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Alan Houghton Photos

Another brilliant event at Patio Bay

By Alan Houghton and Nathan Herbert

The annual CYA Patio bay wooden boat weekend including yacht race and launch flotilla took place on the 5th of December, with boaties coming from all over to what is always one of our best events.

The weather was good for the yacht racing, but a little roilly in the bay with owners having to really make sure their 'pick' was well hooked!

Those who did were rewarded with another brilliant evening ashore at Margaret and Burt Woolcott's waterfront bach.

Chris McMullen was

awarded with the CYA trophy for outstanding achievement, for excellence in technical contributions to New Zealand classic boating including most recently his revelatory advice about electro-chemical damage to timber.

The weekend had all the ingredients of a classic Kiwi boating function – sun, sand, wood fired BBQs, the odd cold beverage, a barrel of rum, fireworks and lots of great people enjoying yet another successful event. If you haven't been before, make sure you mark it on your 2016 calendar!



Chris McMullen with the CYA Trophy

SUMMER DATES

January 29-31
Mahurangi Regatta & Anniversary Weekend

January 31
Kawau Island BBQ

February 6
Waitangi Day Picnic

February 27
Bottom End Wine Tasting & BBQ

March 19-20
Issy Bay Cruise & CYA Cake Day

March 25-28
Easter Cruise

May 1
Riverhead Lunch



Mighty Battles mark Season's Start

The harbour race series is well and truly underway, with four races down and four to go. October 31st saw some fine racing in beautiful conditions for the Northcote Birkenhead Yacht Club Regatta double-header.

Fourteen boats lined up to start, including the magnificent *Rawhiti* racing in the A Division, and the debut of *Pim*, another classic Stewart 34 in the A-Modern division.

It was definitely a day of two halves; the consistent sou-wester and full tide kept the competition close in the first race, while the strong ebb tide and a lighter breeze in the second race dragged several boats in toward Chelsea, forcing a few tacking duels up toward Meola mark. Those in the know kept to windward and managed to extend some good leads. Congratulations to *Helen*, *Princess*, and

Gleam for their wins in the A, A-Modern, and B divisions.

November 22nd brought the Devonport Yacht Club Round the Buoys Regatta, and some of the strongest winds the classic fleet has seen in a couple of years. A 25-30kt sou-wester, gusting 35 at times, kept everyone on their toes and most simply hanging on, rather than sailing the absolute best course. The conditions forced the retirement of *Rainbow*, *Waitangi*, *Pim*, and *Helen*, the latter unfortunately with significant damage to her mast. *Princess* showed true form in the A-Division, crossing the line almost two minutes ahead of *Innismara*. The B's stuck together for most of the race, and while almost put on her side with a close to 40 kt gust just off Bean Rock, *Gleam* finished a few minutes ahead of *Kotuku* and *Spray II*.

Lucinda Love Affair

I was painting a friend's yacht at Devonport, all the while being watched by a small, run-down bridgedeck on a distant mooring. Months went by wondering what her story was until Alan Houghton (Waitemata Woodys) tracked down the owner's name for me. A few Facebook messages to Melbourne, a trip aboard with a large bilge pump and *Lucinda* was mine.

She was built in 1930 at Onehunga by L. C. Coulthard as a 27ft hard chine tram-topper for Jack Griffin with a big cockpit great for day use. Now she sports an open plan bridge deck cabin with large glass area – great for Gulf cruising, which suits me perfectly.

What a mess. With sledgehammer and pry bar I removed her interior, including engine beds, bulkheads and some sawn frames. A whole winter of heat-gun paint stripping inside on cold weeknights followed, then the construction phase began with the help of my father, a skilled builder. I have never heard him curse as much as in *Lucinda* every time he discovered that something which looked square/level/even in fact was not.

It has taken me a long year and a half to get to the painting stage, working mostly by myself but with the help of friends such as the ever-helpful Jason Prew whose similar launch *My Girl* featured in last edition.

I hope stories like these will inspire others to look past the swooping sheers and glistening varnish of the more high profile Auckland launches, and take it upon themselves to see the affordable and enjoyable opportunity, which small sometimes unusual vessels like *Lucinda* can offer.

By Nathan Herbert

