

Sailing 22, 29 December 2019

Christmas and New Year Break

Several members turned out for each day of sailing in great conditions.



Dan Leahy has repainted his boat and now has it back in sailing condition and won a race with it (photo above).



Neil Purcell sailed his International One Meter and sometimes led the fleet (photo above).



In this start Rick Royden was over and returns.

Life of the Pond.



The Paradise Shelduck (**pūtangitangi**) chicks are now almost full size though they don't seem to fly yet. Six of the seven original chicks have survived. All six appear to be in male plumage but juvenile females have a black head with a small white patch until their post-juvinal moult. Two have this white patch: 2nd and 3rd from left.

State of the Pond



On the 22nd there was much algal weed floating to the surface in large blocks (false colour photo above). This was mostly alongside the path and mainly where we launch and recover the boats.

With rakes and grapnel we managed to get most of this out of the pond. The grapnel could be thrown out to drag the weed to shore where it was out of reach of the rakes.



Much of this weed was black which may indicate that it was dying. The water was very salty at SG of 1.023 and warm at 25deg.

On the 29th the pond was reasonably clear. Neill with his longer keel blade on his IOM was able to catch some around the path edge, but it wasn't a problem for the Electrons or us.

Perhaps it is dying off now.



There was a problem though. When the Electrons were sailing some young children were throwing pine needles and old dead weed into the pond (photo left). I raked most of it out and the rest was blown away.

Richard Plinston,
President NZRYS

Next Week(s):

January 5: Aggregate Match Race Series 2

January 12: Summer Series 6

January 19: Summer Series FINAL

New Zealand Radio Yacht Squadron

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