

“WIND UP”



***RAGLAN SAILING CLUB
NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2012***

Winter Sailing Days

AroAro Bay.

The day was well supported by our club members, several yachts took part in the races. The conditions at first were calm, luckily a good breeze blew up during the afternoon. Racing was tricky as the marker bouys which were anchored ? in the channel became a moving target, this worked well for the spectators on the wharf who had an unscheduled view of the races.

Following the day's racing a splendid BBQ welcomed sailors and spectators.



AroAro Bay

Whaingaroa/ Raglan Harbour census carried out by Conservation Dept. and N.Z.Ornithological Soc. 4th July 2012

Canada Goose, 456. Paradise Shelduck, 4. Mallard, 36.

Little Shag,2. Black Shag,2. Pied Shag,28. Royal Spoonbill,45.

Godwit,20. Variable Oystercatcher,25. South Island Pied

Oystercatcher, 170. Pied Stilt 55. New Zealand Dotterel, 6. Banded Dotterel,1. Southern Black-backed Gull, 39.Red Billed Gull, 106.

Caspian Tern, 14. White- fronted Tern, 110.

(this survey was carried out at high tide, weather conditions overcast, with some showers and drizzle and is a record of birds observed over a two hour period)

Birds of Raglan Harbour

Pied Shag

Status: Protected, native

Distribution: Mainly in warmer areas on sheltered coasts, harbours and offshore islands. Colonies are on fresh water lakes at Pupuke, Elterwater and Rotorua.

Population: widespread and widely common (5000-10000 pairs)

Breeding: nest in colonies, commonly in pines, pohutukawa or rata growing on cliffs and overhanging the sea. The nest is usually a large platform 0.5m across, built of sticks and seaweed, up to 10m above the water.

Size: 81cm, 2kg.

Behaviour: Mostly feed alone. They often roost in small groups on logs, on rocks and in trees.

Feeding: diet mainly flounder, mullet, perch, smelt and eels less than 10m deep.



Pied Shags

Winter Sailing Dates:

Saturday 1st. September, briefing 9.30 or if needing to rig a club boat 9.00.

Sunday 16th. September, briefing 9.00 or if needing to rig a club boat 8.30.

Learn to Sail days will start in October.



Orcas in Waingaroa Harbour



Orca (*Orcinus orca*)

Commonly known as the killer whale, this is actually the largest member of the dolphin family and is the most widely distributed mammal on earth, with the exception of humans. They are typically

encountered in family groups or pods, which are usually kept for life, with the result that unique dialects can be formed. Although at the moment, globally, they are grouped as one species it is believed that 3 to 5 types of Orca may be distinct enough to be considered subspecies or even separate species. An estimated 150-200 Orca inhabit New Zealand waters.

Orca have an extremely diverse diet and regularly prey upon other marine mammals, as well as fish, squid, octopus, seabirds, turtles and even sharks. On average an Orca eats 227kg (500lb) of food each day and can grow to 9m in length.

Females give birth to their first calf between 11 and 16 years of age and tend to do so every five years for their 25 year reproductive lifespan. The gestation period is 15-18 months and calves are nursed for at least one year. Females are known to live up to 80-90 years, whereas males reach physical maturity at about 21 and live for a maximum of 50-60 years. Captive Orcas have a significantly shorter lifespan, usually less than 25 years.

The Orcas recently spotted in Whaingaroa Harbour are regular visitors to the area, they come to the west coast harbours to feed on the abundant fish life particularly stingrays, travelling long distances between locations. Common behaviour to look out for includes, breaching, spyhopping and tail slapping. These activities have a variety of purposes, such as courtship, communication, dislodging parasites and simply playing. Spyhopping also allows the Orca to view its surroundings above the water surface.

(courtesy Sarah)

Winter Sailing 19th.August, Lorenzen Bay

The weather didn't look promising owing to a heavy shower as the boats were being rigged. However for the hardy, the sun came out and we had a mild day.

Unfortunately the wind dropped and as the tide turned, getting to the racing bouys was only possible for the lasers.

We all agreed that even though we would have liked more wind it was great to be out on the water.

Dave Currie

Committee

Commodore	Chris Mitchell
Treasurer	Sue Kendall
Secretary	Yann Bordier
	Jill Lankshear

Craig Purcell
Gus Kendall

Newsletter Editor Pam Bovill

This is your newsletter, items of interest most welcome.