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Eileen Patricia Pretty as a Picture

**Words and Photos
by Nathan Herbert**

Sunday morning was cold and still, with light rain forecast. *My Girl* eased down the rails after a bum-clean and *Pacific* glided alongside the jetty beside her at the Milford Slipway.

The sun was just rising, and they were ready to welcome a friend: the relaunch of a classic, *Eileen Patricia*.

Talk about an early start! With an 0830hrs high tide to make the best of the Wairau Creek, the invites had been sent and the crowds were gathering.

Flappers and men in boaters came out in droves to witness the long-awaited moment when the 1933 26ft Bill Couldrey launch would take to the water officially for the first time in her completely rejuvenated form.

Perched on a sturdy cradle with her varnished teak

gleaming and hull paint crisp and fresh, *Eileen Patricia* looked a picture. Servings of fresh scones and champagne perfectly suited her elegant nature. The slipmaster eased her down the rails, and in an instant *Eileen Patricia* was floating, engines started and manoeuvring for the jetty to join *Pacific* and *My Girl*.

It was a significant day for a significant achievement. Jenni and Peter Mence four years ago saw something in a small 'hack' of a launch then named *Linden*. While functional and sturdy, she had her pedigree masked by years of utility and compromise.

Planning a return to her original and pretty name, a full and exacting restoration was undertaken with Marco Scuderi at MCN Shipwrights in Helensville.

With the tide dropping and departure imminent, the old *Pacific* rumbled into life and led the way out of the creek. *Eileen Patricia*, skippered by Sam Mence, followed with *My Girl* close astern; the three great friends entered the Gulf together for the first time with only a slight westerly chop and an easy run to *EP*'s new home at Gulf Harbour.

Eileen Patricia far outstripped *Pacific*'s speed

of 8.5 knots. I dare say she will hit 10 or so with ease, and with her 55hp Yanmar being so miserly, perhaps her skipper will know no other speed!

Congratulations Marco, Jenni, Peter and Sam for a restoration faithful to the original design, with some great modern conveniences hidden away to make sure *EP* brings you years of happy upwind cruising.





Don't let your precious classic vessel end up like this.

Safeguarding our precious heritage

With winter upon us and our summer cruising dreams making way for jet travel to the islands, it is a good time to discuss the topic of boats left on moorings, or sometimes on marina berths without much love.

Hobson Bay in Orakei is a fine example, as is Northcote point and at times even the Whau River at Te Atatu. Every year and every easterly gale, we see classic boats being wrecked ashore at Tamaki Drive, or classics with unpaid mooring fees being taken away by the Harbourmaster.

Classic boats may have lasted 80 years; but they still break their moorings, or at worst sink. If you choose a swing mooring, find one in a safe, sheltered area with good dinghy access secure from break-ins and theft. Winter is a great time to have your mooring serviced, make sure that the tackle specification matches your boat size. Watch the forecast and pay a visit during storms!

As a classic boat owner, I urge you to consider the part of New Zealand's heritage that you have become custodian of. Your

boat represents a social and economic era that is specific to its age and carries intrinsic value as such. When somebody sees your 1948 32-foot yacht sailing on the Waitemata, or 35-foot bridgedecker anchored at Motuihe, they don't just see an 'old wooden boat'. They see New Zealand's history living today on the water.

Our heritage and on-water history are so valuable. We are unique in New Zealand that the kauri tree from which our boats are planked is so resilient. Make sure that the way you look after your classic does justice to this timber and the craftsmen who built it. Furthermore, if you are struggling to cope with upkeep, contact us for help. The CYA is full of willing and skilled people, who can help with advice on maintenance, haulout, or even sale of your boat to a new loving owner.

By Nathan Herbert

AGM OF THE CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION OF NZ 7.00pm TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 2019

It's time to consider whether you might put your hand up to help with the ongoing work of your committee to ensure the Association continues to grow and function. We are always grateful for any support and/or time you can give to us, whether as a member of the committee, or occasional help with the many operations under our umbrella. For example, launches to assist with the start and finish of the passage races, writing skills covering events or projects, website, or admin skills.

The formal Agenda and Nomination forms will be available online early July, or we are happy to post to you. For information, or offers of assistance please contact Joyce: admin@classicyacht.org.nz or, after 22 July, on 021 818 448.

AUSTRALIA CUP INVITE

The CYAA warmly invites our members to join them for the Cup Regatta in November, sailed out of Royal Yacht Club of Victoria. With expressions of interest from 20 so far, it's looking like a record number of CYANZ guests will attend – it's such a great week of racing, camaraderie and of course culminating with the Melbourne Cup viewed at the fabulous home of Martin and Maria Ryan. Please let Joyce know (admin@classicyacht.org.nz) if you are interested to join. Also see: <http://www.classic-yacht.asn.au/cyaa-racing/2019-cup-regatta/>



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