

Well another year has gone by for us here at Russell Radio; July 2009 to June 2010 has seen many changes in the boating fraternity due to the Economic Recession.

Although it has started to improve worldwide, here in New Zealand we always receive the tail end back lash, and are last to feel any global effects.

Fullers & Kings now fly under the Great Sights Banner, still operating as Fullers though. Many tourist businesses have quietly disappeared, with the older and longest established staying afloat.

The sea temperature in the Bay of Islands was a record high of 24 degrees for about a month, and then held a constant 20 degrees for just on 2 months from January to March 2010 – and the waters here in the Bay of Islands were beautiful crystal clear deep blue, with visibility up to 50 metres.

Marlin & other big game fish were unexpectedly early for the season, with many catches getting close to the world records.

Logged VHF calls were down a little bit on the last 12 months, a lot of this due to high seas & strong winds and possibly the economic decline as well?

SSB calls have shot through the roof again, with many people coming and going Island Hopping to escape the cyclone seasons.

Your Committee.

The committee at the last AGM saw an increase in members - beefing up to 8 people who are all on the same wavelength – YOUR safety at sea, whether it be here in local waters or doing the trans-Tasman and Island runs.

Your Volunteers.

Just about all voluntary organisations depend on co operation between committee members and the volunteers who are often as not working quietly away behind the scenes, unheard of or unseen.

To these special people, Russell Radio owes a debt in gratitude for allowing us to keep broadcasting over the airways.

It's great to see we have the staunch "old fellas" still on board and giving up their time by coming in once every five weeks are Ed Ackman; Kev Pyne; Tony Atkinson and Vera Warren, Keith Turner and Richard Pettigrew (who also double as committee members).

Our last remaining weekly "oldie" is Barrie Bell – who every Wednesday without fail has been on the other end of the microphone for the past 5 years or so, sadly Barrie has been unwell but hopes to be back soon – get well soon Barry, we miss you!

We would also like to introduce two new volunteers to you: Maxine Colman and Mark Nixon. All these volunteers are shouted a morning tea periodically by the committee to show them how much they are appreciated.

Funding:

We get asked a lot of times if we are funded by local council and/or the government. Absolutely NOT! All our funding comes from boat members of Russell Radio, donations, fund raising and some charitable trust grants. So if you know of anyone out there who would like to be covered by our excellent services get them to contact us, and we can send out relevant information and forms for them.