

# THE NEW ZEALAND CLASSIC YACHT JOURNAL

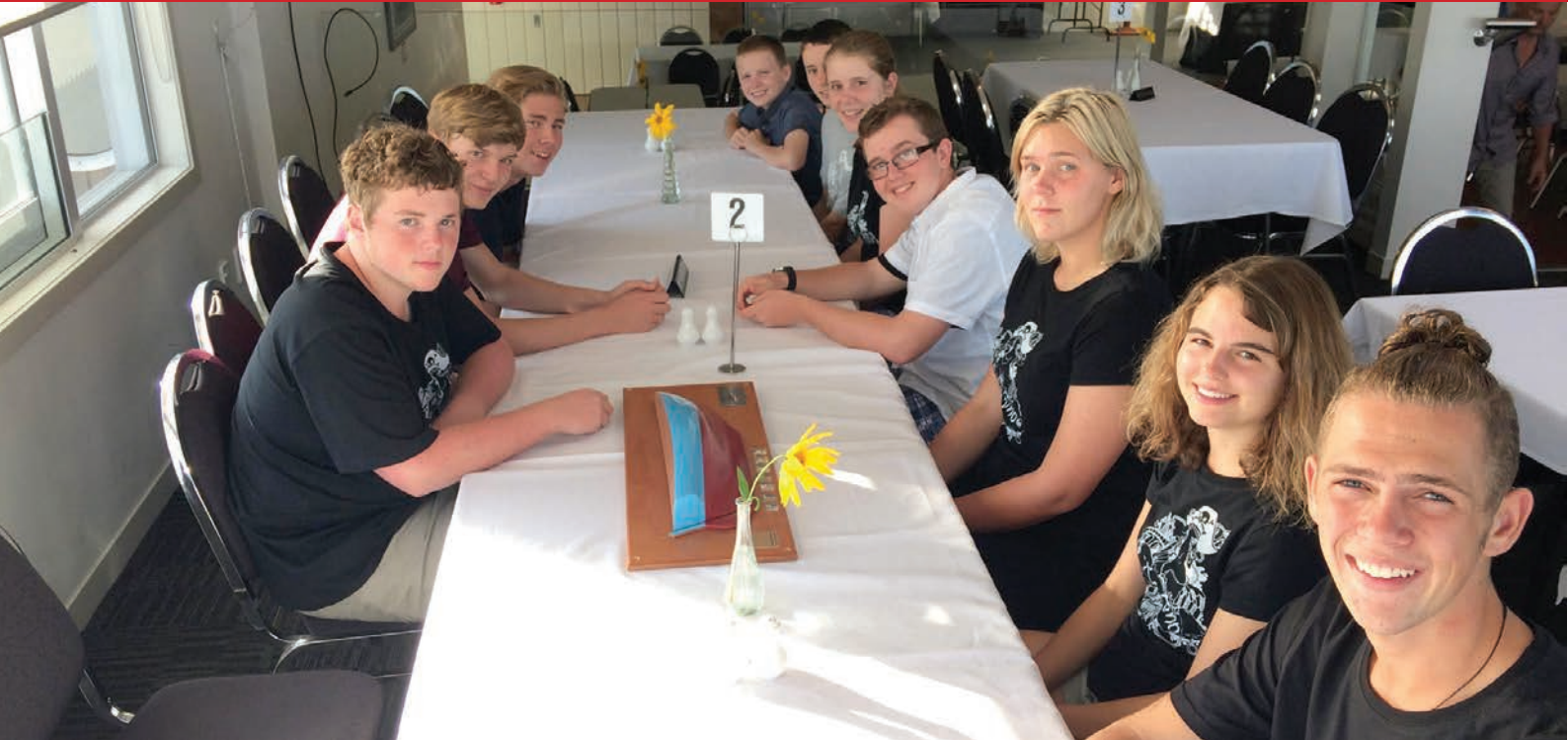
OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.



[www.classicyacht.org.nz](http://www.classicyacht.org.nz)

ISSN 1175-804X

Issue 118 – June 2018



## *The Rakino Pirates: Students on a quest*

*The Rakino is a 29ft Bert Woollacott designed kauri ketch, which Kapiti College purchased as a wreck, with the intention of learning traditional skills and simultaneously preserving part of our maritime history. The 'Rakino Pirates' were formed. They are a group of students who meet twice weekly and one Saturday per month, when volunteers can help in the restoration of this beautiful boat. The following is an abridged account by Martin Viereggs and Clive Stepenson of the Pirates' recent adventure to Auckland to learn about the yacht and her history:*

Twelve pirates and three staff left for Auckland with high expectations. First stop was Bayswater Marina, where we met up with Mike Strong, who has been a keen supporter of the Rakino Pirates. Mike took us on a

tour of the marina where we met Wayne Mapp on his stunning Woollacott *Calm*. He set the bar high with his fully restored yacht and explained the process he undertook to achieve top results.

Mike then took us to see

his own boat, the *Ladybird*, previously owned by Sir Peter Blake's family. *Ladybird* is currently being restored in Kevin Johnson's boatyard in Devonport. We immediately felt comfortable in the yard as *Ladybird* is nearly the same model as our own *Rakino*. It was reassuring to see that we were following a similar path in our own restoration and working through similar issues.

We were hosted by Jeff Cook and Sally Teesdale at the Devonport Yacht Club, where we had an enchanting evening sharing experiences and swapping stories and ideas. During the evening we



# Pilgrims' Progress: Shaping up Nicely

By Nathan Herbert

With *Wairiki* having had a good season of sailing, Jason Prew has been focusing on his restoration project of his fast launch *My Girl*.

The turbocharged Volvo engine has been lowered in, followed by the large teak butterfly hatch skylight being fitted on top. First protective coats of paint have been applied and the new kauri beltings have been cut, steamed and fitted.

Progress has been in leaps and bounds, with her lines being visible for the first time as she was wheeled out of her 'shed' for engine install.

Another yard update: Marco Scuderi at MCN Shipwrights is progressing well on *Eileen Patricia's* restoration. With a pre-summer splash on order, the



Jason Prew Photo

details of interior trim and machinery are taking shape and looking great.

*Eileen Patricia* was built by Bill Couldrey in 1933 at Northcote, and it seems that she may have been his first launch. She was followed by other compact cruisers such as *Wairiki* and *Reremoana*, but her bridgedeck style was not repeated until the *Mananui* in 1939 and the first design of *Rakanoa* in the mid-1940's. Size and condition



Marco Scuderi Photo

*My Girl* (top) and *Eileen Patricia* (above).

discovered that a Woollacott family member had been so curious about our progress as to let themselves on board our very own *Rakino* to have a look. Had we known, we would have cleaned up and left a treat. If you pass by again please leave a calling card.

Our final stop was at the Maritime Museum. We were met by Karen Walters, who gave us a behind scenes tour. We were taken to the archives



room where the original *Marco Polo* plans were laid out delicately on the table. It was made clear to us that the Museum was 100% behind our cause and that what we were doing was of huge

significance. Not only for the preservation of this boat, but also as a way for documents stored in those walls to live again. We had not anticipated such heartfelt support from such lofty heights.

We were let loose in the museum, where we happened to bump into the chief shipwright of the museum who was effervescent in the nitty-gritty conversations about restoration, procedures and techniques. This was

aside, all Couldrey boats which makes them some of the most beautiful boats in the Gulf today.

of great help to us. We got home completely wrecked. Our brains were working in overdrive, processing what we had experienced and seen. We thank the many people who have made this possible.

• *The Rakino Pirates can be found on Facebook where you can follow progress or offer advice, and find a link to a GiveALittle page where you can help with funding their great project.*

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