

THE NEW ZEALAND CLASSIC YACHT JOURNAL



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Patio Bay Race

By Tony Blake

The Patio Bay Race was once again one of the races of the season. Starting in a light southwesterly with a long line stretching from Torpedo Buoy to Orakei Buoy, *Sapphire* at the Torpedo end picked up a narrow channel of wind and took off at the head of the fleet.

Tawera decided to 'go slow' by having one of the crew fall overboard and be dragged behind until eventually pulled back on board. The incident must have been caused by the abrupt acceleration once their spinnaker filled.

However *Tawera* then led for the rest of the race to claim both line and handicap honours. She made such a quick trip that *Paramour*, the finish boat, was still unloading gear at the Patio Bay beach when *Tawera* hove into sight. *Arcturus* set a large fisherman's staysail and was never challenged for second on line and handicap. The close action throughout the race was between



The crew can relax on the deck of Waitangi ... even if the helmsman's arms are being torn off

Sapphire, *Katrina*, *Waitangi* and *Sequoiah*. *Sapphire* maintained her lead on the other three right down to the Three Sisters.

Katrina, *Waitangi*, and *Sequoiah* had a great tussle as both *Waitangi* and *Sequoiah* continually attempted to pass *Katrina* to windward but lacked that extra bit of boat speed. However as the wind

freshened to 20 knots and moved further aft *Waitangi's* spread of canvas and longer waterline began to make a difference and she passed *Katrina* to leeward and then *Sapphire* to windward. Just before the finish it was necessary to gybe *Waitangi* and with gusts approaching 25 knots we had to wait for a lull. Even then we put the

main boom in the water and had a crew member receive a rope burn. *Sapphire*, *Katrina* and *Sequoiah* finished shortly after.

It was interesting to notice, during the race, the lack of effort required to helm the more modern yachts compared to *Waitangi*. On

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Patio Bay Race ... From Page One

a lead, *Waitangi* heels over considerably further and the helm is so heavy that, at times, I had a rope set up to help take the pull. I am sure my arms are another few inches longer after that race.

Bert and Margaret Woolcott hosted a great after race BBQ at their 'classic' family bach, with Bert presenting the crews with a flagon of Mount Gay Rum to start the evening's festivities. For once the southwesterly wind did not die down in the evening and it was a challenge to get off the beach in the dinghies through the surf.

That southwesterly picked up to a solid 30 knots on the sail back to Auckland, necessitating two reefs in *Waitangi's* mainsail. However, we managed to lay through from the Three Sisters and had a thoroughly enjoyable sail, though keeping

a close eye on *Katrina* and *Arcturus* both of whom closed in on *Waitangi* as we neared Browns Island.

What a great weekend of sailing and conviviality!

Div. A Results:

- 1 Tawera
- 2 Arcturus
- 3 Waitangi
- 4 Katrina
- 5 Sapphire

Modern Class

- 1 Sequioah

Above: Sapphire bowls along on a two-sail reach with a nice bone between her teeth. Below: Arcturus rolls along off Browns Island



RIVERHEAD JAUNT

Up the Creek without a paddle. Just a few horses under the bonnet instead.



The annual rally to Riverhead deservedly gains in patronage every year because it is so much fun, spiced with danger from the lurking mud banks. This year there were 17 classics, including two brave yachts, *Grey Seal* and *Loloma*, making the run up the river to be there before the early afternoon high tide.

The flotilla of 15 launches was led almost flawlessly (kissing a mud bank only once) by *Lady Gay*. We left behind at Te Atatu the brisk SW that was blowing on the Auckland Harbour. The late morning sun and lack of wind up the Waitemata River made for a beautiful run.

The CYA's new Launch Captain, Ian Gavin, liaised carefully with the hotelier and organised an outdoor smorgasbord to be served under the oak tree. What a spread it was for the 80 plus

members, families and crew to enjoy!

The occasion was of special note for some attendants when it was pointed out that one of the wives had, in true Corinthian spirit, turned

Part of the fleet at Riverhead

down a wedding anniversary trip to Paris to join our Classic rally to Riverhead!

Chad Thompson



Peter Sewell's beautiful little launch Whio at Riverhead



**6th Annual
CLASSIC YACHT REGATTA
15 – 18 February 2007**

*a celebration of our fabulous classic yachts,
launches and small craft*

Based at Viaduct Harbour, Downtown Auckland

Open to Classic Yachts & Launches, Steamers, Replica
and Spirit of Tradition vessels

Programme of Events:

Thursday 15 February:	Race Briefing
Friday 16 February:	Race One
Saturday 17 February:	Race Two
	Launch Log Rally
Sunday 18 February:	Race Three
	Launch Log Rally
	Official Prizegiving

Download Notice of Race and Entry Form from
www.classicyacht.org.nz
or contact Joyce Talbot (09) 836-4747, 021-818-448,
joycetalbot@xtra.co.nz

Auckland Traditional Boatbuilding School Trust

A working bee of CYA members at the Open Day on Saturday 9th December put up the benches in the workshop, put a door through to the storeroom, filled a bin with debris, sorted the hundreds of boating magazines and books already donated to the school's library and finished up with a sausage sizzle and a few ales.

It served to introduce the members of the Association

to the school's magnificent premises. It is obviously going to be a good spot to hang out on Friday nights!

Work is well under way on NZQA, TEC and other educational acronyms. Details of courses for 2007 are still in preparation by Robert Brooke, but will be announced shortly.

We are overwhelmed by the interest!

Harold Kidd

Anniversary Weekend 26-29 January 2007 Celebrating Auckland's 167th Birthday

Classics to set the scene for the Auckland Anniversary Day Regatta, Monday 29 January.

At 0900hrs our yachting heritage of classic yachts and launches will form a Parade of Sail from the Viaduct Harbour and head to their start line off Orakei Wharf at 11.05am.

Pre Anniversary Day events:

Friday 26 January:	DYC Night Race to Mahurangi (<i>enter with Devonport Yacht Club</i>)
Saturday 27 January:	Mahurangi Festival (<i>enter on the day with Mahurangi Cruising Club</i>)
Sunday 28 January:	Mahurangi to Auckland Yacht Race (<i>enter with Classic Yacht Assn</i>) Berth at Viaduct Harbour (<i>enter with Auckland Anniversary Regatta</i>)
Monday 29 January:	NZ Herald Anniversary Day Regatta (<i>enter with Auckland Anniversary Regatta</i>)

Download entry forms and sailing instructions from:
www.classicyacht.org.nz • www.regatta.org.nz • www.dyc.org.nz
Or contact Joyce Talbot: p: 09-836-4747 • m: 021-818-448
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