

Media Release – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

### **Disabled Sailors ... Have a Go!**

This week disabled students from Wellington primary and intermediate schools had the opportunity to experience sailing through the Yachting “NZ Sailing...Have a Go” schools programme.

The programme ran two sessions: Seaview Marina Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December and Evans Bay Yacht and Motor Boat Club Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December. This is the second year such a program has been offered to disabled students in Wellington.

Halberg Trust and Yachting NZ are working in partnership to make these opportunities available to Wellington’s young disabled community.

Sir Murray Halberg believes “Every New Zealander, no matter what their ability, has the right to participate in the sport or active recreation pursuit of their choice – there are no exceptions”.

This belief aligns well with Sir Peter Blake’s idea and desire that all children should have an opportunity to experience the thrills and spills of sailing.

Halberg Trust Activity Funding has supported some of the schools by covering the “extra” costs for some students to participate in this YNZ “Sailing...Have a Go” program.

The YNZ “Sailing...Have a Go” instructors ensure that students will gain water confidence and sail optimists dinghies as a pair, as well as offering an experience on the WETA trimaran.

Last year many schools commented on how brilliant the yachting experience was, and requested further opportunities to introduce students to yachting.

Some parents followed up this opportunity by enrolling their children in ongoing adaptive yachting opportunities.

Halberg Trust Sport Opportunity Adviser, Marguerite Christophers says these opportunities would not be possible without a number of valued supporters.

“I would like to extend my thanks to the yachting club volunteers for donating their time, and I wish to acknowledge the Eagles Golfing Society for their ongoing fundraising efforts which allow the Activity Fund to directly benefit our disabled youth’s participation in opportunities such as the YNZ Have a Go...Sailing programme.”

### **MEDIA RELEASE ENDS**

For further information on linking disabled students into the Yachting NZ “Have a Go...Sailing” program and other adaptive yachting programs please contact: Marguerite Christophers 027 4654022, alternatively email: [margueritec@sportwellington.org.nz](mailto:margueritec@sportwellington.org.nz)