

THE NEW ZEALAND CLASSIC YACHT JOURNAL



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Great Season and a brand new recruit



Thelma and Prize in very close company during the STCYR – Fiona Blake photo

It was a season of extremes! The adverse conditions of late January wiped out the Mahurangi Regatta, one of the highlight weekends for the classics, with all but Anniversary Day being cancelled. Even that was on the edge in terms of whether it should have gone ahead.

In stark contrast, the weather we all enjoyed for the Southern Trust Classic Yacht Regatta (STCYR) could not have been bettered. A variety of conditions provided challenges in the light and

tests of tactics and sail handling in the beautiful moderate airs that filled in each day. It was, in the words of one overseas visitor, 'A Chocolate Day' – three days in a row.

We learned lessons in past seasons and held all but two of the races east of the Container Terminal, heightening the quality of the racing. The courses developed for the STCYR (thanks to Chris Collins) are some of the best in Auckland.

The Devonport Yacht

Club's are also challenging, with plenty of sail changing and trimming required to maximise the rate of progress around the track. Sadly the Ponsonby Cruising Club's start/finish is still off Westhaven, often leading to a soldier's course up and/or down the harbour unless it is a dead westerly.

And after four years of the weather working against us going to Te Kouma, we just have to make other plans. Man O' War Bay isn't a bad destination, especially with

top quality wine tasting after the race as an entertaining option.

The numbers of competitors were up on last year with a total of 17 entries in the Harbour Series and 19 in the Passage Series for the large and small old classics. Sadly, though, the numbers of modern classics were down on previous seasons. Their best turnout was in the Passage Series with four competitors. Come on guys, the Corinthians are showing you how it should be done!

From time to time it could be seen that some of the yachts were struggling to get sufficient crew. These old girls need numbers on the weather rail to stand them upright in a blow and more especially to handle the sails, tacking, gybing or when changing gear. Greater numbers of competent crew equals better results!

Amongst the smaller classics the standout yachts were *Tucana* (Tony Stevenson), *Gleam* (Neil Chalmers and Murray Cook), *Wairiki* (Jason Prew), *Gypsy* (John Pryor), *Petrel* (Bruce Adams) and *Spray II* (John Duder).

Tony Stevenson and Neil Chalmers feel that the racing in the Harbour Series was the closest for many seasons. The last harbour race of the season was the decider for the series. In fact it came down to the last tack and lay through to the finish. *Tucana* prevailed, but only after the lead had changed several times during the race.

The spectacular performance of the newly restored little gaffer *Wairiki* could have dealt to everyone if the breeze had been a little lighter that day. She has so much rag for a yacht her size there should be rules against it. Her outstanding performance was highlighted in the race to Tauranga where a number of moderns finished astern of her.

Amongst the larger classics, *Prize* cleaned up, winning every series or regatta that she entered, a fitting way to celebrate the fifth generation of Thompson coming aboard. Theo Kenyon (6 months old) briefly took control during the second to last race of the season.

2010-2011 would have to be the most successful season *Prize* has ever had. All the while though she was given a hard time by *Little Jim* (Rod and Fiona Marler), *Rainbow* (the Glen, Ross, Dimock, Butterworth Syndicate), *Waitangi* (Classic Yacht Charitable Trust), *Katrina* (Warren Tuohey) and *Thelma* (CYCT).

Great moments of the Season:

- *Little Jim's* finish at Patio Bay. Mark Foy starts are a thing of the past, but the handicapper got it right with all the yachts finishing close together
- *Wairiki's* race to Tauranga. It shouldn't have happened. These old yachts aren't safe, but what a result!
- The B Div close finish of the last race. A points series couldn't have had a closer finish.
- The smooth water of the

upper harbour during the Northcote Birkenhead race, shades of the 1930s before the turbulence created by the gin palaces and high-speed ferries wrecked inner harbour racing.

- *Thelma's* port tack start in the STCYR. If the wind hadn't left the Rangitoto side of the 1st leg after the start, *Thelma* would have done a sailaway.
- The overall impression of the STCYR. A well-run event by a great group of volunteers led by Joyce Talbot and Chris Collins.
- The ever-closer friendships developing with our friends across the Tasman. The Classic Yacht Association of Australia's presence at the STCYR is a fixture in the Association's calendar, as is our time on Port Phillip Bay on board the CYCA yachts.
- And from *Prize's* point of view, being hauled off the

putty in Shoal Bay 10 minutes before the start of the final race. The Harbour Series was ours to lose and had it not been for John Duder in *Spray II* our season would not have been complete.

- And how could the writer forget – Theo's first race.

What to look forward to next season? *Rawhiti's* relaunch and much more ...

Results:

Harbour Series Results

A Division – *Prize* 1st, *Rainbow* 2nd, *Thelma* 3rd

B Division – *Tucana* 1st, *Gleam* 2nd, *Spray II* 3rd

Moderns – *Advantage* 1st

Passage Series Results:

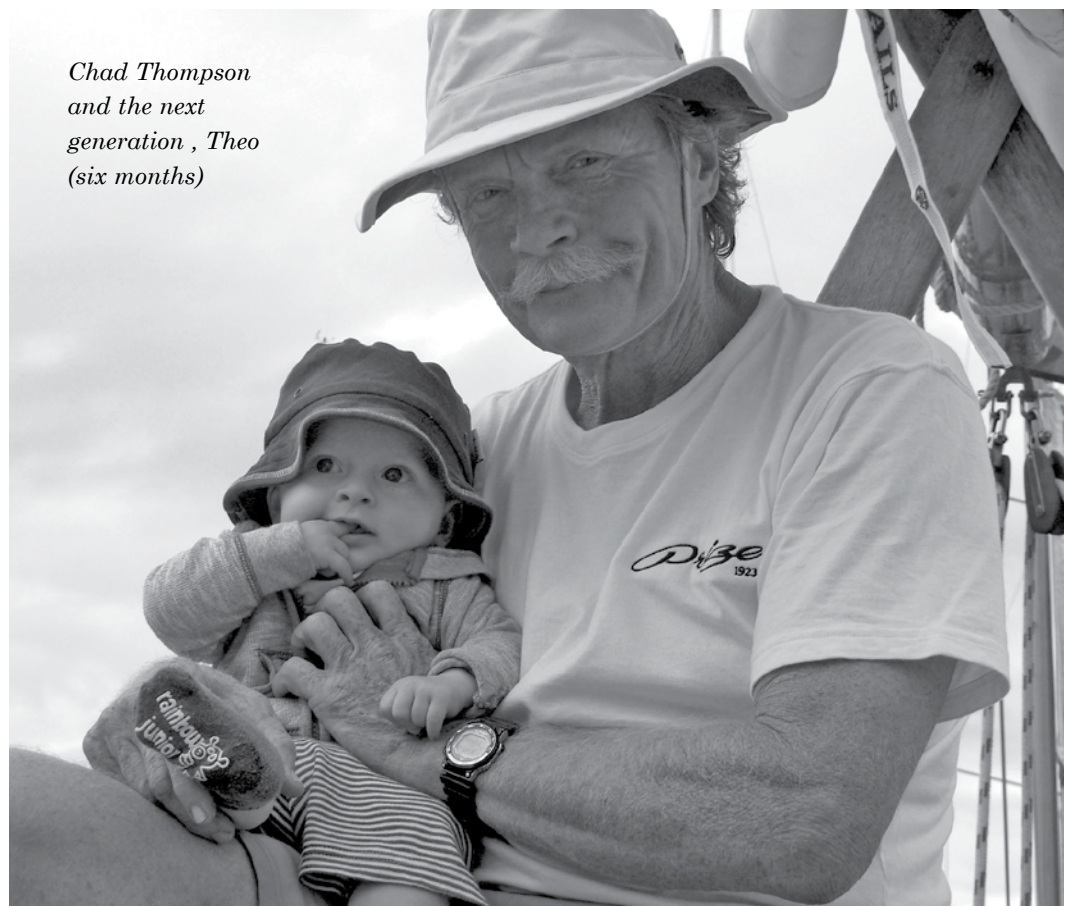
A Division – *Prize* 1st, *Waitangi* 2nd, *Ranger* 3rd

B Division – *Frances* 1st, *Tucana* 2nd, *Wairiki* 3rd

Moderns – *Rainbird* 1st, *Talent* 2nd, *Achernar* 3rd

By Chad Thompson

Chad Thompson
and the next
generation, Theo
(six months)



Launches in good heart despite grim weather



The launches in Lidgards Bay at Kawau Island – Alan Houghton photo

Everyone I talk to moans about how little boating they had this season – seems we must have upset the weather gods as every launch event was matched to an evil weather forecast and, in most cases, the forecasters were right.

Still, those suffering the effects of cabin fever made the effort and headed out and were rewarded with some fun boating and good company.

The launch season kicked off on Labour weekend with us off to Waiheke Island for a classic Kiwi BBQ ashore in Owhanake Bay, followed the next day by elevenses that became twoses on board Sue and Mark Edmonds beautiful 1946 Lidgard bridgedecker, *MV Monterey*.

Next up on 5th November was a land based BBQ at Barbara and David Cooke's (*MV Trinidad*) house, where Chris Miller (*MV Rorqual*) pulled the camera out and photographed all the dishes for inclusion the new CYA cookbook, *Cooking Afloat*, available digitally on the CYA website.

13th November was our annual cruise to the

Stillwater Motor Camp up the Weiti River. The weather was perfect and everyone enjoyed the BBQ lawn picnic ashore. This event is becoming a must-do on our calendar. The ability to tie up at the wharf provides the opportunity to discuss and view the winter's work on the boats.

The first weekend in December sees what is for me the event that brings out the best in the CYA: the annual Patio Bay BBQ/Christmas Party at Margaret and Bert Woolcott's bach. Both the launch and yacht groups combine in the event with races down to the bay, in our case the Centennial Cup that commemorates the running of the 1908 Rudder Cup. This year saw 19 launches racing to Patio Bay under Mark Foy handicap rules, the finish as always a spectacular sight. Andrew Pollard in the recently re-powered (note to 2011 handicappers) *MV Aumoe* taking first across the line and the Cup. The evening ashore was a cracker as crews partied into the night.

Anniversary Weekend normally sees the launch fleet at Mahurangi for the MCC

Regatta, but weather forced the cancellation of the event so Plan B was an overnight BBQ ashore in Islington Bay. There was a great turnout and a chance to mingle with the Devonport Yacht Club, who had the same idea as us i.e. get out but away from the weather.

The end of March (26th) was another Mark Foy race, this time to coincide with the annual CYA Cake Day at Islington Bay. Well it rained and rained and rained. The hardy raced and partied aboard *MV Wild Duck*, but boy was it wet. Haydon Afford, *MV Kumi* appeared out of the mist and won the CYA Motor Launch trophy.

Easter saw a cruise to Kawau Island. Those that headed out early on Thursday were rewarded with good weather. Those that waited till Friday faced, to use Peter Montgomery's famous *Lion NZ* quote 'liquid Himalayas' and ended up tucked in much closer to home. The lucky ones sitting at anchor in Squadron Bay had two days of nice weather with some grand moments aboard *MV Trinidad* and Colleen and

Dick Fisher's *MV Akarana*.

With over 90 launches on the Register, in 2011 the CYA launch fleet has never been so strong. That aside, the challenges facing us are to get as many of these boats 'playing together'. We seem to struggle with participation at on-the-water events but do have good success with our shore-based events. This is a bit frustrating as we are after all a classic wooden boating movement not a bridge club.

In terms of growth in the short term this will now be secondary and mainly organic i.e. current members introducing friends. We will however be selectively targeting two groups: past members that we feel should still be part of the CYA and existing members that could be playing a greater role in the movement, so some of you can expect a call or a tap on the shoulder.

We have some exciting events and activities on the drawing board for the new season, so make sure you check out the CYA website to stay in the loop.

**By Alan Houghton –
*MV RainDance***



*Lizzie, Gavin Pascoe and helper
– Harold Kidd photo*

Classic scene is flourishing in the Capital

The Wellington Classic Yacht Trust has been keeping busy over the last few months. Work at Clyde Quay on our founding vessel *Lizzie* is advancing well; she is now completely refastened and splining is almost complete. Her hull will soon be primed, caulked and afloat. Work has also begun on the deck; the full-span beams are being fitted, and planking is ready-milled.

Aucklander Tom Logan has been tracking down planked Idle Alongs on our

behalf, with the result that we were introduced to Gary Matthews who sold us *Mystery*. She was built in kaikawaka by Joffre Kroening in Greymouth. *Mystery* came second to *Lorraine* (also built by Kroening) in the 1956 Moffat cup. A couple of trustees enjoyed a great road trip, along with the hospitality of members of the RNZAF Base Auckland Yacht Club at Hobsonville. *Mystery* and her timber rig is in wonderful condition, requiring only the odd patch

in her hull, which shows a bit of nail sickness in spots. Look out for us in next year's Moffat Cup Regatta!

The Rona Preservation Trust approached us recently to provide a sailing crew, which will happen just as soon as some issues in her standing rigging are addressed.

Later this year we'll be attending the Wellington Boat Show where, along with other wonders of the wooden world, we will be demonstrating traditional

copper riveting techniques on a 1920s Wellington Harbour Board dinghy.

Mystery, *Lizzie*, and privately owned classics will be displayed at Clyde Quay as part of the Wellington Festival of Sail in September. Plans are also afoot to hold a regatta next year in partnership with the Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club in honour of *Nanette's* centenary.

Amongst all this activity, we've still managed to fit a bit of sailing in.

By Gavin Pascoe

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