



Chris McMullen Scores a Saw Point

By Nathan Herbert

Chris McMullen's workshop is like many others in the area. Well-oiled tidy machinery all purposeful, lying dormant. But what sets it apart is that most of the machines have stories behind them. One such item, whose story was hinted at on a past CYA event hosted by Chris, is a giant band saw with the words *L. Power & Co.* cast into its arm.

When you are involved in working with wooden boats, you really have to be able to see the hidden potential in otherwise derelict objects. Chris spotted such an item in New York while travelling in

the USA during the building of the brigantine *Fritha* for Jack Butland in the mid- 80's. He was going to see a ship's saw with a view to purchasing it, but when at William 'Bill' Cannall's famous American Boathouse yard in Maine, he saw a substantial but rusty saw body under a tree. Chris was immediately captivated and asked Bill if he could buy it. Bill's initial answer was no. After a night of thinking on it, he finally agreed to part with the hulk.

While Chris had a fairly good idea of what he had gotten, there was a surprise. The *General Dynamics*



Chris McMullen Photo

The famous saw when it was still in its 'potential' state.



Nathan Herbert Photo

Corporation, Electric Boat Division stamped on the electric motor meant this very saw had been in use in WWII building submarine chasers!

Back in New Zealand, staff at Chris's business rolled their collective eyes at the latest derelict acquisition, but he could see in it what they could not. It was missing a few parts, so Chris made them. This involved guessing as best as he could make out from old photographs and

then casting and machining the parts needed for repair in-house.

A short time after arriving in the country the saw was repaired, painted, then up and running doing what it was designed to do. This had a few of the shop staff eating humble pie. They had to concede that the wreck was a valuable addition to the shop machines!

Who would have thought?

A detail of the saw's working bits.

Classic Yacht and Launch Exhibition Celebrates the Mullet Boat

Following last year's very successful Des Townson Exhibition, the Tino Rawa Trust is this year celebrating the Mullet Boat as part of their 'Classic Yacht and Launch Exhibition' series.

From humble fishing boat to one of the most recognisable yachts on Auckland Harbour, the Mullet boat has become a significant part of New Zealand's maritime history.

This annual public exhibition has free entry and will be held in the Karanga Plaza, Viaduct Harbour on Saturday 8 October & Sunday 9 October from 10am to 4pm. The exhibition will showcase the stories behind these iconic yachts, including the designers, boat builders and famous boats. Informative displays will explain what elevated these yachts from ordinary beginnings to cult classics.

Rafted up and accessible to the public will be some of the finest examples of Mulleties including *Buena Sera* (Eric Wing), *Melita* (Percy Vos), *Valeria* (Arch Logan), *Snatcher* (Beau Birdsall),



Corona in full flight

Tamatea (Chris McMullen), *Martana* (Martin Robertson), *Nomad* (Logan) and *Corona* (Charles Collings)

A special part of the exhibition will be the interactive display of *Tamariki*, which will be under-going the initial start of her restoration. New owners Rob Warring and Martin Robertson are starting the lengthy restoration of her in time for the 100th Lipton Cup in 2021. Martin will be sharing traditional boat

building skills with the public as well as discussing the restoration of *Tamariki*.

Mullet boat owners and other classic yacht enthusiasts will also be on hand to share their stories and memories of this unique New Zealand yacht.

Previous Classic yacht and launch Exhibitions celebrated designers such as Des Townson, Jim Young, Jack Brooke, Bob Stewart and Col Wild.

This event by the Tino

Rawa Trust is supported by Panuku Development Auckland, Ponsonby Cruising Club and the Classic Yacht Association.

www.tinorawatrust.co.nz

CYA COMMITTEE:

The following members were elected to form the Executive Committee for the 2016-17 Season at the recent Annual General Meeting of the Association:

Chairman: Peter Mence

Vice Chair: Michelle Khan

Yacht Captain: James Mortimer

Launch Captain: Angus Rogers

General Committee: Bruce Dunlop, Jason Prew, Max Goutard, Paige Cook, Rachel Orr

Secretary: Joyce Talbot



CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION CONTACTS – GENERAL ENQUIRIES: Joyce Talbot, admin@classicyacht.org.nz
CLUB CAPTAIN YACHTS: James Mortimer, yachtcaptain@classicyacht.org.nz
CLUB CAPTAIN LAUNCHES: Angus Rogers, launchcaptain@classicyacht.org.nz
EDITOR: Harold Kidd harold@hklaw.co.nz