

THE NEW ZEALAND CLASSIC YACHT JOURNAL



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Prize, Thelma and Waitangi battle at close quarters in the closing stages of the Patio Bay Race.



Chris Miller Photo

Thrilling finish at Patio Bay

Once a year the Classic Yachts have a Mark Foy start for a passage race. For the uninitiated, in a Mark Foy race, the handicap is applied to the start time; the goal is for the boats to start at different times but finish together. The first boat to finish wins – in a perfect world, all boats finish at the same time.

That impossible dream almost happened on the 4 December Classics race to Patio Bay. A combination of good handicapping, variable

wind conditions, the tide, excellent sailing, superb tactics and luck produced an incredible finish (not all of those were planned!).

An impressive fleet of 19 classic yachts started, including the Australian visitor, *Wraith of Odin*.

Little *Gypsy* was the first boat away at 9.47am and the modern classic, *Advantage*, the last at 10.54am.

Fortunes ebbed and flowed as the race unfolded and the wind came, went and came back again. But, at

the entrance to the Waiheke Channel starting the last run up the channel to Patio Bay more than half the boats were in with a chance as the fleet closed up.

The bigger rigged gaffers were bearing down on the smaller boats who were fighting to the end.

Ultimately, *Little Jim* found its own breeze and powered through to take the gun followed by *Prize*. *Thelma* pipped *Waitangi* on the line for third.

The excitement of the

entire fleet finishing over a short time in such a beautiful part of the Hauraki Gulf set the scene for a raft up and enthusiastic debrief, an important part of any such event.

Individual battles were relived throughout a wonderful evening at Bert and Margaret Woolcott's picturesque bach overlooking the bay. Fine wine and food embellished the memories of the day.

Rob Taylor



Rudder Cup charts growth of Launch Division

The first weekend in December has now become the weekend that sees the CYA launch fleet gather for the running of the Rudder Centennial Memorial Cup, the trophy donated by Pauline and Harold Kidd in 2008 to commemorate the centenary of the original Rudder Cup launch race in 1908.

In 2009 and again this year, the event was run over a shorter 20nm course and finished at Patio Bay to link up with the yacht fleet for the legendary 'Patio Bay Weekend' at Margaret and Bert Woolcott's bach.

From two launches in a bay of yachts three years ago, the Patio Bay weekend has grown to become the launches' star event on the

summer calendar. 2009 saw 23 launches either racing or just cruising down to join in the festivities and in 2010 the launch fleet swelled to over 35 boats, further justifying the Launch Committee's decision to merge the two events in one 'must do' weekend.

A Mark Foy start off Orakei Wharf had Baden

Pascoe in *John Dory* the first boat away at 11am and over an hour later Graham Jones in *Delmar* was last away to commence the chase.

With a northerly sea breeze and slight seas, the fleet took Browns Island to starboard, Motuihe Island to port, then drag raced down the Waiheke Channel towards Passage Rock for

a quick turn to port and a straight run to the finish line off Patio Bay. As expected with a handicap start, the last 5nm saw every skipper cork screwing their neck to scan the horizon for the faster vessels as they started to make up lost ground. The last mile was as spectacular as last year with less than 10 minutes separating the first six boats across the line.

First home was *Aumoe* with a time of 1:15 followed by *Waimiga* at 1:21 and *Falcon* at 1:21. Hayden Afford in *Kumi* was next in at 1:24 followed very closely by Harold Kidd skippering Pauline Kidd's *Romance II* at 1:24:43.

At the prize giving, Colin Pawson, Launch Committee Chairman and event sponsor





Chris Miller Photos

in *Waimiga*, and James Mobberley, Race Officer of the Day and sponsor in *Falcon*, both graciously gifted their prizes to the next two boats across the line.

The yacht fleet were again experiencing fickle weather and ghosted into the bay mid afternoon to deliver one of the closest Mark Foy finishes seen in years.

Once sails were stowed, the post-racing debriefs started in earnest aboard the boats anchored in the bay. The winning skipper, Andrew Pollard, hosted numerous well wishers and boating legends aboard his launch *Aumoe*.

As is tradition, when the afternoon started to slide into night, the crews manned the tenders to head ashore to the Woolcott bach for the main event.

Over 200 boaties kept three barbecues busy for several hours and the race debriefs continued into the night. Many of the party picked up on the fact the night was also the unofficial CYA Christmas party and dressed accordingly. The shorebased activities were

topped off by a spectacular fireworks display on the beach.

On Sunday morning crews enjoyed the traditional Patio Bay BBQ breakfast ashore

before heading back home.

A big thanks to all those that helped make it such a special weekend – from the Woolcotts for their hospitality, to the CYA crew

who prep the place prior to the event, to the support crews sitting in finish/rescue boats and to the partners whose company makes the weekend even more special.



Get ready to Race ...

Ivor Wilkins Photos



Oceanbridge Auckland Anniversary Day Regatta **Monday 31 January 2011**

Be part of this historic event celebrating Auckland's 171st Birthday

Open to: Keelboats, Multihulls, Classics, Classes, Trailer Yachts, Centreboarders, Waka Ama Canoes, Dragon Boats and Radio Controlled Yachts

Featuring Races from: Princes Wharf, Westhaven Tower (Waka Ama), Mahurangi and Rakino

Centreboard venues: Kohimarama, Tamaki, Northcote/ Birkenhead, Takapuna

Radio Controlled yacht venues: Westhaven and Wattle Farm, Manurewa

Tugboat Race: 1000hrs from North Head, finish off Devonport Wharf

Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions and Entry Forms online at www.regatta.org.nz • Contact Joyce Talbot on 0800 REGATTA

The SOUTHERN TRUST Classic Yacht Regatta **11– 13 February 2011**

*A celebration of our fabulous classic yachts, launches and small craft
Based at the Viaduct Harbour, Downtown Auckland*

Open to: Classic, Modern Classic, and Centerboard yachts
The Regatta forms part of the Classic Challenge Series of seven races commencing with the Night Race to Mahurangi. One entry form covers all events, and is available online now.

2011 Regatta Programme of Events:

Thursday 10 February:	Race Briefing
Friday 11 February:	Race One
Saturday 12 February:	Race Two and Three
Sunday 13 February:	Race Four
	Official Prizegiving

Notice of Race and Entry form online at www.classicyacht.org.nz.

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