



# A stiff north-easter tests PatioBay fleet

By Penelope Carroll

A fresh north-easterly breeze provided a good test of skills in the race to Patio Bay on Saturday, December 2.

*Ariki* took A division line honours, while *Prize* won on handicap; in the B division *Kotuku* was first across the line and on handicap; *Innismara* took line honours in the Modern division with *Totolo* first on handicap; and amongst the Townson fleet, *Pot Black* was first, *Sunlight* second and *Tacet* third.

The winners of the cake competition were *Frances* (a banana cake made and decorated by Linda Clarke) for 'best decorated cake'; and *Ariki* (a carrot cake made by James Kilpatrick) for 'best-tasting cake'.

*Waitangi's* magnificent rum and raisin cake, created by Fleur Coleman, with some help from the crew, depicted *Waitangi* under full sail with skipper Larry Paul at the helm, his mermaid crew aboard and circling sharks and dolphins. Sadly the cake didn't make it to Patio Bay.

The gaff collar capsizing off the mast and breaking the parrel bead strop knocked *Waitangi* out of the race on her way to the start line. In any case, it is questionable whether we'd have got *Waitangi's* cake ashore undamaged to the Patio Bay celebration.

While several of the 25 yachts entered for Patio Bay could not race because of gear mishaps and COVID-induced

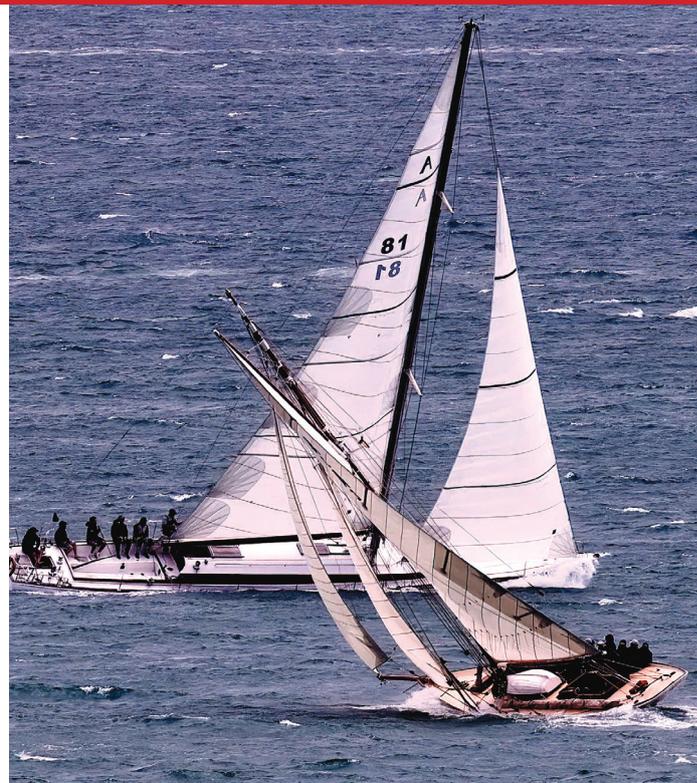


Photo by Roger Mills

*Innismara* crosses ahead of *Ariki* in a breezy Patio Bay race.

crew shortages, 20 boats anchored at Patio Bay for the prize-giving and end-of-year celebration, while some boats headed home. It was a great celebration, says CYA chair Richard Cave, with a lovely intimate family atmosphere.

He is looking forward to a great 2024 of CYA sailing, with fingers crossed that the more frequent and sometimes strong northwesterlies forecast with the El Nino weather pattern do not disrupt racing as La Nina has done.

"The Auckland Anniversary Regatta was cancelled for only the second time in its 183-year history."

Strong winds and torrential rain have also made it tough for the launches, says Richard – and if it has not been the weather disrupting boating on the Waitemata, it has been sewage.

A full programme of racing for 2024 kicks off with the NYC night race to Mahurangi, Mahurangi Regatta and Launch Parade and the Anniversary Day Regatta at the end of January, and the three-day BYD Classic Yacht Regatta in February. And for members also keen to cruise, plans are afoot for a repeat of the inaugural and highly successful three-day Classic Spring Rally.



The magnificent *Waitangi* cake failed to reach Patio Bay.



*Fidelis competing in the 2014 Mahurangi Regatta.*

## *The Daring sails again – at 1:24 scale*

The 17-metre two-masted cargo-carrying schooner *Daring*, launched at Mangawhai in September 1863, was afloat for less than two years.

Wrecked in June 1864 on the south side of the bar at the mouth of Waikato River, she was repaired and refloated, but was wrecked again in February 1865 – this time going aground at Te Oneone Rangatira Beach near the south head of the Kaipara Harbour.

She lay there for more than a century and a half until her largely intact hull was exposed in shifting sands and the *Daring* Rescue Team, with assistance from the Classic Yacht Charitable Trust, recovered and eventually transported her

back to Mangawhai, where she is temporarily housed awaiting the construction of the planned *Daring* Discovery Centre.

Meanwhile, back in Auckland, renowned boat builder Steve Marten became intrigued with the *Daring* and the history of sailing in 1860s Aotearoa New Zealand that her discovery is helping uncover. He has built a 1:24 scale model of the *Daring* – and sailed it at Judges Bay.

Using laser measurements, photographs, videos and his trained eye, Steve began by creating his own drawings and first built a half model in laminated kauri.

The construction of the full 1:24 scale model closely followed the way the *Daring* would originally have been

built, starting with the keel, keelson, rudder post transom and stem. Temporary frames were built to create the shape before the sawn frames were constructed.

A small 30cm x 20cm top table saw with a 90mm tungsten blade allowed him to cut scale size kauri planking (1.5mm x 8mm) for the hull and decks, together with larger pieces for the keelson, spars and frames.

The carvel planking was edge glued to the frames. Detail such as the scarfed timber joints on the cap rail have been reproduced.

The standing and running rigging, sails and steering system have been created after studying photos of similar NZ-built vessels of the era, and discussions with

maritime historian Baden Pascoe.

Factored into the rig design was the knowledge that coastal vessels of this era were often handled with small crew numbers, often only two. A removable bulb keel has been added for stability and to enable the model to be sailed to windward. Inside the model is a servo device and batteries to control rudder and sails.

Once more afloat – at least in miniature – the *Daring* has been filmed in action by videographer Roger Mills. Craig Loomes supplied the calculations to scale the film speed down to create the illusion that the model is the real *Daring* underway.

“It is truly amazing to see how the *Daring* would have looked sailing across the Manukau Harbour back in the 1860s,” says Larry Paul, a trustee of the Mangawhai *Daring* Trust and chair of the Classic Yacht Charitable Trust.

Footage of the *Daring* under sail will eventually be available for viewing in the planned *Daring* Discovery Centre. Exactly when that will be depends on how quickly funds can be raised.

**Words by Larry Paul and Penelope Carroll  
Photo by Roger Mills**



## *Fostering good Trans Tasman relations*

*The superb welcome to the Classic Yacht Association of Australia’s annual Cup Regatta in Williamstown Boatshed in November. Thirteen CYANZ members and partners flew to Melbourne for the two-day regatta on Port Phillip Bay, with Penelope Carroll bringing home the Trans-Tasman trophy. We look forward to hosting our Australian friends at our February 2024 three-day ADB classic yacht regatta!.*

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