

THE NEW ZEALAND CLASSIC YACHT JOURNAL



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Crowds of admirers turned out to celebrate Rawhiti's return to the water after a marathon restoration – Ivor Wilkins photos

Grand return of a Logan masterpiece

We have followed progress of *Rawhiti's* restoration at Peter Brookes' from time to time. Greg Lee and his partner Rachel Rush finally got their magnificent beast in the water at the Viaduct on Sunday 4th September.

The day was sunny and gentle, the crowd of vintage yachties happy and full of the warmth of their success and that of Peter Brookes, whose workmanship and taste had produced such a glory.

The Wynyard Quarter all around about has been

magically transformed into a fun place, buzzing with Aucklanders strolling around

the fascinating new sights and rejoicing at the lovely red trams.



Along with the 1905 Logan Bros. masterpiece being relaunched, it was a steam-punk time warp. Indeed, one wondered if the Victorian trams gliding along the cobbled streets outside had witnessed *Rawhiti's* tussles with *Sayonara* in Melbourne in 1907.

Waterfront Auckland got right behind the event because it was tailor-made to fit its promotion of the area as a resource with strong historical links for the city. The reception was in

the former Team NZ sail loft where they had put together a display of images of *Rawhiti*, a splendid film of her sailing in Sydney and artifacts from her restoration. Aiding the proceedings were lunch and appropriate libations.

Bruce Marler gave a standout speech about his family's ownership of *Rawhiti* and her four lovers, Frank Albert of Sydney, Hec Marler who sailed her back to Auckland, Bruce himself, and now Greg.

We have had some stunning restorations in recent years with some incredible background stories, but this one sets a new benchmark. Greg and Rachel responded with wit, some self-analysis on the topic

of perfectionism – and marine toilets! Celebrations followed as the assembled crowd saw this piece of Edwardian art return to the water in style. Not unexpectedly, she floated beautifully to her marks.

By Harold Kidd



Top: *Rawhiti* floating beautifully to her lines. Above: Greg Lee and his brother-in-law Sam Stubbs (on the right) who started the restoration as partners before Greg continued alone. On the left, Greg's partner Rachel Rush and Peter Brookes, the master craftsman who undertook the painstaking task. Plus assorted members of the Lee and Stubbs households – Alan Houghton photos



Steamer Romany and little friend, keeping the home fires burning – Alan Houghton Photo

CYA TEAM IS PLANNING A 2013 CLASSIC WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL

The Classic Yacht Association of New Zealand (CYA) has announced that they will be holding the inaugural 'New Zealand Classic Wooden Boat Festival' in Auckland in 2013.

This new event on the Auckland calendar will be a celebration of New Zealand's maritime heritage with the focus being on the fun and enjoyment of classic wooden boating.

It is envisaged that the event will see over 60 classic vessels on display including yachts, launches and work boats and all open for viewing.

CYA Chairman Steve Cranch said that the Classic Yacht Association of New Zealand has over 200 classic vessels on its register and that classic boating is undergoing a worldwide resurgence.

Cranch also said that the redevelopment of Auckland's waterfront into a world-class venue was one of the key influences in deciding to hold the event in 2013.

New Zealand has one of the world's most significant collections of original and restored locally designed and built vessels still in regular use reflecting Auckland's incredible connection with the sea.

A steering group has been formed to activate the project and to identify and liaise with potential partners.

The group is currently reviewing waterfront venues and dates.

Historic Riverhead Cruise Returns

Weather forecasts – if you believed them on Saturday 23 July, you would not have got out of bed. Some members did not – and no doubt regretted it. The day started out a little overcast, but just got better and better, once again reminding us that sometimes you have to take a punt.

For a winter's event, the turnout was impressive with 13 boats – *Delmar*, *Endeavour*, *Falcon*, *Galatea II*, *John Dory*, *Kumi*, *Lucille*, *Monterey*, *RainDance*, *Romany*, *Rorqual*, *Valsan* and *Waimiga* – leaving from various points and travelling as a group up the upper harbour. Several of our CYA yachting comrades took up the offer of a launch ride and joined us for the day.

The fleet assembled off the entrance to Lucas Creek at

1100 and proceeded up the river (creek) in 'Indian file' led by James Mobberley on *Falcon*. Other than a few little oopses, contacting the mud, James delivered us all safely to the new wharf/pontoon at the Riverhead Hotel ahead of time.

Because of their winter maintenance schedules, several members chose to travel by road and met us there. Special thanks to David and Barbara Cooke and Ian Gavin for their services as dockies at the wharf. Having someone boat friendly to throw the line to sure makes life easier. The fenders were broken out all round and that allowed us to dock three abreast.

A special mention must go to Russell Ward, who made the effort to fire up

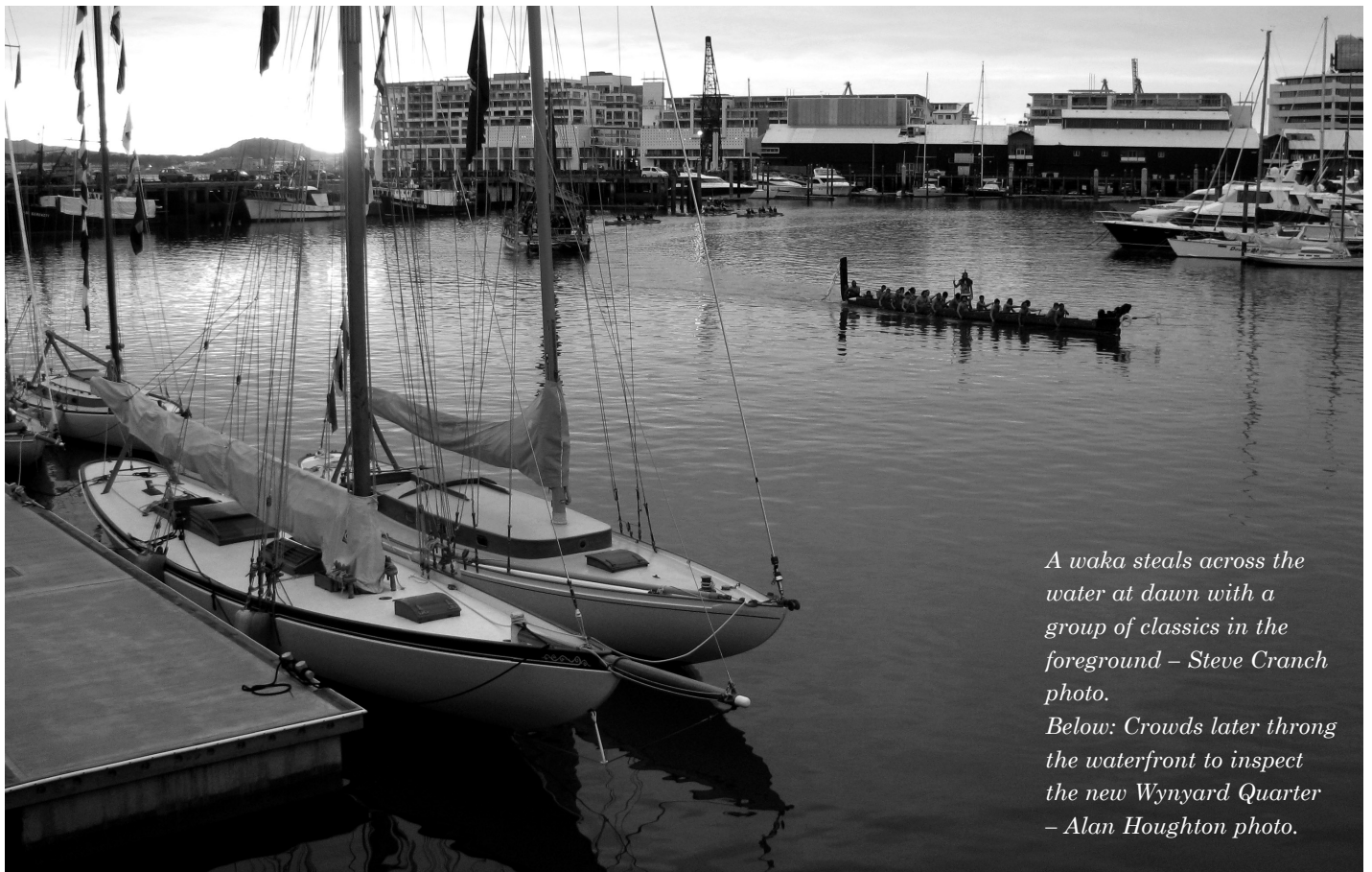
SS Romany for the trip. The sound of her steam whistle jogs one's memory of days past.

The smart skippers had downloaded the on-line menu and had already telephoned their lunch order through. Crews were eating lunch before the first ice-cold larger was dispatched. The food was very good and equal to the best pub grub in town.

The return journey was less eventful and much quicker given that most skippers had plotted the 'safe' route on their GPS's.

In summary, a great day at a great venue. The Riverhead Hotel Cruise is once again back on the CYA event calendar.

**Alan Houghton - CYA
Launch Captain**



A waka steals across the water at dawn with a group of classics in the foreground – Steve Cranch photo.

Below: Crowds later throng the waterfront to inspect the new Wynyard Quarter – Alan Houghton photo.

Classics big attraction at Wynyard Quarter

On Saturday the 6th August, the first stage in the revitalisation of Auckland's waterfront was opened, and what a celebration it was. A dawn powhiri, complete with traditional Maori waka set against a backdrop of our classic fleet fully dressed for the occasion, made for a stirring scene strongly evoking a bygone era.

As the crowds built to an estimated 60,000 by midday they were treated to not only the newly rebuilt north wharf, cafés, climbing frame, the refurbished silos, a children's playground, trams (yes trams!), they were also visually rewarded with



a superb collection of classic vessels, from yachts of all sizes to a selection of work

boats right down to a fine little steamer.

Hundreds of people took

the opportunity to climb aboard some of the yachts, explore below and share in our maritime history. The day was filled with a feeling of joy and celebration. It was great to see Aucklanders reconnecting with their most valuable asset, the Waitemata harbour.

Working together with Waterfront Auckland, we at CYA are planning to bring to life and share with the public much more of Auckland's superb maritime heritage this summer.

By Steve Cranch

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