



MEDIA RELEASE

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Clean Marina status for Opua

Opua Marina and Ashby's Boatyard in the Bay of Islands have been certified as "Clean Marinas" under an international accreditation system designed to encourage environmental best practice in all marina operations.

Approved in October, the certification makes Far North Holdings Ltd one of only three marina companies in New Zealand to achieve Clean Marina status.

The programme is an industry-led initiative developed in conjunction with the New Zealand Marina Operators Association to encourage maritime users including marina operators, boatyards, contractors and boaties to play their part in protecting coastal and inland water quality.

"The implementation of the Clean Marina programme sets the company apart and reflects positively on the Bay Of Islands as an area in which water quality and the maintenance of environmental best practice is taken seriously," company chairman Tony Norman says.

"We are proud of the fact Opua is the only marina operation north of Auckland and one of a just a handful across New Zealand to have achieved this status," he says.

Certification followed two years of work making improvements and developing good management practices. To reach the required standards involved the auditing of 130 aspects of the company's operations, principally in the areas of wastewater and trade discharges, storm-water control, fuelling and boatyard practices, vessel maintenance, marine bio-security, accidental spill and pollution response management.

"Having achieved certification, the challenge is now to maintain the standards reached and to continue to be among those nationwide who are prepared to pay more than just lip service to the maintenance of our pristine coastal environment," Mr Norman says.

For additional information on the Clean Marina programme visit www.cleanmarinas.org.nz

Clean Boating www.cleanboating.org.nz

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