

The THREE-DAY CLASSIC SPRING RALLY

Friday, 17th Saturday, 18, and Sunday 19th November



While we were all hoping for a scene such as above with a group of yachts sailing under clear skies in a beautiful breeze, the conditions didn't quite work out that way.

The forecast was shocking; rain and fresh airs were meant to be the order of the day. Fortunately that wasn't quite the case. Sadly the forecast put off the majority of the 15 skippers that had expressed interest in being involved.

Jonquil and Prize were in the starting area at 11:00 on the Friday, and were followed later by Rainbird, Starlight and Moerangi. Sailing down to Man O War Bay at the eastern end of Waiheke in a 15-18 NE that backed around to the N was magnificent. The only rule for the fleet was not to have to bring



Idyllic tight reaching conditions on Prize

the mainsheet hard aboard. That was achieved! It was so good to be out there in those conditions, "Wish you were here with us" was the cry.

Friday evening was filled with good company, tall stories, and appropriate tipples in a calm anchorage.

A slow start to Saturday, with no pressure to head away to a start line, was followed by a beautiful reach to Islington Bay. The forecast doubled down unfortunately, however Jonquil and Prize settled in to the northern corner of the bay and spent a comfortable night there readying themselves for a very brisk run back home on Sunday. Moerangi, Starlight and Rainbird had headed home on Saturday afternoon.

Prize and Jonquil came rollicking home in a very fresh north easterly.

While the numbers of participants weren't high, the concept attracted a great deal of interest. It is hope to make it a permanent fixture on the calendar and hopefully there will be time to have another rally later in the season.

Awards to be presented:

Best Skipper – George on Jonquil



Best crew – Tony Koia, Paul Burton, Kushila Stein on Prize



Most comfortable vessel: Moerangi

