



My Girl charms Prew to the Dark Side

By Jason Prew

It wasn't love at first sight, but she rapidly grew on me. My first glimpse of *My Girl* was on the hard at the Te Atatu Boating club, a long slender, hard chine hull with an eyesore of a cabin top destroying her otherwise graceful profile.

I dismissed her out of hand, snapped off a few photos and carried on round the yard.

Revisiting the pictures a few days later, I admired the lines again and marveled at her radical hull shape, speculating on her speed as a youngster.

A mate had turned up a pic of *My Girl* in her early days racing on the Waitemata. This piqued my interest and I discovered there had been a large contingent of racing launches back then, consisting of names like *Romance II*, *Little Tasman*.

One of the more prominent

names was *My Girl*.

I slowly became obsessed with owning her. My initial approaches to the owner were rebuffed, as he was keen to do his own thing and get her back in the water.

A year later, after convincing myself she was out of reach, I sent a cheeky text to ascertain her fate and was told she was mine if I wanted her.

Contrary to most sage advice, I purchased her that same day. The flybridge was cut off the next afternoon and transport to her new home arranged for later that week.

Her restoration won't be quick as she's a basket case, needing new planks, ribs, floors, deck etc. But once back in shape I hope she is able to show the old launches still wanting to race a thing or two.

Follow her progress on www.my-girl.co.nz

DIARY DATES FOR THE SUMMER SEASON

November	14-15	Gulf Harbour Cruise
December	5-6	Patio Bay Xmas Party
January	29-31	Mahurangi Regatta & Anniversary Weekend
	31	Kawau Island BBQ
February	6	Waitangi Day Picnic
	27	Bottom End Wine Tasting & BBQ
March	19-20	Issy Bay Cruise & CYA Cake Day
	25-28	Easter Cruise
May	1	Riverhead Lunch



MICHAEL BOYD-CLARK PHOTO

Waitangi Prevails in Season's Opening Day Race

The first race of the season for the CYA fleet was held on October 3 as part of the RNZYS Opening Day regatta – and it was a cracker, with a good S-SW breeze.

The classics all started together with bigger and younger boats, all 47 across an extended start line at the same time.

The B division kept close to the breakwater to avoid the ruck and maul and ease the flood tide effect.

The A's looked to be the more competitive division, however there were a few winter cobwebs suffered

with *Rainbow* getting her prop fouled necessitating a withdrawal, and *Innismara* losing her gooseneck arrangement in a gybe at Orakei, forcing a retirement just off the naval base slightly in front of the rest of the fleet.

Waitangi, showing her speed after racing through the winter series, took out 1st place.

Contrary to her three showings in the winter series, *Spray II* made no mistakes and could actually see *Gleam* at the finish and took out first for the B division.

By James Mortimer



TANYA ANKERSMIT PHOTO

Kiwi St Ayles Raid & Regatta 2016

The inaugural Kiwi St Ayles Raid and Regatta hits the shores of New Zealand on the 29th January 2016, encompassing a two-week boating and camping adventure around the Hauraki Gulf, spiced with a two-day regatta of fast and furious racing. It is open to all craft that can sail or row. The guys behind the scene have cooked up a recipe for a great adventure starting at Sandspit, taking in all the sights and experiences of the local islands, including the Mahurangi Regatta, and finishing two weeks and 100 miles later at the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron.

Enquiries go to www.nzcoastalrowing.org