

# THE NEW ZEALAND CLASSIC YACHT JOURNAL



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*Dockside at the  
Melbourne regatta*

## Good times with Aussie fleet



The rain was pelting onto the runway as we landed in Melbourne, surely not a good sign for a sailing regatta. Unfortunately a small passing storm had already put paid to the Guineas cup race that afternoon.

A team race sailed between a couple of the bay's fastest Couta boats versus *Mercedes III* and *Boambilee* the Guineas cup challenge has become a feature of Friday's activities. In true Aussie fashion this did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm for Friday night's welcoming party and dinner at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club.

Saturday morning arrived with overcast and menacing looking sky and everyone clutching their wet weather gear. The warm cheeky smile of Roger Dundas as he called out the boat allocations, however, dispersed any concerns of bad weather.

I was lucky enough to be allocated to *Zephyr*, a sweet little Tumlarén. Tumlarén's were designed by the world renowned Knud Reimers circa 1936 in Sweden. Famous for his metre boat designs and boats like *Bacchant*, Uffa Fox once wrote, "The Tumlarén is the most advanced cruiser in the world." With such

pedigree it's no wonder that these are such lovely little yachts to sail and it was a real treat to be sailing with Anne on *Zephyr*.

The course took us reaching down the bay towards Sandringham and then tacking back up the Melbourne shoreline past St Kilda, *Zephyr* handling the usual Port Philip Bay swell with aplomb.

The race was finished off the Royal Victoria yacht club pier, which means a quick hop across the main port shipping channel. This is akin to running across Auckland's southern motorway on a

busy Friday afternoon, with container ships, port security boats with blue flashing lights patrolling the area and the navy hooting at you if you get too close to their wharf. It makes for an exciting finish! Celebrations ashore finished off the afternoon in true classic boat style.

Sunday morning dawned with black clouds scurrying across the sky and forecast for stormy weather. This was confirmed at the club briefing and the decision was made to abandon any racing for the day, a wise choice as it was blowing dogs off chains later in the day.

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With a free day, the morning was spent drinking coffee and chatting with Mark and Sally Bergin about wooden boat festivals and planning for our 2013 one here in Auckland. Thanks to Iain Vallentine's efforts it had been arranged that we would host dinner that evening at our apartment with guests Tim and Sally Phillips (wooden boat shop in Sorrento) and Bruce Stannard (author and historian).

Bruce had an interview that morning with a local Melbourne fisherman whose family had been fishing Port Philip bay for generations. Needless to say they arrived with two large snapper for dinner. A fine feast was assembled and a totally fascinating evening was spent talking old boats and restoration projects.

Monday is the day for the pursuit race, with everyone starting at their allocated time and hoping for a mass finish. Megan and I joined Cameron Durrough on *Bungoona*. I had raced on *Bungoona* last year with some success, so was well up to speed with her foredeck layout – just as well as the course was several loops around an inner harbour course making for lots of spinnaker hoists and drops, gybes etc.

The racing was fast and furious with many of the larger yachts like *Acrospire III* and *Storm Bay* roaring through the fleet. Col Anderson's rocket ship *Acrospire III* took the gun. Racing on Monday always finishes early to enable time for the prize giving and seafood feast. Piles of juicy prawns and other delicacies



*Above: Rocky Bay duels with Sayonara (R6) and, below, with Acrospire III*

make this an annual event not to be missed.

David McKenzie announced the arrival of the prize giving with a colourful tune on his bagpipes, Doug Shield (CYAA president) mastered the prize giving ceremony with the major prizes going to Helen Lovett's beautiful gaff rigged *Oenone* ably assisted by our very own Larry Paul (skipper of *Waitangi*). It was no surprise then that the winner of the

trans Tasman trophy this year was also Larry.

We were lucky enough to be able to stay on for Tuesday and a trip to the Mornington Peninsula for a Melbourne Cup day lunch kindly hosted by Martin and Mary Ryan (*Mercedes III*). The Ryans have a superb holiday house overlooking the ocean and a sumptuous lunch of freshly prepared pizza was enjoyed whilst sweepstakes were organised ahead of watching

the Melbourne Cup race live on the big screen, a most enjoyable day.

The annual CYAA regatta has now become firmly logged in our annual must do yachting events calendar, the warm friendly comaderee and superb classic yachting easily overcoming Melbourne's somewhat challenging weather I encourage you to join us next year.

***Pictures and words by  
Steve Cranch***





Alan Houghton Photo

Above: Our newest member Mark Lever's launch MV Nereides. Below: Jason Prew (Wairiki) gets the prize for prettiest boat

## Another great Patio Bay Race

The first weekend in December is now firmly established on the CYA calendar as Patio Bay Weekend, a double header that includes a Mark Foy handicap race for both our yacht and launch fleets and our Christmas party.

The venue is Margaret and Bert Woolcott's historic bach overlooking the bay, which, after the racing, becomes the weekend home of the crème of the classic fleet. This year the day started a little overcast

with 15-18 knot NE winds that were predicted to build during the day.

This forecast thinned the fleet out a little, but for those who ventured out, it was a cracker day's racing for both yachts and launches. The main event, the A division, saw Rod Marler and crew in *Little Jim* blitz the fleet again (second year in a row) to take out first place and collect the most bizarre prize in any CYA race – the winning boat has to fill a 6 litre keg of rum for the following year's party. The keg takes six bottles, so Rod has had to front up with 12 bottles in 12 months. Something tells me they might finish second next year or buy shares in a rum still.

The launches raced for the 'Rudder Cup Centennial Trophy', donated by Pauline and Harold Kidd. This year

the winning boat was Mark Stapleton's *Silver Spray* followed by Peter Boardman's *Lady Margaret* while third was last year's winner *Aumoe*, owned by Andrew Pollard.

All I will say is that I would not want the job of handicapper. The title would be better described as clairvoyant – as there is so much 'behind-the-scene' work done to some boats it is almost impossible to generate accurate handicaps, but that's half the fun of it.

The sponsor of the launch race was Moon Engines (our own James Mobberley – of the good ship *Falcon*). The skippers were rewarded with a selection of quality marine products and Jamaica's finest rum (blatant advertisement suppressed).

The afternoon turned into one out of the bag. The fleet

sunned itself and did its best to ward off dehydration by swimming and keeping the fluids up in-between boat hopping to swap 'if only' tales from the race. Late afternoon saw the mass migration ashore for another of the legendary Woolcott parties. They just keep getting better.

Skippers and crew enjoyed a classic Kiwi BBQ and the evening was capped off with a fireworks display on the beach.

Sunday dawned a little evil on the weather front and then just went downhill as the day wore on. The smart boats left early. But no amount of rain could dampen the spirits after such a huge Saturday.

Pencil the first weekend of December 2012 in your diary today.

Alan Houghton





# *Keels and wheels picnic*

On Saturday 19th November 10 classic CYA launches made the trip up the Weiti River and were rewarded with a great day at Stillwater.

This year the event was expanded to include classic cars and motorbikes and it was a winner with everyone.

The launches rafted up at the wharf while the cars and motorbikes took over the lawn.

CYA members Sue and Mark Edmonds (*Monterey*) are the driving force behind this event and their passion to make it special grows each year.

*Pictures and words  
by Alan Houghton*



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