



Book launch highlights Percy Vos Cause

Words & Photo

By Nathan Herbert

An unassuming shed at 38 Hamer street in Auckland with a structure that has seen better days was once the bustling workplace of master boat builder Percy Vos. Along with the top quality boats which Vos turned out, were many highly skilled tradesmen. Peter Peal was one and he has written an exquisite book *Thoughts on Clinker Lapstrake Dinghy Construction*, which was launched at the Vos shed on Friday 17 February.

The book details the art of building a wooden clinker dinghy in the most classic

style, including excellent design drawings and using language that we can all understand. Peter has also included a glossary dedicated to some classic boatbuilding terms, which might be new to the reader. Sadly, Peter passed away upon completion of the book, and a speech was given by his son, Chris, describing Peter's maritime history including the organisation of a yacht club while deployed at Trieste in the Second World War!

The book launch provided a fitting link to a current effort by the Percy Vos Charitable Trust and Panuku Development to revitalise the

yard, which is underutilised. Yards like these are what nurtured New Zealand's international reputation for maritime excellence. Revitalising the site will add a new layer to the accessible heritage of Auckland, and complement the Heritage Landing Silo Park Marina close by.

Classic vessels could be hauled and serviced there. Perhaps we could even watch as brand new clinker dinghies as in Peter Peal's book are built by learners?

Vos Trust Chair Bruce Donaldson spoke with real passion about the many ways in which a rejuvenated

Vos shed will add value to the Auckland waterfront experience both for the public, the hard working people keeping these boats going, and their future generations. Wooden boats and the skills they demand are part of Auckland's heritage fabric and we must support the hard work that goes into their custodianship.

- Peter Peal's *Thoughts on Clinker Lapstrake Dinghy Construction* can be purchased by contacting Chris Peal directly by email: chrispeal8@gmail.com. This is a limited edition book, a purchase you won't regret!

Anniversary Weekend provides a classic treat

Friday 27 January saw classic yachts and launches get underway for the Mahurangi Regatta. Some cruised, some raced and everyone enjoyed a good breeze in their favour.

Anchoring at Sullivan's Bay for Friday night the beautifully calm clear water was a nice Saturday morning change from the city life left behind.

For the *Lucinda* and her crew, a highlight was the classic launch parade past the beach, led by Alan Houghton in the *Raindance*.

Saturday night was the famous shore-based evening at Scott's Landing including prize giving, BBQ and band. What a great weekend the Mahurangi Cruising Club put on for us CYA members.

Well done to those yachts who got back to town in time for the Auckland Anniversary Regatta. A good breeze saw Aramoana take out the classic B division on line and handicap, Rawhiti the A division, and Innismara modern classic line and handicap.

Just one note: at our great gathering of classics in Mahurangi, the shoreline was covered in inflatable tenders. Let's get those clinkers out of storage and put them to use – nothing rows better!

Nathan Herbert



Thelma looking smart as ever at the Anniversary Regatta.

Photo Nathan Herbert

Small but perfectly formed Cake Day



Photo Jason Prew

This year's 'Round Rangī' race and cake day welcomed a different format from the big shore gatherings of the past, to cater for a smaller crowd. A predicted 10 knot sou'wester turned into a stiff 15 to 20 knot breeze, which had crews working hard right to the finish line. In the end, Chad Thompson's 1923 classic

Bailey yacht *Prize* took line honours with *Advantage* hot on her heels.

Issy bay was sheltered from the breeze and a raft-up soon followed with *Kotuku*, *Prize*, *Advantage* and the Pied Piper *Snifter* clinging to the *Wild Duck*.

Thanks to Jason Prew from the Tino Rawa Trust

for arriving in the *Wild Duck* with her big aft deck and BBQ facilities. Crews and those attending by launch were able to enjoy an on-the-water prize giving and judging of best cake, which went to *Paramour* for a deliciously light sponge cake. A smaller event this time around, but as enjoyable as ever.