

New Zealand Update

March 2024

As Salt Spring prepares for the spring boating season, the Mandolyn crew are heading into fall down in New Zealand!

We've had a nice summer doing some exploring in a van that we purchased (named Vandolyn), as well as tackling a lot of boat projects.

New Zealand is a great place to work on a boat as the marine industry here is robust and, as a foreign yacht, we are tax exempt.

We decided to replace our standing rigging, as well as upgrade to a lithium battery bank while here.

We worked on these projects while tied up near a popular tourist walk in the town of Whangarei. On a few occasions a fellow Canadian tourist would notice our flag and stop to say hello. On TWO occasions, these people were members of the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club!!

First, Paula Davies and Mike Ablitt of Verstovia stopped by, then a few weeks later Laurie Clark and Paul Bryant of Bluebonnet came past. So great to catch up with people from home! We only narrowly missed Club member Jill Oakes who was touring New Zealand by bike. Small world!



Once we wrap things up here we'll start to prepare to head back north towards the tropics. Many boats will depart New Zealand in May, after the cyclone season in the South Pacific comes to an end.

We're thinking of aiming towards Indonesia and Thailand over the next year if all goes well. Maybe we'll see you there?

All the best to everyone at the Club, from Mandolyn.

Doug, Sarah, Nyah & West

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