

THE NEW ZEALAND CLASSIC YACHT JOURNAL



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Chris Miller Photo

The CYA launches at Balemi's Landing (plus some local moderns)

Classic launches cruise to Clevedon in fine style

Team leader David Cooke (*Trinidad*) specified the meeting point as the entrance to the Clevedon River at 0930 on Easter Saturday. Many launches took the opportunity to head down to the Bottom End on Good Friday and stayed the night at Shark Bay, Ponui Island.

We were joined there by several other CYA launches which didn't take the river

trip including *Wirihana* and *Luana*. *Menai* was there too. After a very pleasant night we heard *Florence Dawn's* engine fire up at 0800 to start the short trip across to the river entrance. The other six boats in the river fleet followed.

In brilliant sunshine and no wind to speak of, we stopped off the entrance to get a few last minute

instructions and a map from *Trinidad*. Then *Trinidad* led the way to Balemi's Landing, where we were to stay the night, followed by *Akarana* (looking absolutely huge in the confined space of the river), *Rorqual*, *Romance II*, *Robyn Gae* (which was manned by the 80+ couple John and Fortuna Turnwald), *Florence Dawn* and *Waimiga*.

There was a bit of

momentary excitement at the entrance to the river when the leaders confused the poles and both *Trinidad's* and *Akarana's* 1.8m draught managed to redefine the channel! The shallower draught vessels tagging behind the big ladies had the benefit of a new trench.

The twisting and turning

Cont. overleaf

Launches continued ...

trip up the river at mostly 5 knots took about 45 minutes. We sailed through farmland and swamp, past various clutches of moored boats, the Clevedon Cruising Club and on to the Balemi Landing. The 2 knot current of the incoming tide made getting alongside the pontoons and rafted into pairs an interesting exercise in the limited turning space of the river, but all skippers exhibited some good seamanship.

Some took their tenders the 2km up to Clevedon Village for an hour or two while others were fascinated looking over the museum-like Balemi estate. At 1700 several of the boat barbecues were taken ashore and we enjoyed a few hours of each other's company over a glass or two and some fine food. Later we were joined by a couple of CYA launch crews by road to swell the numbers. Although the weather threatened us with some drizzle, it wasn't until after the CYA flag was lowered on the flagpole at dark that all turned in for the tidy-up.



Chris Miller Photo

Above: Trinidad and Akarana lead the way upstream.

Below: At the Clevedon River mouth

Dick and Colleen Fisher kindly hosted the after-dinner get together on the beautiful *Akarana* with everyone on board. I suspect a very heavy shower at approximately 10pm kept the party going longer than most anticipated!

Easter Sunday started with an absolutely beautiful clear blue sky with no wind, perfect for the trip back out of the river. There was again a huge current with

the incoming tide so it was important to get *Trinidad* and *Akarana* to the entrance at the top of the tide. When we reached the outer markers of the entrance, Dick Fisher was seen popping his head out of *Akarana's* wheelhouse and symbolically wiping his brow with a big grin on his face.

Most of the fleet retired to Shark Bay again for another night where we were joined

by *Monterey* (Mark and Sue Edmonds) who hosted many for scones, tea, and other liquid refreshments. James and Cherie Mobberley also joined us with *Falcon* on their way back from Barrier. They shared their catch of crayfish on *Waimiga* until late.

It was one of the most interesting trips we've ever done and went like clockwork thanks to Dave Cooke.

By Chris Miller



Chris Miller Photo



Ivor Wilkins Photo

Wairiki and Ngataki in the Tino Rawa Trust's refit shed.

Ngataki rolls into refit shed

Some things in life are simple, but when the committee started thinking about topics/venues for April's CYA club night, they all looked blank. After all, how could you better Tony Blake's magnificent presentation on his Arctic adventures?

The answer was simple, you invite everyone to a good old fashioned booze-up in a boat shed; only problem this boat shed was in deepest, darkest Morningside and it was a cold Tuesday night. That aside, the lure of seeing Jason Prew's almost completed restoration of *Wairiki* up live and in person rather than via his prolific web-site postings was too good to miss for 60 odd CYA members.

Jason and his team would have to be contenders for the fastest restoration award. Almost a year ago to the

day she arrived at the NZ Traditional Boatbuilding School in a very sad state, now she is as good if not better than the day she was launched at Devonport.

The highlight of the evening however was getting to crawl over/through *Ngataki*. For those that have read Johnny Wray's book *South Sea Vagabonds* this was like entering a time warp. *Ngataki* is the latest addition to the Tony Stevenson's Tino Rawa Trust and the hospitality Tony expended on the night was as always fitting his larger-than-life character.

The future of some of New Zealand's best heritage yachts now resides with him and we should all be grateful that there are still genuine good blokes like Tony around.

Alan Houghton



NZ TRADITIONAL BOATBUILDING SCHOOL

The School has recently been renamed, with 'New Zealand' substituting for 'Auckland'. David Glen has become Chairman of the Trust Board and Steve Cranch has rolled up another sleeve to manage the school's affairs after Robert Brooke stepped down as Director late 2009.

Although we have obtained NZQA status, sadly, as a new tertiary institution, it is not possible in the present economic climate to win the battle for TEC funding of fulltime student loans. Nevertheless the current BITO apprentice tuition and the hugely popular hobby night classes continue. The CYA Library is blossoming under Peter Herbert.

Significant events include the restoration of a fine Silver Fern, Robert Brooke building a replica of the Des Townson-designed crack Q Class 12 footer *Nimble* and the big steps taken by Ian McRobie and team on *Corona* whose cabin top will be completed in a few days.



Alan Houghton Photos



Chris Miller Photos

Above: *Maroro* at the School at last. Below: Ian McRobie says, 'What the hell have we got here?'

Maroro rescue begins

Maroro arrived from Great Barrier during March, the gift of David Owen, the Okupu fisherman who retired her to the beach several years ago. The CYA's Rescue Trust was greatly assisted by the people of Okupu, Sealink and, as always, Boat Haulage in this logistical exercise.

The 1907 veteran and winner of the RNZYS-run Rudder Cup of 1908 is now rejoicing under cover at the NZ Traditional Boatbuilding

School at Hobsonville. Already, Robert Brooke has completed a conservation and restoration report and the first quotes have been obtained, with more to come.

We have been amazed at the support the project is getting from all quarters, the Matheson family who built her, the Faulkner family who used her in Tauranga and several fishermen who made their living longlining with her until recent times. There

is also great interest in the US because of her amazing originality and the fact she was built to a US design.

We will soon approach

funding sources and hope that *Maroro* will be back in the water again, as good as new, by the end of 2012.

Harold Kidd



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