

THE NEW ZEALAND CLASSIC YACHT JOURNAL

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.



www.classicyacht.org.nz

ISSN 1175-804X

Issue 131 – October 2020

Right: Ida romping along on her maiden post-restoration sail on the Waitemata Harbour. Below: Gloriana at the Maritime Museum.

A stellar year in spite of Covid-19

By Chad Thompson

We were looking forward to 2020 especially as it was the 25th Anniversary of the Classic Yachts Association of NZ. Membership was at an all time high and just when you thought we might be able to celebrate the occasion together COVID hit and the fan virtually stopped turning.

An association like ours has to contemplate what happens when some might suggest that there can be no further growth. Fortunately, someone forgot to tell the old yachts to take a break. 2020 has seen not one, not two, but three new yachts join the fleet:

Chas Bailey Junior's 43' LOD 1895 *Ida* (46'6"/30'9"1"/7"). Bought as a floating wreck from Sydney

by John Street's Classic Yacht Charitable Trust, restored by Wayne Olsen, launched in May and winning races already.

The 1892, Chas Bailey Jnr designed and built, *Rogue* (32'/26'/6'8"/6") is on her way up from Wellington and to be restored by Wayne Olsen with the specific intention of sailing before Xmas.

Pastime designed and built in 1886 by Malcolm Millar (45'/33'/9'4"/6'8") is currently being restored in Hamilton and should be in Auckland after launching and a shake down sail from Tauranga in the New Year.

And to top things off, after being tied up at the Maritime Museum for far too many years, *Gloriana* (34'/24'6"/6'10"/5'4"), built by Robert Logan in 1892 and

owned by the Classic Yacht Charitable Trust, will be out racing after she has had an engine installed between now

and Christmas. Ironically, *Gloriana* and *Rogue* were launched in the same year, one hundred and twenty-



Sailing in the Marlborough Sounds

Excerpts from Tamariki's Picton to Stewart Island Adventure . . .

by Peter Mortimer

Sailing in the Marlborough Sounds is often frustrating as almost every reach you turn into has a head wind coming down it.

However, the scenery more than compensates for it and once in a while the wind gods align with your intentions and a run down a sound is enjoyed. The good days are fantastic.

I must say though, the winds over the few months I visited were very brisk and a lot of time was spent hiding. There seemed to be constant gale warnings in the Grey and Stephens forecast areas and storm warnings in Cook on alternate days. It's definitely on a par with Hobart.

WORLD'S END:

Yep, that's what the chart says. World's End is tucked

away in the south eastern end of the Tennyson Inlet, which branches off Pelorus Sound. Ngawhakawhiti Bay, where I anchored, is one of just two bays at World's End.

According to John and Sue on s/y *Seabird* it is the best storm anchorage in the Sounds. It certainly seemed that way, with the added bonus being the water is shallow enough to anchor securely.

One can easily imagine Gollum or maybe Yoda spying from the dense bush when shrouded in a heavy evening mist.

The close, steep surrounding hills mean the bay is completely isolated from broadcast radio and cell phone networks. SSB radio was the only communication. I spent three glorious days there.

HEADING TO PICTON

The passage from Pelorus Sound to Picton can transit through a short cut inside



The scenery of the Marlborough Sounds more than makes up for the frisky and often perverse winds.

of Forsyth Island. In the head of Forsyth Bay at Whakatahuri, the remains of one of New Zealand's early entrepreneurial maritime endeavours lay rusting away.

Wells Boatbuilders, well-known early local boat builders, were once ship dismantlers of extraordinary capacity.

In the early 1950's Francis and Thomas Wells set up the Sounds Wrecking Company, then purchased and dismantled nine ships

over a five-year period, selling their scrap metals into the overseas markets.

Their history and exploits are detailed in the very interesting article in *NZ Ship and Marine Society, Marine News 2009 56 03* – <https://nzshipmarine.com/nodes/view/2249#idx15684>.

• We'll share Peter's southward passage to Akaroa in another edition. It was a lesson in when a reef should be set!

eight years ago (there is something about writing that number down, rather than using the numerals, that makes you realise how long ago that was), and are now being recommissioned in the same year.

Do the maths: these yachts, including *Gloriana*, represent over five hundred

years of yachting. 2020 will be just a short pause in the ir history. The season 2020-2021 is shaping up to be one of the best after all.

Right: Inspecting progress on Pastime during her restoration in Hamilton.

