west coast of both islands. If there is a weakness, the Tasman will find it.

Next is the Pacific Ocean. In New Zealand’s predominant westerlies the vastly varying topography of the North and South Islands will have a major effect on the wind. Making the right choices can be as much of an art form as it is a science. As well as the weather, navigational and tactical choices each crew has to balance how hard they push themselves and their boats against potential breakage and fatigue. After all, to finish first, first you have to finish!

The first leg is a short sprint up the coast from Auckland to Mangonui.

If the competitors are lucky they may get a south westerly for a reach up the coast, but in late February a nor-east sea breeze is fairly likely. Boats would then have to beat their way out of the Hauraki Gulf but will get to ease sails as they head further north. The challenging part will be positioning if the breeze fades away at night. Most boats will expect to finish Leg 1 after a little over 24 hours.

Second leg - is the longest and potentially most challenging of the race. Mangonui to Half Moon Bay, Stewart Island, close to 1000 miles of sailing

If the predominant weather pattern of a high pressure system mid-Tasman is present, competitors can expect westerly or nor-westerly winds. Competitors are likely to spread out in an arc as they choose between heading further south or west to play the respective weather systems at the time. There is no land to the west of the South Island so expect long open ocean swells and a relatively stable wind.

Closing in on Fiordland will see a dramatic increase in the risk of a gale. The key decision will be how far out to sea you should be when making the final approach. Navigation in this area can be difficult in foul weather as mist and haze from rain and pounding surf can shroud Puysegur Point. Lights and other navigation aids are scarce, as the general lack of boats in the area means fishing vessels often leave their lights off!

After rounding Puysegur Point the fleet has to take on the challenge of the Foveaux Strait. Strong currents, shallow water and funnelling winds make this one of New Zealand’s most notorious areas of rough sea. For this reason the sailors have two options: boats can round Stewart Island the long way, round the South of the Island. As a much safer route, the sailors have to weigh up the extra distance with calmer seas, versus the more direct and treacherous route.

Boats can expect to take somewhere between 5 and 10 days to complete this long and challenging leg.
Third leg - Stewart Island to Napier. Just over halfway, homeward bound, but with plenty of racing to go.

There are two main parts to this leg: first the boats must travel up the coast of the South Island, after which they navigate the Wairarapa Coast of the North Island.

Travelling up the coast of the South Island the boats passed the Canterbury Plains which has a significant influence on the weather. The weather pattern can often alternate between a sea breeze during the day and a land breeze at night due to the heating and cooling of the plains. The key decision for the sailors will be how far to stay off the coast. Too far and you may lose the benefit of the offshore land breeze coming off the plains. Too close and you may have less strength in the sea breeze compared to those further out.

North of Christchurch, the Kaikoura Ranges may cause the wind to stir into back eddies with local gusts streaming out of the valleys.

The inhospitable Wairarapa Coast can be a fairly unpleasant place. In a westerly, the tactic is to stay offshore and enjoy a more consistent breeze, but if it’s light and variable inshore, working the sea breeze may pay off. A judgement call where experience navigating these waters may make all the difference. This leg is expected to take between 4 and 6 days.

The final leg from Napier to Auckland is dominated by the rounding of East Cape.

East Cape has its own weather system and you can often be becalmed both before and after, yet still have 30-40 knots at the corner. Raging currents will shorten up the seas so expect a pounding.” After rounding the Cape, if lucky, the boats will lay Colville, but more likely the breeze will shift to being on the nose. Crews will be tired and some will be nursing broken gear at this stage but the last 60 miles in the Hauraki Gulf can be unpredictable with plenty of opportunity for gains and losses.

The final leg should take between 2 and 5 days.

This race, with all its challenges, will test every sailor’s physical and mental endurance. Any crew that finishes the race will have shown great seamanship, mental and physical strength. With the preparation, navigation, weather interpretation, endurance, seamanship, speed and ingenuity required it’s no wonder why this race is New Zealand’s Ultimate Yachting Challenge!

Cameron Thorpe, who has rounded EAST CAPE 6 times (3 each way) says, “My first rounding of East Cape was magic. 8-12 knots of wind with the spinnaker up. However I’ve paid the price, and been bashed every race since! If you escape rounding East Cape with a mere 30 knots of wind you have been lucky.”
Boat Details: Arbitare

Farr 38
Length 11.6m
Draft 1.96m
Displacement 5500kg
Mods - stainless steel prod

Race History
Around the bouys Wellington
Round North Island 2017
My name is Murray Hartley and my yacht is a Farr 38. I bought her in Auckland 10 years ago and sailed her back to Wellington, where I tried round the buoys racing for a couple of seasons. I decided that that style of racing wasn’t for me and I wanted to do shorthanded offshore racing, so after a lot of work Arbitare was ready for adventure.

The RNI came along so I thought I would enter the race. The only modification Arbitare has is a stainless steel prod which I built with the help of a local engineer. Because I live rural, his experience was in fixing tractors! It was built to withstand all conditions but probably hasn’t helped the boats weight! I sail out of the Titahi Bay Boating Club. After the exhaustion had faded from the RNI I started to look around for my next adventure, and when the email came through about the RNZ I entered that day just in case I changed my mind.

I have been sailing from an early age as my father Phil Hartley was a keen Wellington yachtie most of his life. After centreboarders I sailed keelers with him on an assortment of yachts, one of which was a Farr 38. Funny how I ended up with one as well.

I met my co-skipper Dave Ormandy in the Napier Yacht Club after the third leg of the RNI. We were having dinner in the club having decided not to partake in Mexican and lots of red wine with some of the others. I remember sitting with Dave and Ritchie from Cool Change and a few others thinking “man these guys have a lot of experience.” Just listening to the conversation of near misses and little gems of wisdom in casual throw away statements, on topics ranging from marine dysentery and its cure to weather and tides etc. was pretty cool. Not long after I entered the RNZ I got a call from Dave saying he was keen so that was that sorted.

I think the most out there moment was in the last RNI when Max and I were caught in a weather bomb in the Bay of Plenty on the last leg, we were in the middle of BOP when it hit, nothing we could do but get on with it.

My offshore vice is salt and vinegar ripples – can eat them all day, 4 in the morning, whenever! I am sure Max looked at me sometimes thinking... really? With the RNZ I think getting around in one piece is the task at hand. Once over the finish line it will be ring my wife, hot shower, rum, food and sleep in that order.

Being stricken with the incurable condition of aquaholism from an early age, the only reputable medical advice was to get regular doses of salt spray. Recreational sailing and other associated water activities assisted keeping the symptoms at bay, and despite the miles now mounting on my clock, the desire to go sailing has not diminished. It certainly beats sitting in a lazy boy at home watching golf on TV, playing bowls and trolling farce book and other anti-social media.

A career change 5 years ago allowed me to go sailing almost full time and mastering the art of getting a leave pass from my understanding, but long suffering wife, certainly helped. Since 2013 sailing has occupied a lot of my time, clocking up about 20000 ocean miles, so I thought I could call sailing my occupation, but I don’t get a lot of support with this belief. And as for scary moments in sailing, capsizing with my wife to be on Hamilton lake in the middle of winter while I wore a wetsuit and she didn’t, is still haunting me to this day.

Sailing in the RNI race in 2017 was a lot of fun, and although extremely challenging, it certainly acted as motivation to attempt the RNZ race. Murray and I met during that RNI race. We are very much the oldies of the fleet but really looking forward to the adventures, challenges and the sense of achievement that completing a race like this will bring. Having the favourite of my three kids, Ken (who may have admin rights on this site), also in the race adds an extra dimension, not that I am competitive.

What with Sir Frances Chichester being my age when he sailed single handed around the world, I am confident I can two hand it around NZ!

Time will tell!
Boat Details: Expedition Coppelia

Farr 38  
Length 11.6m  
Draft 1.96m  
Displacement 5500kg  

Yacht Strengths Perseverance, longevity, original gelcoat.

Race History  
1998 Auckland to Denarau.  
Won 1999 Auckland to Denarau race, PHRF  
1999 RNI - 4th overall Round North Island 2011 and 2014  
3rd Round New Zealand 2012, PHRF  
Various coastal races
Why do you want to do the RNZ?
I would like to see the Southern Alps from the sea again. I like mountains with snow. Stewart Island is more interesting than you expect as well.

What are the biggest races you've competed in?
Did a few Etchell races way back when Dennis Connor and John Bertrand used to sail, some things I remember.

How did you get into sailing?
Through the father of friend at school who raced a Townsend 32 when they had a class start with the RNZYS! I thought the squadron weekends were just IT.

Sailing background?
Other peoples yachts in Auckland, some Etchells, and my old Coppelia.

How long have you 2 sailed together / how did you meet / what races have you done together in the past?
Since 2009. Rob was my stand-in crew on Nick White's Young 88 Nijinsky for the SSANZ. We have done 2 x RNI, 1 x RNZ, 9 Coastal Classics together, and lots of other adventures.

Funny stories?
Not really we are pretty serious partnership.

Scariest yachting moment?
There hasn't really been any truly scary moments do far, touch wood there won't be. Being the safety officer for offshore races and talking to people in trouble is pretty scary to me.

What is your offshore vice?
My high density foam seat that I sit on to steer.

What do you hope to get out of doing the RNZ?
4 weeks of freedom from work!

What inside tips do you have for others wanting to compete in 2 handed racing at this level?
Talk your GP or someone else you trust! If no one can help... Sail a lot. Don’t give up. Prepare hard. Be safe. Sail more, then do it.

What's your team motto?
We are finishing

Biggest yachting achievement?
2012 RNZ

Family
Mum and 3 sisters, nieces and nephews.

When you cross the finish line, what will you be most hanging out for?
Sleep

Name: Rob Croft
Age: Flexible
From: Northcote
Work: Rigger
Yacht Club: SSANZ

Why do you want to do the RNZ?
Really enjoyed some of it last time, want to enjoy more of it this time.

What are the biggest races you've competed in?
Biggest in terms of numbers of the start line the 2009 Australian FF nationals – 147 boats on the start line.

How did you get into sailing?
I was born into it – went away in the boat at 5 months old.

Sailing background?
Started to race at Wakatere BC in Starlings and Sunbursts.2 years at RNZYS youth scheme.2 years World Match racing tour and other keelboat adventures.Brief foray into 470 sailing.Raced 2005 Flying Fifteen Worlds in Auckland and have raced them ever since. 25th at the last worlds, 1st female helm.

How long have you 2 sailed together / how did you meet / what races have you done together in the past?
Since 2009. Rob was my stand-in crew on Nick White’s Young 88 Nijinsky for the SSANZ. We have done 2 x RNI, 1 x RNZ, 9 Coastal Classics together, and lots of other adventures.

Funny stories?
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What is your offshore vice?
My high density foam seat that I sit on to steer.

What do you hope to get out of doing the RNZ?
4 weeks of freedom from work!

What inside tips do you have for others wanting to compete in 2 handed racing at this level?
Get a psychologist – honestly it is a brain game so get someone to train your brain.

What's your team motto?
It doesn't get easier you just get faster.

Biggest yachting achievement?
Finishing the 2012 RNZ.

Family
I have the lovely Neil.

When you cross the finish line, what will you be most hanging out for?
Fresh water.

Name: Sally Garrett
Age: 42
From: Devonport
Work: Environmental Scientist
Yacht Club: Royal Akarana, Devonport
**Name**  
Ken Ormandy - Gale Force

**Age**  
39

**From**  
Auckland

**Work**  
Father and Engineer

**Yacht Club**  
SSANZ

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**Why do you want to do the RNZ?**
The RNZ seems like the ultimate sailing challenge in this part of the world. 2000+nm, 2 handed, down to the roaring forties and back up again. Who wouldn't want to do it?

**What are the biggest races you’ve competed in?**
I have done the Sydney to Hobart, Auckland to Fiji (4 times), Auckland to Noumea, ANZAC Enduro

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**How did you get into sailing?**
Dad always sailed, so my brother and sister and I all learnt to sail as kids. I somehow became addicted, and have never really stopped.

**What is your sailing background?**
Sailed dinghies (Opti/P/Starling) as a kid then wanted a bit more excitement, so sailed 3.7s, Cherubs and 12ft skiffs. When living in Wellington, I got into offshore/coastal racing on a big Davidson (Andiamo), until one day a GBE arrived. I had to sail on faster boats so jumped ship to multis for a bit. Had a bit of time living in Perth racing 505s and Hobie Cats, and when I came back to NZ, I bought a 30’ Newick tri in Auckland and sailed her down to Wellington. Quite possibly the dumbest thing I have done in my life, but we survived. I owned a modified GBE (Voom) for 7 years, until the family came along and my wife said “we need a bigger boat, go and buy a bigger boat”. We found a sedate family cruiser called Gale Force and have been enjoying cruising and shorthanded racing on her for the last 18 months.

**How long have you 2 sailed together?**
Sam and I have raced each other for a long time in the 8.5m multis, sailing together occasionally. I helped out a bit with the build of Sam’s boat Stealth mission (a good few years ago now). We get on well, and have really only sailed together as build up to this race. We started with the 2018 Route 66 and have now have done the Triple Series, the ANZAC Enduro Qualifier and the Coastal Classic, 2 handed.

**What’s your scariest yachting moment?**
Capsizing my GBE and having one of the crew take a while to surface from under the main and tramp.

**What is your offshore vice?**
Coffee. Lots of Coffee. Since sailing with Sam there have been some slight modifications to the coffee. He has convinced me I don’t have the time to grind the beans by hand before each coffee when racing, and we now like to slip some cream liqueur in (only because then we don’t need to keep milk cold of course.)

**What do you hope to get out of doing the RNZ?**
Massive satisfaction from (hopefully) completing what is our biggest local sailing challenge. Also really looking forward to the family rivalry of racing my Dad on Arbitare and Sam’s brother on Motorboat 2.

**Any tips for young players?**
Have done quite a few SSANZ triple series over the years, and looking ahead to the next course change, the next sail change, and the next wind change is always critical. Be prepared.

**What’s your biggest yachting achievement?**
It felt pretty good to complete the 2015 Sydney to Hobart, the race in which 1/3 of the fleet was knocked out on the first night.

**Family**
I have a beautiful, understanding, tolerant wife and 2 young kids, Jack (nearly 2) and Mackenzie (4).

**When you cross the finish line, what will you be most hanging out for?**
Probably a rum (maybe 2), a shower, and some KFC.
Name: Sam Tucker - Gale Force  
Age: 35  
From: Born Napier  
Work: Marine Industry  
Yacht Club: RNZYS and NZMYC

Why do you want to do the RNZ? 
Doing an event like RNZ has always been on my bucket list – I think it’s a challenge that will test me to my limits both mentally and physically. I’m very lucky to have a supportive wife Georgina and flexibility at work. It’s a great opportunity to sail on well prepared boat with a motivated and talented co-skipper.

What are the biggest races you’ve competed in? 
Before getting into the RNZ and qualifiers like the ANZAC Enduro, the longest race I had done was Chicago to Mackinac on Beau Geste. Some of the other international regattas I’ve competed in include the Russian Match Racing Nationals, Cowes Youth Week, winning the Hardy Cup, Warren Jones Memorial, the Australian Match racing Nationals and Harken Youth International. Closer to home I’ve done the Auckland to Tauranga multiple times as well as many Coastal Classics, including winning division 7 in my home-built trimaran.

How did you get into sailing? 
Born into a boating family and lived on a boat for many years.

What is your sailing background? 
As a youngster I clocked up nearly 10,000 nautical miles sailing around the south Pacific with my parents. I didn’t really do much competitive sailing other than sunburst and sea scouts, until I entered the RNZYS youth training program. During my 2 years in the program and after graduating, I did a lot of international match racing. I got the itch to go fast and decided to put the suitcase away and campaign my own Multihulls and sail for fun not money.

How long have you sailed together? 
Met at the 8.5 class multihull nationals each racing our own boats against each other. A bit of abuse on the race course eventually led to mutual respect... we’ve helped each out as crew a few times over the years, but it’s only been since we signed up for the RNZ that we have really sailed together. Our families have become close, wives being sailing widows together and having a race to see who could have a baby first instead of doing the Coastal Classic in 2014.

Got a funny story? 
Falling asleep while on watch in the ANZAC Enduro RNZ qualifier (Day 3), Ken managed to get photographic evidence of me cuddling the bean bag before I woke up!

What is your scariest yachting moment? 
Standing on an upside down Trimaran (not mine) in an offshore breeze with very limited safety gear wasn’t particularly scary at the time but looking back on it it was a pretty traumatic experience.

What is your offshore vice? 
I get grumpy when I’m hungry!

What do you hope to get out of doing the RNZ? 
Finishing the challenge is a test of fortitude and preparation. I know that crossing the finishing line will give me a great feeling of satisfaction and pride. I’m looking forward to seeing parts of the NZ coastline that not many people get to see. Our aim is to finish the challenge safely as quickly as possible. A good result would be a bonus.

Any tips for young players? 
You can’t beat time on water, the SSANZ two handed Triple Series is great fun. I’ve been doing it on a few boats over the last decade and it’s taught me a lot of sailing lessons.

What’s your team motto? 
We don’t have a motto as such but we just try and enjoy the racing and do our best.

What’s your biggest yachting achievement? 
It was an amazing feeling to win the Coastal Classic in both division and class on line in 2016, helming the “cruising” trimaran ‘Stealth Mission’ I designed and built with my wife.

Family 
Married to my tolerant and supportive wife, Georgina, for 6 years, who will be at home with our 2 boys – a 4 year old and 5 year old... and a puppy...

When you cross the finish line, what will you be most hanging out for? 
Seeing my family (and a Big Mac).
Boat Details: Gale Force

Elliott
Length 10.5m
Draft 2.3m
Displacement 4200kg
Modified aluminium rig, carbon boom, carbon fixed prod, squaretop main additional masthead sails - including a nice Code Zero.

Yacht History
Gale Force was launched in Wellington in 1994. No longer just a fractionally rigged family cruiser with no backstays, she is now the fastest 10.5m family cruiser around - with extensive upgrades to keel, rudder and sailplan.
Nigel Garland
Cory Mclennan

Boat Details: Katana

Sunfast 3600 - Jeanneau
Length 10.8m
Draft 2.14m
Displacement 4950kg

Fibreglass construction, short aluminium mast, carbon boom, North 3DI main and jib, lengthened prod. Design optimised for short-handed sailing. Its weight, stability and hard chine gives good upwind performance in a breeze but wide flat bottom makes it sticky downwind and in the light

Race History
Why do you want to do the RNZ?
Having missed the opportunity to race solo to Australia it seemed the perfect challenge and learning opportunity in Katana.

What are the biggest races you’ve competed in?
I have sailed in a couple of Transpacs (LA to Hawaii) in my brother’s Hobie 33 and Newport to Cabo, nice downwind races. Also a few Coastal Classics.

How did you get into sailing?
Father built a sunburst and older brother had a P Class so most family holidays involved sailing.

Sailing background?
Started sailing in a P Class at Parramatta as a kid and have always been around boats but not much competitive sailing until buying into the Young 88 Heartlight. Katana is the next step up to do some longer races and have a bit more room for cruising.

How long have you 2 sailed together / how did you meet / what races have you done together in the past?
I met Cory through the solo sailing scene in Auckland and knew he would be a sucker for this sort of race. We only started sailing together this year doing the SSANZ events and the Coastal Classic, coming a distant 2nd to Gale Force.

Funny stories?
Got lost in a blizzard skiing at Mount Hutt and had to spend the night in a rudimentary snow cave. Kicked out next morning to find I was 20 mtrs from the road.

Scariest yachting moment?
Losing the rig close to a lee shore on a dark squally night was up there but I’m sure wouldn’t compare with being caught in a big storm.

What is your offshore vice?
Gingernuts and a hot drink.

What do you hope to get out of doing the RNZ?
Experience, adventure and great sense of achievement.

What inside tips do you have for others wanting to compete in 2 handed racing at this level?
Get out there.

What's your team motto?
I'm guessing “Are we having fun yet?” will come out at some stage.

Biggest yachting achievement?
Getting to the start line of the RNZ.

Family
Wife Christine and daughters Anna and Kate.

When you cross the finish line, what will you be most hanging out for?
Catching up with the family, shower, sleep, food cooked in more than one pot.

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Name: Corey McLennan
Age: 24
From: Auckland
Work: Sailutions - Selden & Rutgerson
Yacht Club: Richmond Yacht Club

Why do you want to do the RNZ?
The RNZ is one of three great shorthanded races in NZ. Having completed the other two, doing the third was a must!

What are the biggest races you’ve competed in?
Solo Trans-Tasman 2014 (age 19), RNI 2017

How did you get into sailing?
Fell in love with the idea of ocean racing reading about Sir Peter Blake and decided that’s what I wanted to do one day.

Sailing background?
Started sailing when I was seven in optimists on the West Coast SI and worked my way through the classes, to move up to Auckland to carry on in keel yachts.

How long have you 2 sailed together / how did you meet / what races have you done together in the past?
I met Nigel through the solo sailing scene in Auckland. We only started sailing together this year doing the SSANZ events and Coastal Classic.

Funny stories?
Moving to Auckland and losing my car in a Wilson carpark and not knowing which one it was in. Hours later I had a big parking bill…

Scariest yachting moment?
Sleeping though my alarm on my solo delivery to New Plymouth, waking up and seeing crayfish pots and the Three Kings Islands very close!

What is your offshore vice?
Anything with sugar to get you through that early morning watch.

What do you hope to get out of doing the RNZ?
A sense of accomplishment after completing the race. No better feeling than sailing down the harbour knowing you have just finished an epic event.

What inside tips do you have for others wanting to compete in 2 handed racing at this level?
Get out and do it. Make a plan and just start. You will never regret starting!
Matthew Flynn

**Boat Details: Krakatoa II**

- **Pogo 40**
- **Length 12m**
- **Draft 3.0m**
- **Displacement 4500kg**
- Carbon rig, retracting prod, square top main.

**Yacht History**

Originally from France, a Class 40 design, designed by Conq Finot built in 2006. Rugged and functional, water ballasted, powerful rig with proven off shore capability. Sailed out of Sydney for a while including Sydney Hobart. Then to NZ - won the Solo Trans Tasman. Did RNI Two handed and a few Coastal Classics and SSANZ races. Set up for shorthanded long distance, comfortable and fast sailing, but sleeps 8 and if you can cope with a single burner gimbaled cooker and a toilet with no door, pretty comfortable cruising boat that has a big cockpit and heaps of space.
Name: Matthew Flynn
Age: 58
From: Auckland
Work: Maritime Lawyer
Yacht Club: RNZYS, RAYC and NZMYC

Why do you want to do the RNZ?
A challenging and interesting course, great to sail with fellow two handed crews, always enjoy the SSANZ organisation and never been to Stewart Island. Nice to escape the Auckland heat in February.

What are the biggest races you've competed in?
Toughest was the Archipelago Raid in Sweden, an extreme 5 day race sailed two handed on our F18 catamaran.

How did you get into sailing?
Parents enjoyed cruising with around the Gulf as a young guy, so enjoyed sailing. After enough paper rounds and working at KFC on the weekends bought an M class when I was about 18 school for $500 and it immediately sunk. Got it going and raced and cruised ever since.

Sailing background?
After a lot of swims on the Emmy, it got worse, I got into trimarans and bought a little 24 ft Crowther trimaran. Did the first Coastal at 19, and after a while head overseas and did a lot of sailing in the Med, around the UK. Sailed on everything from an old Moth which fell apart while sailing, Bristol Pilot Cutters in France, a 60 ft expedition yacht to Antarctica, to Hamilton Island on Frank Racing. Secretly dream of winning the Route du Rhum sailing Macif.

How long have you sailed together?
This is a new adventure for me and Scott so looking to combine our experience to have a safe and enjoyable adventure together.

Funny stories?
Sailing my trimaran solo through a busy anchorage when the tiller broke. Resulted in 3 nice holes in a Raven.
No insurance, did the repairs and got asked to quote to do some other work that needed doing on the boat.

Scariest yachting moment?
Decent storm delivering a race boat from Sydney to Melbourne many years ago down in the Bass Strait.

What is your offshore vice?
Some pretty tasty home cooked biscuits my daughter makes.

What do you hope to get out of doing the RNZ?
 Plenty of fresh air, sense of achievement and camaraderie with the other competitors and SSANZ team.

What inside tips do you have for others wanting to compete in 2 handed racing at this level?
Always watch out for your mate. Take your time on every manoeuvre. When the alarm goes at 4 am, it's cold and wet, and you feel crap, get straight up. There are ups and downs but try to enjoy it all.

What's your team motto?
Safety first.

Biggest yachting achievement?
Finishing the Archipelago Raid in one piece.

Family
Family and Friends keen to follow the event.

When you cross the finish line, what will you be most hanging out for?
It's pretty much always a burger, something cold to wash away the salt, and a shower.

For the return journey Stewart island to Auckland, Logan Fraser will step in for Matthew, who has commitments onshore.
Name: Scott Wilson
Age: 35
From: Auckland
Work: Civil Engineer
Yacht Club: RNZYS, SSANZ

Why do you want to do the RNZ?
To tick the box and sail around NZ. Undertake the adventure with great mates.

What are the biggest races you've competed in?
Sydney to Hobart, Transatlantic, Fastnet, Round Britain and Ireland, Round Ireland and the Middle Sea Race, Auckland to Fiji and Noumea races.

How did you get into sailing?
A school mate of mine got me into keel boat sailing at the age of 16, he then convinced me to buy a Pied Piper at the age of 18 and the rest is history.

Sailing background?
At the age of 18 I joined the RNZYS Youth Programme coached by Kevin Peet and Sara Roberts (now Tucker). I spent two years in the scheme which taught me a huge amount about sailing skills, but also about life. From there I did all of the possible local offshore races on Hydroflow, an Elliott 50 owned by Ron Brittain. In 2006 I headed to Europe to captain a RP72 in the Mediterranean, followed by a stint in Italy (both 2007 and 2010) running a Farr 78, and in both 2009 and 2010 captain and race crew on a Cookson 50, Lee Overlay Partners, taking part in the Antigua 600 and Race Week, and all major European offshore regattas. Followed by the Dubai to Muscat race in 2013 (which we were briefed by the Navy about high speed smuggling boats – quite interesting).

How long have you sailed together?
This will be the first race for myself and Matt. Logan Fraser (who will step onboard as co-skipper from Stewart Island to finish) and I have done many ocean racing and delivery miles together. We started sailing together 18 years ago and I have complete trust in his ability to sail the boat fast but also keep safety “front of mind.”

Funny stories?
Far too many to list – may bring some out at the stop overs.

Scariest yachting moment?
Two actually – Delivering the V5 back from Noumea, we were hit by a strong front, surfing down the face of waves at 20+ knots (storm jib only). The entire bow section started delaminating. We made it into to Spirits Bay then the fun really started – that’s a story for another day. Same year I delivered Pussy Galore to Australia for her new owner – we were hit by a strong easterly storm which brought a large amount of sand from the outback with it. When we arrived in Sydney the white boat was completely red! We had two of the owner’s friends onboard who had done 40+ Hobarts between them (including 1998) and they commented that the conditions we had were some of the worst they had been in.

What is your offshore vice?
A good pesto pasta and wet wipes!

What do you hope to get out of doing the RNZ?
Spending time with like-minded sailors and seeing new places.

What inside tips do you have for others wanting to compete in 2 handed racing at this level?
“Give it ten” before rushing sail changes make sure you are confident in the decision – changes can be challenging two handed so you need to be sure you are sailing in the right mode.

What’s your team motto?
Always look after your mate, there is nothing more important than safety.

Biggest yachting achievement?
2nd PHS Sydney to Hobart and winning the Round Ireland overall.

Family
I am married to Diana and have 2 sons, Toby, 6 and Liam, 3.

When you cross the finish line, what will you be most hanging out for?
A cold beer and a good feed, then at some point a bed to crash in.
Name: Logan Fraser
Age: 36
From: Auckland
Work: Mulcahy Engineering – Production Centre Team Leader
Yacht Club: RNZYS, SSANZ

Why do you want to do the RNZ?
Competing in SSANZ events is always a highlight of my sailing calendar. I love the challenges and camaraderie that comes with short-handed sailing. So to have the opportunity to compete in the RNZ is an experience that couldn’t be missed.

What are the biggest races you've competed in?
My biggest offshore races include the Round Ireland, Middle Sea Race and Caribbean 600, as well as Auckland to Fiji and Noumea races. Have also completed 2 seasons competing on the World Match Racing Circuit.

How did you get into sailing?
I started sailing as a young teenager in the Pine Harbour Thursday Night Summer Series. A work colleague of my mums invited us out on her Farr 9.2 called Itsafar. It’s where I also developed my taste for Rum and Coke....

Sailing background?
After getting hooked on the sport racing out of Pine Harbour I joined the BBYC Sailing Academy and then 2 years at the RNZYS Youth Training Programme. I purchased my first boat with Scott Wilson in my early 20’s, an Elliot 770 called Real Deal. I was invited to join Kiwimatch Sailing Team and spent several years competing in match racing and sailing regattas around the world. We raced 2 years on the World Match Racing Circuit and were ranked as high as 5th in the World at one stage. During this time I also competed in several high profile offshore events and international race weeks. I have also competed locally and in Australia on TP52’s as well as been part of Beau Geste Sailing team on their TP52 and 80ft race yachts. I now own my own boat, a Ross 8m called C U Later which I hope to compete in the next RNI on. Sailing has given me the privilege of traveling the world to some unique locations whilst doing something I love which has been an incredible privilege.

How long have you sailed together?
I've had the privilege of knowing and sailing with Scott for over 18 years now. We’ve owned a boat together, competed in some of the biggest races together and had some of the best, funniest and craziest sailing adventures together. We both know each other’s strengths and weaknesses which will be invaluable to a successful race.

Funny stories?
So many funny stories... From Scott and I delivering a Beneteau down the English channel with the autohelm on and both of us asleep in the cockpit. The time lightning fused the kite halyard to the mast. Or the pizza box toilet on our first cruising trip on the Real Deal.

Scariest yachting moment?
I think I have been quite lucky with my sailing that I have never been in a situation where I have truly felt scared. Plenty of times I have been on boats that are on the limit but have always felt in control of the situation. Probably the worst moment for me was sailing on my friends 8.5m tri and I fell off the bow whilst doing a job change in a squall. I was hanging on under one of the beams while the lads tried to stop the boat so I could climb back on board. That was a bit marginal.

What is your offshore vice?
Eat too many bags of snakes.

What do you hope to get out of doing the RNZ?
A sense of achievement. To accomplish a challenge that only a few sailors have had the privilege of doing. A to see some of the countries spectacular coastline.

What inside tips do you have for others wanting to compete in 2 handed racing at this level?
Ensure you are confident in performing any task on the boat, cold, wet tired and in the dark. It’s no good just being a good helmsman when you need to find a fuel leak in the bilge at 2am after a long watch.

What’s your team motto?
Always look after your mate, there is nothing more important than safety.

Biggest yachting achievement?
Winning the 2009 NZ Match Racing Nationals. Winning the 2011 Nations Cup Grand Final in Sheboygan, USA.

Family
My Mum is my biggest supporter and I know my Dad will be looking down on me to ensure a safe trip.

When you cross the finish line, what will you be most hanging out for?
Sleep!
Name: Damon Jolliffe  
Age: 37  
From: Wellington, then Auckland  
Work: Sealegs International  
Yacht Club: RNZYS, SSANZ

Why do you want to do the RNZ?  
It’s a bucket list race that not many people have completed. It’s the longest race in the NZ sailing calendar and the chance to do it doesn’t come around very often.

What are the biggest races you’ve competed in?  
Sydney Hobart x 3, in 1997 Sydney Hobart I was the youngest competitor at 15 years of age on the Wellington yacht Andiamo. Fiji, RNI x 3 (twice 2H, and once fully crewed), numerous ocean passages, lots of international regattas and I went sailing in a Sunburst once.

How did you get into sailing?  
Parents had a cruising yacht when I was young, lived on a yacht for 5 years with my mum, dad and brother growing up so it just naturally happened. It’s not a sport but a lifestyle.

Sailing background?  
Played around a lot in dinghies with friends, did Optis and a little bit of P class, then moved into racing keelers when 13 years old, sailed on the Spencer 44 Whispers II in Wellington then the Davidson 55 Andiamo. Moved to Auckland in 2000 and joined the RNZYS youth training programme, completed in numerous regattas and match racing events.

How long have you sailed together / how did you meet / what races have you done together in the past?  
Met when I was 15, Josh 19, 2 young fellas on tour doing the 1997 Sydney – Hobart, including delivery to and from Australia. Done too many miles together now. Our biggest achievement thus far was winning the last RNI on board the Sunfast 3600 Racing.

Funny stories?  
We don’t have any funny stories, we are deadly serious 100% of the time.

What is your offshore vice?  
Got to have a good range of hot sauces available at any one time. With our uncanny knack of finishing races at 6am in the morning, a good toasted sandwich and coffee usually go down fairly well at 3am.

What do you hope to get out of doing the RNZ?  
Tick it off the bucket list and that sense of achievement straight after crossing the finish line in Auckland that will last for all of 2 minutes before our focus changes to competing in the Melbourne Osaka in 2023.

What inside tips do you have for others wanting to compete in 2 handed racing at this level?  
It’s all about preparation and team work. The beauty of 2 handed sailing is it can be brutally honest and there are no excuses, either you made a wrong decision or the boat wasn’t up to it which usually comes back to you in the form of lack of preparation. Work out what each other’s strengths are and use them. Probably the biggest thing is make sure you have sailed together a lot before you go into a long distance race like this. The more you sail together, the more similar your thinking patterns become, and if you know what the other guy is thinking and doing then decision making and manoeuvres become a whole lot easier. The last thing you want to do is a long race with someone that you don’t get along with, worst idea ever.

What’s your team motto?  
Usually it’s ‘do it once and do it right’, but ironically for this race it’s more like ‘she’ll be right’ as we are nowhere near where we should be due to lack of time for preparation but it’s a bucket list race and the opportunity may not come again for a long time.

Biggest yachting achievement?  
Winning RNI 2017.

Family  
Married to Jacqui for 9 yrs, 2 children, Isla 5yr, Zach 3yr.

When you cross the finish line, what will you be most hanging out for?  
To see the family and a good race debrief session and hearing Skinners new version of ‘reach reach tack tack big boat wins.’

Any other information you can think is relevant / funny / inspiring / etc?  
We are rather late to the RNZ programme having only purchased Motorboat II (ex-Squealer) in September 2018. With a huge amount of work to do on the boat to get it to the level we want, we are resigned to the fact that we will be nowhere near ready come race day. Knowing that we had to prioritise which jobs get done and which to axe, so our focus is on ensuring we have a big kick arse Fusion stereo, ice maker, smoke machine, laser lights and disco ball, all being essential items for this race. When we hit the start line we will have only sailed the boat a hand full of times with only 1 long distance being the Akarana 350. We certainly do not know how to maximise the boats performance and will spend the entire race trying to work that out. Never being ones for convention, we are actually using the RNZ as the build-up for the RNI 2020 with the goal of being the first team to win back to back RNI’s after our victory on total corrected time in 2017.
Name: Josh ‘BooBoo’ Tucker  
Age: 41  
From: All over New Zealand  
Work: Evolution Sails  
Yacht Club: RNZYS, SSANZ

**Why do you want to do the RNZ?**
It’s just what we do. A real challenge and to be part of a small elite group who have done it. It’s all about the adventure.

**What are the biggest races you’ve competed in?**
Sydney Hobart x4, Tasman Triangle, Fiji x4, Noumea x3, Cape Town to Rio, Transpac x 2, Transatlantic, Fastnet, Middle sea race, Groupama Race x2, Hong Kong to Vietnam x4, Hong Kong to Hainan and Philippines, Sydney Southport x2, RNI x 3. I think that’s about it. Also heaps of super yacht sailing, a season in Alaska cruising. Oh and just sailed 16,000nm with the family.

**How did you get into sailing?**
Lived on a boat as a kid, always fascinated by keelboat sailing and focused on the offshore racing.

**Sailing background?**
Started doing bow on Y11s when I was 14, then progressed up to do my first Sydney Hobart at age 17 and second one at 19 with Damon. Then moved to Auckland and did the RNZYS youth training programme, where I met my wife Sara.

**How long have you 2 sailed together / how did you meet / what races have you done together in the past?**
Sailed together since the 1997 Sydney Hobart and now many boats in between. 1 RNI race together, many SSANZ series and won our fair share of sailing events together. So been sailing together for 21 years. Maybe we need to have a 21st party.

**Funny stories?**
Damon is actually a bit of a dick.

**Scariest yachting moment?**
Losing a mast in the Southern Ocean 2000nm from Cape Horn on the Open 60 Hugo Boss. We had to sail 2000nm under jury rig around Cape Horn.

**What is your offshore vice?**
Nothing, I am officially the man.

**What do you hope to get out of doing the RNZ?**
A hangover. No really, that’s gonna happen. And it’s likely to be rather a large one.

**What inside tips do you have for others wanting to compete in 2 handed racing at this level?**
Team work and preparation. Put lots of time into it. Take each hurdle one at a time and work out how best to either minimize losses or maximize gain. Sometimes you only need a small amount of leverage to make gains on the fleet. If in doubt- always put the biggest one up. God will help you take it down.

**What’s your team motto?**
Go hard or go home. Feed it the jandal.

**Biggest yachting achievement?**
Safely getting my boat and family through 16,000nm of ocean sailing from France to NZ.

**Family**
Married, 3 boys – 6, 8 and 10 years old. Must be noted that the boys have all done 16,000nm in the last year.

**When you cross the finish line, what will you be most hanging out for?**
RUM – Maybe a hot pie and to see the family.

**Any other information you can think is relevant / funny / inspiring / etc?**
Not sure, but I’m sure someone probably has some funny stories about us. We have been known to be obnoxious. Probably also funny that after just completing 16,000nm of ocean sailing over the last year, most people would want a break from sailing... not me.

**Boat Details: Motorboat II**

- **Elliott**
- **Length**: 10.5m
- **Draft**: 2.6m
- **Displacement**: 3900kg
- **Carbon rig, retracting prod, square top main.**

**Yacht History**
Motorboat II likes anything aft of the beam but really specializes in after match functions.

Has had a meaty racing history
- ex Butcher, ex Squealer.
Boat Details: Titanium

Steve Thompson
Length 11.8m
Draft 2.8m
Displacement 4100kg
Carbon rig, retracting prod (To be locked for RNZ), square top main.

Yacht History
Boat was built 2006, and was sailed in Australia - Queensland to Tasmania. Came to NZ approx 2013, I have only recent purchased June 2018 so a big learning curve to get the best out of it.
Performs well in medium airs up and downwind.
Why do you want to do the RNZ?
Have always enjoyed doing the two handed stuff, 1st SSANZ two handed racing would have been started with dad back 1995-98 on Thunder (Berroca 230’s?), then bit of a gap to 2009 where I have competed regularly since in the SSANZ Triple Series on my multi hulls Attitude & Charleston. However have wanted to do some longer racing so brought a keelboat with the ambition doing these longer races in mind.

What are the biggest races you’ve competed in?
Local club racing inshore and coastal racing.

How did you get into sailing?
Brought up sailing.

Sailing background?
Family spent 2 years offshore cruising the Pacific on a 45 foot yacht Waikiwi 85-87, came back & carried on sailing centreboards at Kerikeri – Flying Ants initially. Did Optis, P’s Northland Tanner Cup Rep, Starlings match race, rep lasers, laser 2’s, 12 Foot Skiffs, Keelboat Thunder 95-98, Multi-hulls Attitude & Charleston last 8 years.

How long have you 2 sailed together / how did you meet / what races have you done together in the past?
Initially met Chris through the 12fters, last sailed with him (before deciding to do the RNZ) on Attitude for the 2009 Tauranga race where we set the record for small multis which still stands. Looking forward to sailing with Chris for this race with the enthusiasm & experience he brings to the team.

Funny stories?
About anything

Scariest yachting moment?
Had a scary almost tip over moment doing a delivery trip to Fiji on a multihull a few years back, set the top speed for the boat just before hand though.

What is your offshore vice?
Will find out.

What do you hope to get out of doing the RNZ?
The experience and training for RNI 2020...

Family
Single.

When you cross the finish line, what will you be most hanging out for?
Most likely sleep.
Race Officer - Geoff Herd 027 559 4466
Race Director - Jon Henry 0274 779 745
SSANZ Chairman - Neil Hilder 021 766 793

Mangonui Stopover - Andreas Kurmann 027 217 0567
Stewart Island Stopover - Gwen Neave 027 433 6037
Napier Stopover - Paul Redman 0274 995 889

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