

Sailing at French Bay Yacht Club



Sailing at French Bay is fun, social and competitive.



Our emphasis is on low-cost, fun sailing... so whatever shape your boat and gear is in, you will be able to get out there and enjoy sailing in good company.

We have a mixed fleet and all classes are welcome to join in – but Jollyboats, Zephyrs, Sunbursts,

Starlings, Optimists and Cadets are already active within the club, and the club owns several Cadets.

We offer Learn to Sail for children, and racing for Junior and Adult sailors, as well as adventure sailing picnics and major regattas for the Jollyboat and Zephyr classes.

Our sailing programme is advertised on the club website, www.frenchbay.org.nz.

Getting started

You'll find our members very friendly and happy to give advice. Come down on race days and hang out and get to know us. If you are keen to get on the water but aren't yet ready to race, you are very welcome to launch your boat with us and sail in the area around the clubhouse.

Club boats

The club has some Optimists and two-person Cadets for use by club members on a first come first serve basis – we recommend that you arrive at least 90 minutes before the advertised race start and discuss with our Officer of the Day who will organise the fleet and who may pair you up with another sailor.

Volunteers and helpers

Helping with ramp duty, driving and crewing safety boats, laying race marks, mentoring and giving advice to new sailors, kitchen duty, and boat and clubhouse maintenance is part of the fun.

Adult's sailing

French Bay Yacht Club also runs adult learn to sail and racing – great fun and a real challenge! Adults can

make use of our club cadet boats to get on the water and improve their skills.

Children's Sailing

Sailing is a great way to build independence and self reliance for your child, and it's a terrific activity that you can do together.

French Bay offers Learn to Sail programs and racing for children in Optimist class boats. Children can use their own sailing dinghy, or one of a number of club boats.

Our volunteer instructors are Yachting New Zealand certified, and our Learn to Sail program encompasses on-shore based theory, instruction on the water, and fun activities and racing.

By the end your child will be proficient in sailing Optimist dinghies and ready to take on bigger challenges of racing with French Bay Yacht Club and other clubs.



Learn to Sail costs \$50 for 13 nominal days of coaching (subject to weather conditions and boat availability), plus a club membership of \$190 per family.

The Junior Racing program focuses on getting children familiar with racing a sailing dinghy so that they may enter other club regattas at Green Fleet level.

For parents

As a parent you will help your child to get his or her boat ready before racing, and to launch and retrieve their boat and pack it down. Parent involvement is a very important part of Learn to Sail at French Bay, and we expect to see you out on the water assisting safety boat crews and helping out with club activities, such as launching and retrieving boats, on sailing days.

More at www.frenchbay.org.nz - or email sail@frenchbay.org.nz with your enquiries

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Buying a boat?

Purchasing a sailing dinghy does require an upfront investment but once you own the boat and gear, your ongoing costs are fairly minimal.

You'll need:

- A boat - with sails, mast, centreboard, rudder, sheets, a beach trailer to wheel the boat down to the water and a road trailer (or possibly a roofrack) to transport it
- Wetsuits are not required but are recommended – if you don't have a wetsuit then wearing thermals and a woollen sweater with a windbreaker jacket will help keep you warm on cooler days.
- A lifejacket or suitable buoyancy vest is mandatory

Where to look:

- Trademe and other classified type websites
- Class websites such as www.nzlaser.org, www.jollyboat.co.nz, www.starling.org.nz, and www.optimist.org.nz
- Other yacht club noticeboards and websites (i.e. Murrays Bay, Wakatere, Kohimarama often advertise second hand gear)
- Place a 'wanted' advertisement on the Crew.org.nz sailing forums
- Use our mailing list to tell other club members that you want to purchase a boat

What to look for:

A boat that is suitable for your height, weight and age. Popular classes are:

- **Optimist** – for children / youth to 50kg ish. A very popular boat to learn to sail in that takes you up to world championship level if you are so inclined!
- **Starling** – for older children / youth, women and men to 70kg. A fun boat that gets up and boogies.
- **Sunburst** – a great versatile wooden boat that is ideal for learning, for both adults and children. Can accommodate one or two people, and be sailed with a spinnaker for those who are more experienced.
- **Laser** (full rig or radial) – a low maintenance fibreglass boat of which there are thousands in

NZ. The Laser is sailed at the Olympic Games but is also a fun boat for learning. Full rigged boats for larger adults 85kg+, Laser Radial rigs for adults 65kg+.

- **Jollyboat** – a very popular NZ class, lively and quick. FBYC is one of the main Jollyboat clubs and if you want to sail with a fleet of class boats, either by yourself or with a child, this is the boat to be in at French Bay.

A class boat, such as the ones listed above, will also hold their value and be easier to sell when the time comes, and while we encourage you to buy one of the types of boats above, there are numerous types of boats available, and all are welcome at FBYC.

Also look for a boat (and trailer) that are in good condition:

- In fibreglass boats look out for flexing, crazing, evidence of major repair work and abuse, etc., and in wooden boats watch for tell tail signs of leaks (usually a damp smell inside), rot, good build quality, weight and poor paint or varnish work.
- Sails can last a long time but performance will deteriorate with age and if they aren't looked after. Look for clean sails that have been stored rolled, and have a crisp, clean look about them.
- Centreboards and rudders (foils) should be in good condition. Exposed wood can lead to rot, so if yours aren't in great condition you might need to do a bit of work on them. At the competitive end these are the most underestimated costly item!
- A trailer with a current WOF

As the seller to show you how to rig the boat and make sure everything fits together! Any problems may present an opportunity to negotiate on price.

It should be possible to be out sailing for \$500-\$2,500 depending on class... and of course if you are handy with sandpaper and a paint brush there are always bargains to be found!