

THE NEW ZEALAND CLASSIC YACHT JOURNAL



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Arika powers through the chop on day one.

An absolute classic!

William Calver oceanphotography.co.nz

This year's Lindauer Classic Yacht Regatta turned on the conditions to test the mettle of craft and crew. CHAD THOMPSON describes the action ...

2008 had been shaping up to be one of the milestones for classic yachting in New Zealand ever since the return of *Thelma* and the news of the restoration of the other classics: *Rainbow*, *Rawhiti* (now not to be relaunched until late 2008), *Loloma* and *Gloriana*. It was also to be a big year for the modern classics with increased participation from the Stewart 34's, Townsons

and H28 fleets. There were certainly no disappointments especially with the challenge by *Thelma* to *Arika*'s supremacy. *Arika* has been known historically as the 'Queen of the Harbour' and now was the time for her to reclaim her title.

In the Modern Classic Division there were 18 entrants, a record and one likely to grow, especially with the camaraderie that

is ever-growing at this end of the fleet.

The Viaduct Marine Village was once again the base for the event with racing starting and finishing at Orakei Wharf. This year for the first time all of the racing was in the inner harbour, with a new four-race format and three races to count for the points results. The Viaduct harbour provided a wonderful spot to view the

majority of the competitors and exchange tall tales of 'What might have been if only

In past regattas, the fleet has usually been subject to a wide variety of conditions; not so this time around. Friday started in 20 - 25 knots with gusts later in the race exceeding 30 knots. Some wild rides brought out the heart pills on many yachts and the after-race bar

A great celebration of our sailing heritage ...

was littered with tall tales of hair-raising events, wild rides and close finishes. As the conditions moderated only for Saturday and Sunday, the regatta proved to be a real test of gear and skills.

This year we enjoyed not only a return visit from our Australian friends, but also a contingent of classic

yachties from the northern hemisphere, crewing on *Prize* and *Ariki*. They certainly showed us all how to make things happen on a large gaffer like *Ariki*. The only pity was that, in the process, *Ariki* lost her bowsprit with the failure of a bobstay fitting.

In summary, the 2008

Lindauer Classic Yacht Regatta has been our most successful regatta. Long may the fleet continue to grow through the enthusiasm of our boat owners and their crew. We eagerly look forward to 2009's regatta and the return to the fleet of *Rawhiti* and *Ranger* as well as more of our other classics and hopefully

a representative yacht from across the Tasman.

- Thank you to Lindauer and our family of sponsors. Thank you also to Joyce Talbot, Tony Stevenson and their band of volunteers for a wonderful regatta.

Beautiful conditions on day three see (from left) Gleam, Orion II, the Dragon Windfall and Jonquil sliding downwind





William Calver oceanphotography.co.nz

CYA Patron, Hamish Ross, helming Rainbow – hard on the wind and high on the learning curve

International perspective

Robin Kenyon writes from the Mediterranean point of view ...

From the position of skipper of Prize and being more used to the Mediterranean classic scene, the Lindauer Classic Yacht

Regatta was an exhilarating experience. Hats off to Chris Collins, the Principal Race Officer for a terrific course on Friday with no hesitation

to get us under way in 20-25 knots gusting to 30+. And how impressive to see the big gaffers *Ariki*, *Rainbow* and *Thelma* fighting it out on the

waters they were designed for! The NZ Antiquities Act is surely a key element as to why this can happen and what makes this classic scene in New Zealand so unique. Compared to the Med, there is a lot less money involved, the boats are much smaller and there are very few full time sailors involved. This leads, indirectly or directly, to a terrific camaraderie between the crews and you get the distinct impression that the yachts are sailed now as intended originally – strenuous, wet, fun and exhilarating; with a bottle of rum to polish it all off.

- This is Robin's second Lindauer Classic Yacht Regatta and long may the opportunity arise for him and his Northern Hemisphere friends to keep on returning to our shores.



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The heavyweights – Achernar with Hermes breathing down her neck.

Trans Tasman Exchanges

The Classic Yacht Association of Australia's 2nd consecutive appearance at the Lindauer Regatta provided another memorable experience and continued the stimulating exchange of information, friendships and light-hearted rival rivalry between Australian and New Zealand Classic Yacht enthusiasts.

The format change from three to four races provided a more interesting regatta preventing gear failure or bad decision from eliminating a boat from the medals. The 'new' additions to the fleet including *Thelma* and *Rainbow* certainly raised the glamour stakes even higher than last year.

Back home in Melbourne

and sailing regularly with the Melbourne fleet, we perhaps get to see a greater diversity of designers, nationalities and eras, but we certainly don't have the depth and quality of authentically restored gaffers and early sloops that we witnessed on the Waitemata. In not having a Logan or Bailey dynasty of our own, over the last century, we have tended to import designs and boats from Europe and America. This has led to a more eclectic, but less purebred fleet.

The obvious exception to this was the winning boat in Bermudan Division One. I had the honour to sail (and win) on *Arcturus* (1930) in race two and three of the regatta and witnessed close up the awesome power of a schooner rig doing what Mr Alden designed it to do. A day later I had another amazing experience of sailing on a boat launched only five

years after *Arcturus* but this time in Auckland, and it is fascinating how the varying requirements of the Bermuda Race and Hauraki Gulf have created such different craft. Sailing on *Tawera* was a special treat. I soon realised why the crew looked so happy to have me on board after grinding in the #1 a couple of times in winds gusting around 25 knots.

One area I was especially keen to hear about was the plans to get more mullet boats sailing. I gather that the class has suffered, from a purist's point of view, from years of unrestricted development. Here in Melbourne the opposite has happened, with our equivalent vessels, the Couta Boats flourishing under strict and original class guidelines. It's a great example of how Trans-Tasman exchanges can help disseminate information to everyone's benefit.

My personal thanks goes to the wonderful skippers and crews that I sailed with especially Bruce Tantrum, Barry, Bruce and Renata, from *Arcturus* and Mike and Eric Mahoney on *Tawera*.

The CYAA sends its warmest appreciation to Tony Blake, Joyce Talbot and Tony Stevenson for the huge efforts they put in to make such an amazing event.

Looking to the future, we have started planning for our November Cup Regatta to which all CYANZ members are warmly invited. It is a great week in Melbourne with horseracing, yacht racing, and festivities.

The ultimate aim of all these exchanges would be to have a group of Australian vessels racing on the Hauraki Gulf and have some New Zealand yachts competing on Port Phillip. Now that would be something not to be missed!

Lindauer Classic Yacht Regatta 2008 Results

Division One

Line: Iorangi

1 *Arcturus*; 2 Iorangi; 3= Prize; 3= *Sapphire*

Division Two

Line: *Thelma*

1 *Thelma*; 2 *Waione*; 3 *Rainbow*

Division Three

Line: *Tucana*

1 *Orion II*; 2 *Tucana*; 3 *Gleam*

Division Four

Line: *Jonquil*

1 *Jonquil*; 2 *Loloma*; 3 *Frances*

Division Five

Line: *Pahi*

1 *Pahi*; 2 *Pionnier*; 3 *Princess*

CLASSES:

Flying Fifteen

1 *Skinfful*; 2 *Ffrenetic*; 3 *Iff*

M Class

1 *Matara*; 2 *Marksman*; 3 *Mahina*

Townson 32

1 *Myst*; 2 *Grenada*; 3 *Evening Star*

H28

1 *Ninepence*; 2 *Tropic Bird II*; 3 *Karie*

Stewart 34

1 *Pahi*; 2 *Pionnier*; 3 *Princess*

Col Wild Trophy for Best Performed Yacht Designer Team

1 Arch Logan – *Thelma* & *Iorangi*

2 Bob Stewart – *Pahi* & *Pionnier*

3 Chas Bailey – Prize & *Waione*

Launches

1 *Florence Dawn*; 2 *Silver Spray*; 3

Ferro

• Divisional reports will be published in the next issue of *Classic Yacht Journal*

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