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When Larry Paul answered a phone call from the US on April 1, 2019, offering to gift a beautiful 1936 classic sloop, he thought it might be an April Fool's prank. But it was a genuine offer to return Tangaroa, to her homeland. Larry tells the story ...

Tangaroa completes full circle

Designed by John Brooke for Mr Jas. Inkster of Bayswater, *Tangaroa's* design was based on an earlier Scandinavian boat (by K Aage Nielsen), which featured in *Rudder* magazine in 1933.

She was built from triple diagonal plank kauri timber by the Percy Vos yard in Hamer Street Auckland and launched on the 2nd December 1936. Pohutukawa was used for her stem, with the interior fitout in mahogany and hatches and skylight in teak. A doghouse was added by a later owner, M. V. Bates, in 1953.

While built as a cruiser, *Tangaroa* regularly and successfully competed in RNZYS events, including coastal races to Tauranga, Kawau Island and the Bay



of Islands. *Tangaroa* often carried homing pigeons, released at regular intervals with information on the progress of the race yachts.

In 1961, she was purchased by a young American couple, Peter and Jo Byam, from then owners Messrs Bates, Stretton and Green of Auckland.

The Byams fitted her for offshore cruising and set off to explore Tahiti, eventually arriving in Hawaii in November 1962. *Tangaroa* was sold the following year to William J. Froome and Robert T. Leary who, after many years cruising around

Edward Printup, in 1977. the yacht to Eric Jonsson's father, Allan Rey Jonsson, and his sailing buddy, Lloyd Edward Printup, in 1977.

Interestingly, her earlier owners, the Byams, had such fond memories of their time in New Zealand that they immigrated to Waverley in South Taranaki in 1978. Peter passed away in 2015, but Jo still lives on their family farm.

The Jonsson family enjoyed many years of cruising and racing around Oahu and across to Maui.

When Allan Rey Jonsson moved to California to

be closer to family after his retirement, he passed custodianship of *Tangaroa* to his son Eric, with the dream of *Tangaroa* being returned to her home of origin, and back to the company of the wonderful fleet of restored and well maintained classic wooden boats in the Classic Yacht Charitable Trust.

Now back to that April 1 conversation with Eric Jonsson in which I told him the Classic Yacht Charitable Trust would be unable to take her on. But the best way to fulfil his father's wish to see the yacht returned to New Zealand might be to identify an interim local skipper with a passion for classic wooden boats and have them assist in recommissioning and sailing her in New Zealand until a long-term custodian could be identified to care for her.

Eric and his Dad agreed and the lengthy process of building a shipping cradle and organising shipping from Hawaii to Auckland was put in motion.

Tangaroa left Honolulu some seven months later, early on the morning of Nov 19th 2019 and arrived in Auckland via Tonga on December 8th. Boat Haulage Ltd then trucked her to Horizon Boats in Stillwater, where Wayne Olsen replaced the decks, tidied up the cockpit lockers, rebuilt and repaired the hatches and

A Daring restoration adventure

The *Daring*, a 17m schooner built and launched in Mangawhai in 1863 and quickly twice wrecked, has finally returned to Mangawhai – by road.

The first time the *Daring* came to grief was just nine months after her launching, on the bar at the mouth of the Waikato River.

Then nine months later she was again wrecked, this time at Te Oneone Rangatira beach near the South head of the Kaipara Harbour.

There she remained buried in shifting sands for more than 150 years until her hull was exposed and she was recovered in December 2019 by the Daring Rescue Group, with financial support from John Street.

The *Daring* has now been trucked to a temporary shelter beside the Mangawhai Museum, awaiting completion of the Daring Discovery Centre, where she will be on public display.



ElevatedMedia Photo

A new addition to the CYA launch fleet

A new addition to the CYA launch fleet is *Waikaro*, a 32ft wooden launch designed and built by Roy Parris in 1978 in his shed in Westmere and now owned by brothers Ant and Chris Smit. *Waikaro* started life as a working boat for a Great Barrier Island family and was then “rescued and somewhat rebuilt” by Geoff Bagnall some 15 years ago. Bagnall remodelled her cabin and cockpit to create a “practical, liveable vessel”.

More recently *Waikaro* underwent another makeover – although she retained her original 120hp Ford engine.

The Smit brothers joined the CYA when they bought *Waikaro* earlier this year for



family cruising. Longtime yachties, they have made the switch to power. “Launches tend to stay upright, you can just turn on the key and set off, and plus you have no need to look for crew,” says Ant, who is looking forward to CYA launch events – and being out on the water on *Waikaro* when the classic fleet is racing.

skylight and added a galley, head and holding tank.

Commissioning skipper Corey Rademaekers has spent considerable time completing the paint work, re-rigging *Tangaroa* and fitting her out for cruising in New Zealand.

Tangaroa was relaunched in September 2020 at Gulf

Harbour Marina, where she is currently berthed, and Corey has built a small racing team to compete in CYA events. He even managed some cruising time with his family over the summer of 2020/21.

Eric Jonsson and his good friend Randy Schmitt had hoped to be in New Zealand

for the relaunch and some cruising in the Hauraki Gulf, but the Covid-19 pandemic put paid to this, with plans to cruise the Hauraki Gulf on *Tangaroa* currently on hold.

A *Tangaroa* open day was held in May at the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, with many stories shared over

drinks and nibbles (pictures below). Jo Byam was among the visitors, returning to the yacht an original wooden *Tangaroa* carving she and Peter had kept when they sold the vessel in Hawaii in 1963. *Tangaroa*, the yacht and the carving, have come full circle.