

# Our America's Cup Sailors

In the lounge of the Old Collegians Sports Centre, there is a gallery of photos representing a large number of Old Collegians who have gone on to sporting greatness across a range of sporting codes. Amongst them is Grant Dalton who has long since made his mark in the world of competitive adventure sailing. In recent months he became a household name in New Zealand for his role as the Managing Director of Emirates Team New Zealand, carrying the pressure of the nation to bring the America's Cup home. While the result wasn't the one we were hoping for, the team embodied the spirit of our country through their dignity and professionalism, leaving us with a huge sense of pride for all they had done.



## GRANT DALTON

**Emirates Team New Zealand  
Managing Director**

*'One race at a time and never take anything for granted.'*

When Old Collegian, Grant Dalton attended a Boys' School Leavers' Dinner a few years back, he told the graduating Year 8 boys that 'there isn't a lot of difference between dreaming and goal setting;

be resilient when you dream, set a goal that is believable and if you earnestly work towards it, your dream will eventually be achievable; it may just take a while to get there....'

We sincerely hope that despite the recent disappointment, that Grant has one more America's Cup in him - we're willing him to 'get there!'

Grant, along with his brother Graham, is a former student of both the Boys' School and the College, graduating in 1974. His children have also attended Saint Kentigern with Ellie graduating from the College, Mack currently in Year 13 and Olivia having been at the Girls' School.

In that earlier speech to the Year 8 boys, he readily admitted that he wasn't that 'academic' during his time at school but sitting in class looking out across the Waitemata Harbour helped define his goals for a future on the water. He told the boys to learn to visualise what they wanted to achieve, write those goals down and put them somewhere where they could be seen every day. This is how he came to a life sailing down the mighty waves of the Southern Ocean and more recently racing in the waters of San Francisco Bay in his role as Managing Director of Emirates Team New Zealand.

Well known throughout the sailing world for his successes as a professional sailor, he began his competitive career at age eight, sailing P Class as a member of Maraetai Beach Boating Club. Over the years since then, Grant has sailed competitively on the world's oceans, racing around the world seven times, the first five as part of the Whitbread Round the World Races, later to be called the Volvo Ocean Race. In 1995, he was awarded an OBE for services to yachting.

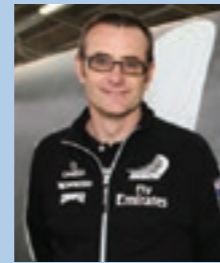
In 2003, Dalton was called in to restructure Team New Zealand after its loss of the America's Cup to the Swiss team, Alinghi. His mission: to rebuild and revitalise the team and mount a credible challenge for the 2007 America's Cup. The team came close to victory in Valencia in 2007, winning the Louis Vuitton Cup but it was Oracle that took away the America's Cup that year.

Emirates Team New Zealand (ETNZ) has remained one of the fiercest contenders on the international yachting circuit and at 56, Grant was the most senior member of the 2013 ETNZ crew. His position as Managing Director saw him in a dual role both on land and as part of the crew on the water. Sir Michael Fay, who challenged three times for the America's Cup in the late 80s and early 90s, said Dalton possessed the unique mix of sailing nous, business acumen and hard-nosed competitor. Grant combined his boardroom work with hard physical grinding at the 'coalface'. He said he could not successfully run the team without spending time on the water with the team; it was just not an option.

As Grant, along with Skipper, Dean Barker and the rest of the ETNZ crew, headed out to their AC72 catamaran to race against Larry Ellison's Oracle in San Francisco Bay each day, his relaxed, engaging manner amongst the New Zealand fans hid a steely determination. The nation watched as ETNZ raced ahead on the scoreboard in the early days until Oracle changed tack. In the final days of racing as the gap between the teams closed, our nation was on edge willing the team to win. Despite the loss of the final race, the surge of support from throughout the world for Grant and his crew of great sailors has been immense.

The final word goes to Oracle's billionaire backer, Larry Ellison, 'America's Cup without New Zealand - it's just impossible to conceive of that. What a great team, what a great sailing nation.'

Grant was the driver behind this team. We're proud of you!



## NICK HOLROYD

**Emirates Team New Zealand  
Technical Director**

One of the most illustrious posts in New Zealand yachting was running the design team for Emirates Team New Zealand, a role previously filled by revered figures such as Tom Schnackenberg and Andy Claughton. Technical Director for the Kiwi team has been Old Collegian, Nick Holroyd who was

responsible for managing the in-house design team. He originally joined the team in 1997 in the build-up to Team New Zealand's successful 2000 defence, continuing with the team in their 2003 and 2007 America's Cup campaigns before working on the all-conquering Emirates Team New Zealand TP52 and their less successful CamperVO70.

The 34th America's Cup in 2013 entered a new realm with the introduction of wingsail catamarans. The new AC72 brought a totally new dimension to competitive sailing, creating an awe-inspiring spectacle on the waters of San Francisco Bay. Nick said that it has been one of the most challenging design projects he has been involved in, 'Essentially we've gone from 2D yachting, where you could assume the boat was on the surface, to three-dimensional yachting, lifting the boat out of the water, so it's a huge level of complexity.' He said he was pretty nervous the first time the boat lifted up on its foils above the water as he watched all the strain data coming in off the daggerboards.

With each successive America's Cup campaign in the last two decades, the emphasis has shifted from the focus on sailing talent, to the edge that radical design changes can bring. This was particularly seen in the final outcome of the 2013 campaign with Oracle's alleged late introduction of the Stability Augmentation System (SAS) to provide computerised aid to trim the foils.

At the time of writing, the popular feeling across the country is that we are right behind Team New Zealand to mount another challenge if conceivable. The eyes of the sailing world will be on the design team that determines what racing in the next America's Cup will entail.



## HAMISH HOOPER

**Emirates Team New Zealand  
Videographer**

Hamish graduated from the Boys' School in 1991 and his father, John, was a foundation pupil at the School. Hamish came to notice in recent years for his role as videographer on Camper's tough Volvo Ocean Race.

With a background in TV commercials and advertising, it was a bold move to join the crew for his first ocean race - especially one as physically and emotionally demanding as the Volvo Ocean Race that includes sailing the Southern Ocean. As the boat's on board journalist, he was not allowed to help sail the boat but could help cook and clean for the crew. His main role was to cover the race on a daily basis

through photos, video reports, blogs and audio clips. Despite his lack of offshore experience and episodes of severe seasickness, Hamish made it round the world with the team. It was proof that he more than coped with these challenges when he was presented with the Inmarsat Media Crew Member Award for his skill and flair life as he documented life on board.

Two weeks after returning, he started his next job with Emirates Team New Zealand in the media department. There was no cameraman on board the AC72 winged catamaran during racing so his footage was filmed from another boat, although prior to racing he did take footage on board and said the experience, and especially the speed was incredible.

He said there was a huge amount of stress in this role, not so much the stress of the shooting, editing, and distributing content but in helping to manage the throngs of media 'all wanting a slice of the Emirates Team New Zealand story.' It was also stressful to be involved with a project to which he had such an emotional attachment and he, like the rest of the crew, felt the weight of disappointment on the final day of racing.



## JOE SPOONER

**ORACLE Team USA Grinder**

Former student of both the Boys' School and the College, Joe has been involved in sailing since a young age. One of his earliest memories is sailing Optimist dinghies off Kohimarama Beach and by the age of nine or ten he was racing competitively and has not stopped since. His mother, Robyn Spooner, was Head of Art at the Boys' School for many years and always took an active interest in the School sailing teams.

Since 2001, Joe has often raced with the Alfa Romeo maxi program, winning the Fastnet Race three times and the Rolex Maxi Worlds in 2006. He was also with Alfa Romeo for victories in the Middle Sea Race in 2003 and 2004, and he was a reserve for New Zealand in the Finn class for the 1996 Olympic Games.

It was on his third try that Joe was part of a winning America's Cup team, racing with BMW Oracle Racing in 2010. Previously, he had sailed with Team New Zealand in 2003 and BMW Oracle Racing in 2007.

The introduction of the wingsail, double hulled catamarans for the 2013 America's Cup changed the role of the grinders; a role Joe mastered in a foiling AC72 gybe for Oracle Team USA. Joe trained in the gym every day which included a lot of cross fit type activities that made it similar to being on the boat. His job as grinder, some days saw him burning a total of 4,000 calories and getting his heart rate up to a maximum of 95%. He said, 'We're not really used to running. Sailors aren't generally runners! In the old boats, the grinders would have their feet planted in one place. You might change from one side of the mono-hull to the other but it's not like you're not running around, holding on for dear life in the middle of a maneuver. It's good fun. During the gybes, I cross the boat forward of the wingsail. It's kind of like preparing for a turn, while standing on a flatbed truck that's going at 50 mph on a gravel road. You know there's going to be a corner somewhere, but you've got your head down and you honestly have no idea where that turn is going to be!'



## GRAHAM MCKENZIE

**America's Cup Jury Member**

Whilst not an Old Collegian, Graham is a former Trust Board member who retired last year after 12 loyal years of service to Saint Kentigern. He brought a wealth of business acumen to the Trust Board acquired over 30 years as barrister and solicitor. He is also a former parent whose sons attended Saint Kentigern.

Graham has long had a keen interest in sailing having sailed competitively and for leisure in New Zealand on a wide range of yachts. He has been a member of the America's Cup arbitration panel for the 32nd, 33rd and 34th America's Cups. The America's Cup Jury comprises five international members with a range of experience and expertise. The Jury's role is to resolve disputes other than those that are resolved by the Umpires on the race course. The main documents the Jury is called upon to interpret and apply are the Deed of Gift, the Protocol and the Racing Rules of Sailing - America's Cup edition.

Following the tragic capsizing of Artemis Racing and loss of life early on in this America's Cup, Graham's skills were called upon as part of the international jury to find common ground in the war of words that erupted over the amendments to the regatta's rules in the interests of safety.



# Youth America's Cup

**BLAIR TUKE, WILL TILLER AND  
STEWART DODSON**

As the world watched the world's best sailors on the water in San Francisco, three of our Old Collegians were part of sailing syndicates that won first and second victories in the Red Bull Youth America's Cup regatta on the waters of San Francisco Bay.

Open to national teams of six sailors, aged 19 to 24, for the first time in the history of the America's Cup, young, talented sailors were given a clear pathway towards competing for one of the most prestigious trophies in sport. The Red Bull Youth America's Cup opened the door for young sailors to gain the experience they need to contribute to a Cup team. Top young sailors from around the world represented 10 teams across eight nations, racing in the same high performance, wing-sailed AC45 catamarans that are used in the America's Cup World Series.

Blair Tuke was part of Peter Burling's NZL sailing team that took out the youth title with a 57 point total. Blair and Peter were a silver medal winning pair in the 49er class at the London Olympics.

Meanwhile, in second place and only 12 points behind after four days of competitive sailing, Will Tiller helmed Full Metal Jacket with a third Old Collegian, Stewart Dodson, as part of his crew.

Blair and Peter went on to compete and win the gold medal at the 49er FX World Championship in Marseille, France.