



Piedy Project is Harmony and Light

Words & Photos
by Gavin Woodward

I met Alec Taylor a few years back when we did the Mahurangi race on *Tucana* with Tom Bertenshaw, and we have been good mates since. That weekend we joked about buying a 'Piedy' together and here we are now.

Once Tom buggered off to Tasmania, we were forced to get our own boat. Alec's friend Dave Beachen was also keen to get into sailing, so we all decided to go in together. A Pied Piper seemed like the logical choice of first boat as there is good racing and a party reputation, which we will do our best to live up to.

After looking at a number of boats, we settled on *Harmony*, as she seemed to have dodged rot much better than most and was just a nice yacht in general. *Harmony* was built in 1968 in Bucklands beach.

Soon enough we handed over the cash and sailed her from Half Moon Bay to Milford, where we pulled her straight out of the water. A water blast later and a



good search through the boat found a few issues we needed to address.

Luckily we're surrounded by knowledgeable and experienced people who are always keen to help us young fellas out, so we had all the help we needed to set us in the right direction. Milford Creek has all the services you need and is full of Piedys.

At this stage we're really enjoying the project and we're learning something every day. Once we've ticked everything off the list, she will go back in the water ready for the Milford summer racing season, with many weekend trips and CYA races planned.

We're hoping to meet other young like-minded people to go cruising with and to introduce our mates to

sailing. The ultimate goal is to get to Great Barrier for the summer holidays.

Harmony and Gavin at various stages of the project.



A Lady's Fantasy fulfilled

By Bruce Dunlop

A friend of mine had acquired a berth at Half Moon Bay Marina for his yacht, which as a package deal came with a classic launch tied to it. While the berth suited his needs perfectly, having a second boat didn't. With my hands full on my own yacht, *Marionette*, and looking after the classic Alden schooner



Catherine and her Fantasy.

Arcturus, I didn't need another boat either. But my partner Catherine did.

Catherine is an admirer of nice lines, interesting shapes and small spaces (*classic owners have to be – Ed.*) and her eye was drawn to the *Fantasy*. While she is certainly an interesting shape and has nice lines, she is surprisingly roomy

with space to swing a few cats around in. *Fantasy* is a sedan launch built in 1952 by McGeedy in NZ kauri and will be a great Gulf cruiser. Her hull is copper riveted and very sound, and so far only cosmetic work has been required on her journey back to tip top condition.

While the name appealed, the attraction is that this

boat is for the Catherine and the girls. You can simply hop on board and go catch a fish, show friends the city from the sea or just relax on a CYA cruise. Being away on the water, this easily takes you away from any land-based commitment and no worries about the wind direction!

For us coming from sailing, this is an opportunity to taste the 'other side'. To be fair, she does have a mast that could always have some dacron slid up it and not be seen supporting the oil companies too much for a yachtie's liking, but as the in-house maintenance man I may keep the sailing to *Marionette*.

Yards echo to sounds of winter refits

It's been a cold but luckily not a too-wet season. Hopefully you got the most out of your boat on those crystal clear winter weekends, and if she was out for maintenance, I bet you enjoyed the odd takeaway coffee at the hardstand! Looking around the yards, the *Lady Jane* has been getting some love at Panmure, *Wild Duck* has had her hull stripped to bare wood at Milford, and the boatbuilders' sheds are in full swing as we inch closer to Christmas. This is *Lucinda's* first maintenance haul-out since the restoration, and truth be told it has been quite major. Her engine has been reconditioned and awaits refitting, I've resealed her windows and next on the list is a quick topsides repaint. Those who said I would still have creases to iron out were right!

– Nathan Herbert.



Left: *Wild Duck*;
Top: *Lucinda*; Above: *At Bagnall Boatbuilders.*

Jason Prew Photos

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