

# 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 119 – August 2018

## Great visit to Lees Yard at Sandspit

Words & Photos By  
Nathan Herbert

Winter is an unusual time to be reporting on a sunny, waterfront outdoor event but here I am doing just that! The CYA like a bit of diversity in events and in the last weekend of June, Lees Boatbuilders in conjunction with the CYA, held an open day at their Sandspit yard.

The weather gods came to the party with a clear, warm day and by late morning around 100 members and friends gathered to hear Greg Lees speak. It was interesting to hear about the origins of the yard, and see photographs from when there was only a shed on 'sticks', compared with the largely reclaimed hardstand and marina area we see today.

A real bonus was being able to see CYA Launch Captain Angus Rogers' launch *Mahanui* in pride of place in the shed having a new deck fitted, surrounded by half-models, photo boards



and a vintage Chris Craft with gleaming varnish. Outside there was a BBQ sausage sizzle in full swing, rare Albatross aluminium speedboats and clinker dinghies on display, plus a Lees family heirloom BSA hillclimb race car. The displays were a real treat.

Big thanks go out to Greg Lees and his staff who came in on their day off to help and put on a truly memorable day. Thanks also to *Juanita, Trinidad* and their respective crews for showing interested parties through their boats, which were tied up to the Lees wharf.



### **CYA Christmas Cruise in Company**

*This summer a few CYA boats are keen to cruise north to the Bay of Islands and possibly Whangaroa. While safety in numbers is a great thing, an added benefit is making new boating friends and enjoying sundowners on each other's fine vessels! Rough dates would be leaving just after Christmas, and returning at leisure in early January. If you are interested in adding your boat, let us know on [admin@classicyacht.org.nz](mailto:admin@classicyacht.org.nz) and Nathan will be in touch.*



# Tamariki's Cruise to Tahiti

*Words and Photo by  
Peter Mortimer*

After six voyages to the close Pacific Islands, a longer passage was calling. Normal concerns about weather, and of course physical endurance were compounded this time by the longer time at sea. The decision to go was finally made during the 2016 CYA annual prize giving when Max, a CYA member, offered to join me.

After many months of preparation, then two delayed departures due to weather, Bob McDavitt finally suggested a departure date, so we were off. Girlfriend Shirley and mate Stu Fraser cast us free from Orakei Marina on the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017, bound for Tahiti via Raivavae, a distance of

2500 miles plus whatever zigs and zags the weather made us take.

My two young French crew, Maxime and Donatien, keen to start their adventure, understood the need to get the weather right. Frozen precooked meals and fresh perishables were still being stowed as we motored close to Colin and Akemi on *Phoenix*, who came to bid us farewell.

Passing Cape Colville, then Cape Barrier, we knew no land would be sighted for at least 19 days. As it grew dark for our first night at sea, there was a mixture of apprehension and adventure. More adventure in the minds of the crew and mostly apprehension in the mind of the skipper.

As the wind lightened on June 10, we turned north and

motor-sailed to put distance between us and a deepening low. Not far enough, though, and it finally caught us in the wee small hours on the morning of the 11th. It then got really windy.

Our log reads, "real crappy with heavy breaking seas all around". Later that morning two huge waves broke over our stern in quick succession. *Tamariki*, a 14.2 tonne, 14.5 metre center cockpit ketch, has a nice broad transom with generous sections aft and lifts really quickly in following seas, so only a small amount of water actually got into the cockpit. We were pleased that we had closed the engine exhaust sea cock in the event of such a boarding!

At 0550hrs on 22 June Raivavae was sighted fine on starboard bow about 12 miles

away. There are about 950 inhabitants and all we met were generous, very open and friendly. No one would accept payment for anything they gave us.

Tahiti's lights rose above our horizon at dawn on 30th June and by lunch time we were secured to a marina berth at Marina de Papeete, right on the city waterfront. Once again, we arrived on a holiday, this time celebrating the date Papeete became an Autonomous Nation.

My thanks to the enthusiasm and humour of Max and Donny and good weather routing from Bob McDavitt. And of course, our great little ship, *Tamariki*.

• Look out the unabridged story in the July edition of CYA *Sheerlines* newsletter.