



The Mari-Times

NORTHLAND MARINE DEVELOPMENT GROUP QUARTLEY NEWSLETTER: September

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter, designed to keep you up-to-date with our activities

Firstly, a brief history of the group ...

When a strategy for Northland's sustainable growth was developed several years ago, a series of industry "thinktanks" provided direction on how sectors could contribute to this growth.

Over 15 industry "thinktanks" were reduced to 5-6 industry development groups, including one that focused on development of the marine sector in Whangarei and Opua. The regional development agency, Enterprise Northland, provides facilitation services for these groups that are primarily drawn from the private sector.

With the development of new port facilities at Marsden Point, the group's first major project was to secure Port Whangarei for the long-term development of the marine construction and refit sector, including many associated trades.

In May of this year Enterprise Northland facilitated a workshop of major marine business owners to identify the next range of projects for the group to work on as well as reviewing the structure of the group.

So what's been happening since the workshop?

Workshop participants appointed a group of business owners to form the nucleus of the group that would implement the key projects identified during the workshop. They are:

- Henk Eilering – McRae Ship Repair
- Ray Roberts - Riverside Drive Marina
- Ian Gray – Austral Yachts
- Grant Willis – Specialist Marine Interiors
- Jake Jacobson – Specialist Marine Interiors
- Fraser Foote – Northland Contract Boatbuilders
- Bryan Purton – Northland Contract Boatbuilders
- Allan Farrand - CIRCA
- Lee West – McRae Ship Repair

Having met twice since the workshop, the NMDG has agreed the following:

- The current group will stay in place for 12 months and then review membership
- Henk was appointed chair for this period, Ian as his deputy
- The mission of the group is “to represent the Northland marine industry and to support its sustainable growth”

Focus Areas

The areas of focus for the group over the next 12 months, based on its mission and the findings of the May workshop, are:

- Skills Development – primarily in relation to the development of a multi-sector trades training facility but also possibly including overseas recruitment
- Water Access - ensuring the stretch of water from Onerahi to the Town Basin remains open and accessible to marine businesses
- Brand, Market and Service Development - investigating opportunities to enhance the profile and promote the capability of the sector
- Communication - maintaining regular contact, hence this newsletter, with the wider industry to ensure there are opportunities for feedback from you

So, that's our first newsletter, look out for another one before Christmas. As chair of the group, I encourage you to contact me if you wish to discuss the group's activities in more detail. You can get me on 021 364 235 or 438 4107 or henk@mraes.co.nz.

May the wind stay in your sails

Henk Eilering
Chair
Northland Marine Development Group