



**BAY OF ISLANDS
SAILING WEEK**

Bay of Islands Sailing Week Inc
PO BOX 45, Opua 0241, New Zealand
www.bayofislandssailingweek.org.nz

Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta Sustainability Report

Bay of Islands Sailing Week

29/01/2025

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1. Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations

This is an ongoing practice we carry out each year - setting up a water refilling station for sailors and visitors to use during the event.



2. Eliminate Plastic Straws

Already for several years, the event does not provide any type of straws - neither plastic, nor paper. People drink out of cans, bottles or reusable cups.



3. Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware

For the 2025 event, we partnered with CBEC's Wash-Not-Waste trailer (cbec.co.nz), a relatively new initiative in Northland. We were excited to have them on board, as it meant eliminating plastic cups for wine and rum. Instead, we sourced reusable AgainAgain cups (againagain.co), complementing the Wash-Not-Waste metal cups. The AgainAgain frosted, semi-translucent polypropylene cups were particularly well-suited for wine, featuring pour markers at 400ml, 330ml, and 150ml, making volunteer service much easier. The Wash-Not-Waste team also provided metal plates for the food vendors to trial, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

The system is designed for quick turnaround, connecting to a standard hose and power supply. After an initial 40-minute cycle to heat the water, each subsequent wash cycle takes just 40 seconds, ensuring a fast and efficient process.

- Tuesday: Opua Cruising Club served food and drinks in their reusable tableware.
- Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: We used reusable cups at the bar, and food vendors utilized metal trays or compostable cardboard boxes. No plastic sauce containers were used this year. Opua Cruising Club continued serving meals on plastic-free reusable dinnerware.



We were supplied with 360 reusable cups, but by the end of the event, 78 cups were taken by sailors, who said to the security as they were carrying out the cups, that they would use them on their boats. While this resulted in some financial loss, it is reassuring to know that the cups will continue being reused instead of discarded. During the event a total of 1,400 reusable cups were washed, preventing a minimum of 1,400 single-use plastic cups from going to landfill (but number would be much higher, as the reusable cups were returned to the trailer only after being reused at least a couple of times - meaning the single-use plastic cup number would have been a double if not more).

For next year, we are considering introducing a deposit system where one reusable cup = one drink ticket (\$7 or \$8). When the cup is returned, patrons receive their ticket or cash back. This will reduce losses and ensure the sustainability of the system.



4. Use or Provide Reusable Bags

Our long term sponsor and supporter Gurit provided water-proof reusable bags for our registration to give out to participants.





5. Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy

For the 2025 event, we once again used handcrafted wooden trophies from Romeyn Woodcrafts, made from recycled native New Zealand woods like Rimu and ancient swamp Kauri, incorporating paua shell inlays to reflect the maritime heritage of Northland. These unique, upcycled trophies align with our sustainability values while celebrating the achievements of our sailors.

All spot prizes were practical and useful items provided by local businesses, ensuring they would be valued and not end up in landfill. These included:

- Marine gear & equipment: Henri-Lloyd biscay jacket, 2 marine batteries, dry bags, a big sailing gear bag, keyrings, multi-tools, stainless steel knife sharpeners, torches and life jackets.
- Sailing & lifestyle apparel: T-shirts, caps, sunglasses.
- Eco-friendly & reusable items: Reusable water bottles, notepads, pens.
- Food & experience prizes: A sailor briefing picnic box including a BBQ box with T-bone steaks, Wagyu sausages, sweet corn, fresh salads, dips, and dessert, provided by The Picnic Box Bay of Islands. Additional BBQ, picnic, and platter boxes were available for order. Also olive oil bottles from Hillside Olives together with wooden cheese boards.
- Subscriptions: Boating NZ magazine subscriptions.



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6. Publicize Your Sustainability Efforts

For the 2025 event, we made a conscious effort to communicate our sustainability initiatives across multiple platforms to ensure participants, volunteers, and supporters were aware of our Clean Regatta efforts.

- **Social Media & Website Updates** – We proudly shared our Platinum Clean Regatta Certification for the 2024 event, reinforcing our commitment to environmental sustainability. This achievement was highlighted on our social media (screenshot attached) and updated on our website ([Clean Regatta Page](#)).



- **Pre-Event Communication** – We embedded sustainability practices into our communications, including emails to participants (attached). These included:
 - Waste management guidelines to ensure correct rubbish disposal and effective recycling.
 - Instructions on using the Wash-Not-Waste trailer for reusable cups and plates.
 - Conservation rules to protect marine life and follow Northland Regional Council and Project Island Song regulations.
 - Water refill stations at Event HQ to encourage reusable bottles and reduce single-use plastic waste.
 - A direct link to the Clean Regattas Green Boating Guide ([Green Boating Guide](#)) for additional sustainability tips.
- **On-Site Signage & Awareness** – Key sustainability messages were displayed at the Event HQ, including reminders about waste sorting, conservation rules, and clean boating best practices.

By actively promoting sustainability before and during the event, we empowered our participants to take ownership of their environmental impact, ensuring that Bay of Islands Sailing Week remains a leader in sustainable regattas.



7. Involve Local Organizations

Bay of Islands Sailing Week continues to engage and collaborate with local businesses, environmental groups, and service providers, ensuring the event benefits the wider Bay of Islands community while promoting sustainability and best practices in marine conservation.

- Resilient Russell played a key role in waste management, monitoring recycling stations and collecting compostable waste, going above and beyond expectations.
- Ocean Mind Project & Bay Beach Clean collaborated with us to organize the Bay-Wide Beach Cleanup, encouraging community involvement in environmental conservation. More on this below.
- EcoSolutions & CBEC provided expert waste management advice, supplied recycling bin lids and reusable signage, wash-not-waste trailer and supported our transition to more sustainable waste solutions.
- Local food vendors actively participated in our sustainability efforts by using compostable packaging and trialing reusable metal trays for serving meals.
- Northland Waste supported the event with a free waste management service, providing wheelie bins, a general waste container, a cardboard cage, and waste removal.
- Project Island Song raised awareness about safe boating practices and biosecurity measures to protect the islands, with banners and information distributed at the event.
- Harbour Master & Northland District Council provided crucial materials on controlled areas affected by exotic caulerpa, ensuring sailors followed proper no-anchorage and no-take regulations.
- Department of Conservation (DOC) had a representative speak about the Marine Mammal Sanctuary in the Bay of Islands, educating sailors on the importance of protecting dolphins and other marine life.

Through these collaborations, Bay of Islands Sailing Week strengthens community ties, enhances environmental responsibility, and ensures the long-term sustainability of both the event and the Bay of Islands marine ecosystem.

8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage

Some of the educational and reusable signage we used:

- EcoSolutions provided us with reusable event signage, which they use at various events across Northland. They also shared a link to their printable recycling resources so we could replace any missing or damaged signs without unnecessary printing. [EcoSolutions Recycling Resources](#).
- We reused signage from previous years, only printing and re-laminating new signs where absolutely necessary. Outdated or broken signs were repurposed where possible by writing on the reverse side with markers before disposal to minimize waste.



- Project Island Song signage was displayed, educating sailors on biosecurity measures and responsible boating to protect the Bay of Islands' native ecosystems.
- Caulerpa awareness signs and no-take/no-anchorage zones signage were placed in key locations to ensure sailors followed biosecurity regulations to prevent the spread of invasive marine species.
- Educational signage at the bar informed participants about responsible alcohol consumption, the event's sustainability initiatives, and the Wash-Not-Waste reusable cup system.

By focusing on reusable and educational signage, we minimized waste, promoted sustainable practices, and ensured that sailors, volunteers, and attendees were well-informed about environmental and biosecurity guidelines throughout the event.



9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably

Our food vendors were all local caterers, supporting the Bay of Islands community. 2BrokeGurlz Catering provided meals at Opua Cruising Club every night, operating both an indoor galley and an outdoor BBQ marquee. El Coyote Tacos served fresh tacos on Wednesday night, while Opua Cruising Club offered burgers on Wednesday and Friday night. Bay of Islands Yacht Club ran a breakfast bacon butty fundraiser each morning, with proceeds supporting their youth sailing program (also funds raised by Opua Cruising Club going towards this program). Drinks were purchased from New World Kerikeri and Opua's local liquor store, while Opua General Store supplied fresh sandwich rolls for sailors and volunteers. New World Kerikeri also provided additional volunteer snacks, including apples, peaches, and muesli bars. This strong collaboration with local businesses ensured fresh, quality food for participants while directly benefiting community initiatives like youth sailing programs.

The various food options were communicated also in group chat and emails with sailors (see attached screenshot of the email).



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FOOD & DRINK OPTIONS: Don't go Hungry... nor thirsty

Get going with Breakfast:

- **Bay of Islands Yacht Club** - Breakfast Rolls - \$5 per roll - Served daily at the Event HQ from **7:30 AM** (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday).
- **Opua General Store** - Great quick breakfast food options from **6.30 AM**.
- **Marina Cafe** - Standard cafe style breakfast, 500m from Event HQ from **9AM**.

Your morning Coffee:

- Local cafés, including **Opua General Store** and **Opua Marina Café**, are offering discounts for reusable cup users.

Lunch options:

- Beat the rush! Pre-order your lunch from **Opua General Store** via the forms able to be [downloaded here](#)
- Looking to enjoy a gourmet meal during the event without the hassle of cooking? **The Picnic Box BOI** has you covered with their gourmet grazing, picnic, and BBQ boxes—perfect for fuelling up between races or enjoying a relaxed meal with your crew. Check out the website: thepicnicboxboi.co.nz
Order online anytime up to **4pm** the day before.

Choose your preferred pickup location at Paihia Wharf or have it delivered to addresses around Paihia, Opua, Russell, or even the BOI Marina.

Dinner Time:

- **OCC Galley**: Open daily with a selection of hearty meals.
- **Outdoor BBQ by 2BrokeGurlz**: Serving classic barbecue favourites every evening.
- **EICoyote Tacos**: Offering delicious taco options on Wednesday and Friday.
- **OCC Fundraising BBQ**: Supporting the BOIYC Youth Sailing Program, available on Wednesday and Friday.

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10. Organize a Green Team

Resilient Russell played a crucial role in **monitoring and managing the recycling stations** at Bay of Islands Sailing Week 2025, ensuring that waste was properly sorted and minimized. Their dedicated volunteers assisted attendees in correctly disposing of recyclables, compostable materials, and general waste, preventing unnecessary landfill contributions. Their team not only educated participants on best recycling practices but also **collected and managed compostable waste**, further supporting the event's commitment to sustainability.



11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage

We had in total 3 recycling/waste stations, that included – general waste, organic (compostable) waste, commingled, green glass, brown glass and clear glass bins. These stations were located next to the central seating area, where people consumed food and drinks and would require disposal of the unwanted items, and the third station was at the entrance/exit so people can dispose of waste as they leave the venue. This station was monitored by security guards too, to ensure that people don't dispose of personal waste. EcoSolutions provided reusable signage, reducing the need for single-use signs.





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12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill

To reduce food waste and minimize landfill impact, all compostable food scraps, napkins, and biodegradable packaging were collected separately and diverted to hot composting by Resilient Russell volunteers.

13. Use Paperless Event Management

To reduce paper waste and streamline event management, we have fully transitioned to paperless operations wherever possible. Instead of printing sailing instructions, all documents were made available online and in the Bay of Islands Sailing Week App, allowing for real-time updates without the need for reprinting. We also eliminated individual printed registration forms, opting for a single master list that team representatives simply signed. Additionally, for the first time, we did not print or display physical race results, removing the results board entirely. Instead, results were posted online and in the event app, ensuring easy access for all participants.

Recognizing that some sailors may not be accustomed to digital platforms, we created an educational video demonstrating how to use the app: [Facebook Video](#).

To enhance efficient communication, besides the overall Fleet chat, we implemented WhatsApp groups for each race course, enabling quick updates and direct messaging between race officials and sailors. The committee also used dedicated WhatsApp chats, Google Docs, and email for coordination, while the TopYacht system managed entries, registrations, and results digitally.

Throughout the event, photos from the day's racing were displayed on a large screen. While we initially planned to use the screen for displaying results, the resolution was not sufficient for clear reading, so we will explore improvements for next year. Any minimal paper waste generated during the event was composted or recycled by Resilient Russell's team. Our EFTPOS machines were set to print only merchant receipts, with customer receipts available on request, minimizing paper waste. We also are implementing a drink ticket reuse system, alternating colors between years to prevent reuse from previous events while reducing waste.



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14. Host a Beach or Marina Clean-up

For the second year in a row we partnered with Ocean Mind Project, Bay Beach Clean, Sea Cleaners, and Northland Waste to host the Bay-Wide Beach Cleanup. Taking place across Waitangi, Paihia, Opua, Okiato, and Kororāreka, the event brought together 52 volunteers who removed 2.5 cubic meters (2,500 litres) of rubbish from our local beaches. The cleanup focused on collecting man-made waste such as plastic, glass, and rubber, preventing it from polluting the bay. After the cleanup, volunteers gathered for a community lunch, generously supported by local businesses that also contributed spot prizes for the most unusual finds. With growing community involvement and collaboration from local environmental groups, the Bay-Wide Beach Cleanup has become an essential annual initiative, reinforcing our shared responsibility to protect the Bay of Islands' marine environment. We are looking forward to extending the event to wider Far North area not just Bay of Islands.

THE BIG BAY BEACH CLEAN

KICK OFF SUMMER WITH A CLEAN COAST!

29th December, 2024
10 - 11:30am

What's Happening:
Calling all ocean lovers to join us on Sunday, December 29th for another end of the year Bay-wide beach clean! All ages welcome, join us in protecting our coast for the summer ahead!

Event Highlights

Meeting Locations:
Waitangi - 'The Tui' / Waitangi Bridge
Paihia - The 'Wee' Toilets
Opua - Cruising Club Carpark
Okiato - Pipiroa Bay Beach
Kororāreka - Pompallier House Carpark

What to bring:
Sun protection and reusable water bottle! Rubbish bags and clean-up supplies provided. If you have garden gloves and/or buckets please bring them!

Spot Prizes!
Chance to win some awesome ocean-friendly prizes for helping out, plus gathering for kai afterwards

Register here:
QR code linking to registration

Bay Beach CLEAN
BAY OF ISLANDS SAILING WEEK
Northland Waste
SEA CLEANERS

CONTACT US
OCEANMINDPROJECT@GMAIL.COM

FOLLOW US FOR EVENT DETAILS
@THEOCEANMINDPROJECT

The OCEAN MIND project's Post

The OCEAN MIND project is at Bay of Islands - New Zealand.
January 10 at 11:39 AM · 🌐

We are once again blown away by our awesome Bay of Islands community! 🌊🌞🌴 At the end of 2024 we hosted the annual BIG BAY BEACH CLEAN and here is the recap:

- 52 volunteers
- 5 locations
- 2.5m cubes of rubbish collected! (That's equal to 2500 litres 🤯)
- Another beautiful end to a year of monthly beach cleans and community support 🙌

All of this rubbish was prevented from going straight into our beautiful bay! Thank you to all of our epic volunteers, and to our BIG supporters that helped make it happen!

Ngā mihi nui 🌊💙

@seacleaners
@boi.sailingweek
@northlandwaste
@littlegiantsnz
@honesgardenrussell
@hellhole_kororareka

Afterwards, we gathered on both sides of the bay for tea, snacks, and some community love to celebrate our moana and another year of keeping our bay beautiful!

Join us next week as we team up with @emr.nz at the Deep Water Cove snorkel day (JAN 18) and the Moana Exploration Day with @trioceansnz (Jan19).

Our next beach clean is Jan 27 (always the last Sunday of every month) at Te Haumi beach! Stay tuned for more ocean minded goodness 🌊🌞

Comment as Evita Zarina



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15. Promote Alternative Transportation

To encourage alternative transportation we worked with Haruru Cabs, Russell Cab, and Russell Mini Tours to offer convenient shuttle options. These services provided sailors and supporters with affordable transport between Opuia, Paihia, Russell, and Okiato, ensuring safe and easy access to the event. Information on these options was shared via email, group chats, bar and race office signage, and reinforced by the event MC each evening.

In addition - for the Explore Beach Party that takes place on one of the Islands in the bay, we encouraged sailors to use Explore ferries and go in groups, instead of boating out and back individually. Whilst the first ferry at 5pm is Explore's regular boat run and had only 17% of sailors jump on it, the 6pm and 6.40pm ferries had 82-87% of their capacity filled.

Shuttle Options for Bay of Islands Sailing Week:

Make sure to team up with others to share rides and make your bookings early!

- **Opuia to Paihia (and return):**

- Provided by Haruru Cabs.
- Minimum 5 people, maximum 10 people per trip.
- \$35 return ticket or \$25 one-way ticket.
- Ideal for evenings after the event or mornings to get to Opuia for the races.
- Parking in Opuia is limited—consider the shuttle!
- Contact Paul at +64 27 679 8838 to book.

- **Russell Cab - Russell to/from Okiato:**

- Russell Cab available for \$25 one-way (up to 5 people).
- Be mindful of the last ferry from Opuia to Okiato, which departs at 9:50 PM.
- Contact 021 396 398 to arrange a trip.

- **Russell Mini Tours - Russell to/from Okiato:**

- Russell Mini Tours are ready to provide a shuttle in the mornings and evenings for those who's boats stay in Opuia, but accommodation is in Russell.
- Minimum 6 people, maximum 9 people.
- Pickup / drop-off Okiato, the last ferry from Opuia to Okiato departs at 9:50 PM.
- Bookings are essential with the opportunity to adjust pick-up and drop-off times. To book contact Kelly 0211829359 or email russelltours@hotmail.com



16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

To increase awareness of wildlife and habitat protection, we collaborated with key environmental organizations to educate sailors on best practices. The Harbour Master and Northland District Council provided information on caulerpa alerts, no anchorage, and no-take zones, along with a detailed area map to ensure compliance. The Department of Conservation (DOC) engaged with participants, explaining the Marine Mammal Sanctuary and the importance of protecting dolphins and other marine life. Project Island Song distributed materials on biosecurity measures for visiting the islands, highlighting how to prevent the spread of pests. All this information was also shared via email (see below) before the event, ensuring that participants were well-informed and could contribute to preserving Northland's unique marine environment.

- Follow [Northland Regional Council requirements](#): 5-knot zones, no-anchor zones, and no-fishing zones.
- Respect [marine mammal sanctuary](#) zones and follow [Project Island Song's guidelines](#) for boating to islands.
- [Ensure your boat's hull is clean in compliance with Northland Regional Council rules.](#)

To ensure dietary inclusivity, our food vendors offered vegetarian meal options for both participants and volunteers. Volunteers received up to \$20 meal vouchers to use at the Opua Cruising Club galley and outdoor BBQ, where options included chickpea curry, quesadillas, and vegetarian nachos, alongside fish burgers and fish and chips. Additionally, for lunches, participants could pre-order vegetarian and gluten-free lunch rolls from Opua General Store.



Phone Number (09) 402 7575 or (Harpreet - Mobile 0274123030)

Phone Number (09) 402 7575 or (Harpreet - Mobile)

Lunch Order Form

[illegible]

Please ask if you require anything which isn't listed above.

Delicious Takeaway Pizzas made to order. From 4.30pm Daily

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Email: admin@bayofislandssailingweek.org.nz



18. Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques

This year, we replaced individual registration check-in forms with a master registration sheet, reducing unnecessary printing.

Rather than using disposable bow or boom stickers, we provided reusable colored fabric flags, which we actively collected at the end of the event for future use.

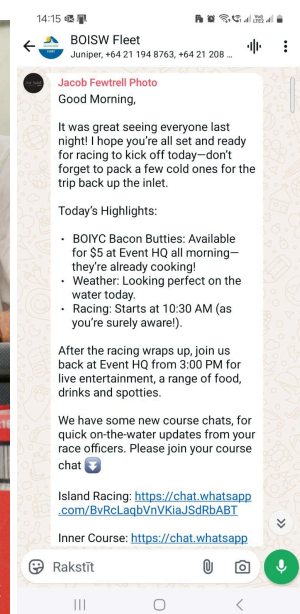
Registration, Notice of Race, and Sailing Instructions were all available online and via our event app and website reducing the need for printed materials. Race management communications, including updates and notices, were sent as push notifications through the app as well as via Fleet WhatsApp group and individual course chats.

Our point of difference is that we utilize islands as course marks for over half the fleet, reducing the number of floating marks required - see attached Sailing Instructions for reference. Robotic marks are beyond our budget as a volunteer-run event, but we optimize our 5 ribs as mark-setting boats, safety boats on race courses as needed and for towing small boats out to their courses (like flying 15 fleet), the 3 of the boats are used as start boats and at the same time as committee boats.

We don't have a dedicated spectator fleet, as spectators watch races from natural vantage points like Flagstaff Hill, Russell, and Paihia wharfs. Chase and judge boats are used only as required, and we don't operate coach boats. For our corporate sponsors we offered them to go out with our media team on media boats, as they are in the middle of the action anyway and would get a great vantage point.

For our Thursday night Beach Party at Otehei Bay, we strongly encourage participants to take organized boats (Explore and GreatSights tour boats) instead of individual vessels. This effort has been highly successful with 6pm and 6.45pm ferries being up to 82-87% capacity.

We don't do practice starts. We use U and Black flags in W/L to minimize restarts (they disqualify if over line at start - which does away with a restart).





19. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water

During race briefings, we reinforced anti-littering reminders, urging sailors to use marina refuse stations for waste disposal, and specifically prohibit the use of ties & bands for spinnakers in our sailing instructions, as well as ask to retain all rubbish until sailors return to shore (and use Marina waste stations instead of event venue stations), and keep absorbent oil spill pads handy when refuelling.

20. Encourage Green Boating Practices

We actively promote green boating practices to help sailors minimize their environmental impact both on and off the water. We encourage participants to reduce onboard waste, separate recyclables, compostables, and general waste, refill their water bottles at our free refill stations, and never discharge waste into the ocean. All of this information is communicated via our website and emails, where sailors were advised to also download the Green Boating Guide for tips on sustainable boating.

This year, we incorporated educational sessions and hands-on demonstrations to further promote sustainable boating. Seapower, a local marine business, hosted an interactive "Why Boat Maintenance is Important" session, showcasing common maintenance issues that are often overlooked and demonstrating the dangers of neglecting vessel upkeep. Their show-and-tell included physical examples of corrosion damage and covered essential topics like general maintenance, bilge maintenance, and engine maintenance—helping sailors understand how proactive care extends the life of their boats while reducing environmental harm. Their presentation is attached too. We are exploring ways to expand the educational aspect of the event in future years, offering sailors added value through more show-and-tell talks.

We also worked with The Chandlery, which showcased Henri-Lloyd's sustainable clothing range. As a brand committed to environmental responsibility, Henri-Lloyd uses recycled materials in their garments and offers a lifetime warranty, ensuring their products remain in use for years rather than contributing to textile waste.

Beyond these initiatives, we reinforced environmental awareness by sharing regulations and best practices related to marine mammal sanctuary rules, caulerpa biosecurity measures, no-take zones, and rāhui areas. Additionally, our spot prizes reflected our sustainability focus, with giveaways like a Victron solar controller and BMS for renewable energy solutions, as well as SaltAway biodegradable and non-toxic salt and corrosion removal sprays from The Chandlery.

21. Bonus Opportunities

- New World Kerikeri and Roadrunner Tavern in Opua supplied our bar with drinks and both were happy to take back unused/unopened bottles, that way limiting waste.
- We had a backup power unit - EcoFlow Delta 2 supplied by The Chandlery for our freezer whilst our power supply got set up. This power bank would run the freezer for up to 6 hours at least and can be recharged from solar, car or home power outlets.
- Wash-not-waste trailer usually would use a generator, but being close to Opua Cruising Club, instead we used the power from the grid.
- Before disposing of old signage, we reused it to write messaging on the reverse side of them.