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## A classic reborn: *Pastime* on the water again



A 'new' gaffer has joined the CYA fleet. After many years off the water, the 45ft *Pastime*, built by Malcolm Miller in his Lyttleton Shipyard in 1886, was relaunched on November 30 in Tauranga – 135 years after her first launching.

The plan, said skipper Andy Pilcher, was to sail her up to Auckland in time to race in the ADB Group Classic Yacht Regatta after sea trials around Tauranga. The Classic Yacht Charitable Trust's *Waitangi* will be one of the competitors. *Pastime* last raced against *Waitangi* in 1905.

Back in 1886 Malcolm Miller, who was out to compete against his business rival's yacht, *Little Wonder*, skippered *Pastime* in her first regatta, run by the Canterbury Yacht Club. Miller went on to successfully race her over the next 11 years – although

beating *Little Wonder* continued to elude him. *Pastime* was then raced by Malcolm's son Malcolm 'Jimmy' Miller and then Jimmy's nephew, Alex Miller, until 1955.

In 1963, she passed out of the Miller family's hands – and after 25 more years of racing and cruising, was bought in 1989 by Christchurch hotelier Arthur McKee. Her sailing days appeared to be over. McKee floated her in a specially-built pool next to his Pegasus Arms tavern, so patrons could dine on board.

Then, when McKee sold the tavern in 1995, *Pastime* was secured by a trust dedicated to her restoration.

However, 22 years later, she was still languishing on the hard in a Lyttleton boatyard. That's when two of Malcolm Miller's great-great-grandsons

stepped in and a new trust was formed to restore and relaunch her.

Cousins Chris Kendrick and John Erkkila remember their mothers talking about sailing on *Pastime* as kids.

"It's our heritage; our mothers always talked about *Pastime*," says Kendrick. A 1908 gold sovereign once belonging to Kendrick's mother, Betty, now sits on *Pastime*'s new mast step. "And we made sure the King's head (Edward VII) was facing the right way before the mast went in..."

The two cousins have dedicated the past four years to restoring their great-great-grandfather's yacht, working with boatbuilder Craig Wild and his son Ryan, whose shipwright and boatbuilding lineage reaches back to the 1860s.

*Pastime* was trucked up from the Lyttleton boatyard to an old corrugated iron shed on Erkkila's property at Tamahere on the outskirts of Hamilton; and then, her restoration complete, to Tauranga for her relaunch.

The Wilds have worked off a 1997 conservation plan commissioned for the earlier trust, maintaining as much of the structure of the boat as possible, including splicing old timber framing.

"So many of those old yachts have been chopped up, but *Pastime* had not been touched," said Wild.

*Pastime*'s Auckland mooring is at Heritage Landing, the CYA's 'home-on-the-water', which showcases New Zealand's European/Pakeha maritime history and celebrates the craftsmanship of nearly a century and a half of wooden boat builders.

By Penelope Carroll



## For the love of Logans ...

"I love Logans." That's the reason Mike Mahoney gives for buying the 55ft Logan-designed *Moerangi* (built 1899) three years ago with wife Tracy. It was a "bit agricultural" when they first got it, he says. But Tracy's designer skills have transformed the interior with a "tidied-up" galley, king-sized cabins forward and aft and a "smattering of single berths" in between for grandchildren. Other work has included new masts, new rigging and a raft of engineering upgrades. *Moerangi* is part of the CYA fleet of around 105 classic launches. Mike and Tracy have owned another CYA



*Mahoney grandkids are a happy crew.*



classic boat – the 1935 Logan-designed yacht *Tawera* – for

20 years, but *Moerangi* has become their favourite: "We

love it, and the grandkids love it," says Mike.

## Big changes afoot for the Classic Yacht Charitable Trust



John Street has decided it's time to pass the helm over and is retiring from his role as chair and primary funder of the Classic Yacht Charitable Trust.

In 2000, John decided he would give back to the yachting and wider community by returning to life some of New Zealand's early boating history.

His aim was to promote public interest and learning opportunities in all aspects

of New Zealand's maritime history through acquiring and restoring iconic examples of early yachts, launches and trading vessels built and used in New Zealand's waterways.

John formed the Classic Yacht Charitable Trust soon after recovering and restoring the Logan Brothers 1892 2<sup>1/2</sup> rater *Gloriana*. Since those early days, 12 vessels have joined the trust. Some have since moved on, including the 1920's harbour board launch *Te Hauraki* and more recently the coastal schooner, the *Daring*, which is being preserved for public display and education at Mangawhai Heads, where she was built in 1863.

The trust currently owns seven vessels which are all available to the public:

- *Gloriana* – 1892 34ft Logan brothers gaff rigged cutter
- *Waitangi* – 1894 58ft Robert Logan Snr gaff rigged cutter
- *Ida* – 1895 46ft Bailey Brothers gaff rigged cutter
- *Ethel* – 1896 48ft Logan brothers gaff rigged yawl, farm to market freighter
- *Thelma* – 1897 59ft Logan Brothers gaff rigged cutter
- *Frances* – 1906 38ft gaff rigged cutter, farm to market freighter
- *Rainbow II* – 1966 Sparkman and Stephens - Chris Bouzaid's one ton cup winner.

John has agreed to stay involved with the trust as founder and patron and the trustees aim to continue sharing the vessels with the community of volunteers and crew that have grown around them and also to continue to preserve the heritage of the fleet through broadening and growing the learning opportunities for youth and non-sailors.

Thank you John and Lorraine for your incredible contribution in bringing our boating history to life. We look forward to your continued association with the trust.

*by Larry Paul,  
Chairman, Classic Yacht  
Charitable Trust*