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*With her reshaped
mainsail, Rawhiti
powers along.*

Patio Bay: outstanding again

By James Stonyer

Photos by Alan Houghton

“Fair winds and a following sea...” is the sailors old saying.

Saturday, December 1 certainly provided this for the 2012 CYA race to Patio Bay, with slight seas and a 12 knot sou’wester. Sunday however was a bit different with westerlies of up to 30 knots!

This year’s fleet was probably the largest with a good showing of the A division, a solid B division including the oldest racing yacht, *Jessie Logan*, and 10 Townsoms joining for the first time. Launches were again in abundance, some racing down and others enjoying a more leisurely pace, making a fleet of around 50 vessels gathered in the bay.

The Mark Foy start soon saw the yacht fleet spread out along Browns Island and down the Tamaki Strait, a beautiful sight in the sunshine and glittering sea.

Notably our chairman and crew in *Little Jim* seemed to be hanging back at the rear of the fleet with ‘spinnaker’ difficulties. No doubt a story there, or maybe the thought of having to fill the rum keg

for a 4th consecutive year was too challenging on the boat budget ...

Waitangi got off to a great start and, despite *Thelma* flying her gennaker most of the way, *Waitangi* got to the bottom end in great time. *Rawhiti* was relishing the conditions with her newly shaped main, as was *Jonquil* sitting a little further out to windward, with close rival

*Raindance on her way
to Rudder Cup glory –
Terry Jeffries Photo*

by Alan Houghton

Rudder Cup – a Game of Two Halves

The 2012 Rudder Cup Memorial Launch Race was a first in that this year we only had displacement hulled launches participating. This came about as a result of a series of unrelated circumstances, boats hauled out, injured skippers, babies and maybe the price of fuel. It did however make for the closest launch racing we have seen.

First boat away was Baden Pascoe in *John Dory* at 10.30am and the last boat away was Philip Hamlin with *Moanalua*. Mark Foy starts and motor launches are always a challenge to the handicappers as there are just so many variables

that come into play. However with one exception the handicapper (Ian Gavin) did a good job getting everyone away.

With a westerly sea breeze, slight seas and an outgoing tide, the fleet set off towards Motuihe, turning east around Browns Island beacon and down the Waiheke Channel towards Passage Rock, where as always at this stage of the race the boats closed up as the later starters started to make their way through the fleet. *Raindance* squeezed out the few remaining RPM's to retain its lead and be the first classic launch over the line to claim the Rudder Cup Memorial Trophy.

Only 7 seconds separated *Raindance* and 2nd place getter *Moanalua* with a 5 second gap back to 3rd placed *Lucille*. For Phillip Hamlin to get *Moanalua* up to within 5 seconds of the winner was a great effort.

Once the fleet were anchored in the bay, the race was dissected on the duckboards of several launches. The combined setting of classic yachts and launches was very picturesque with the fleet spread across the bay. The classic yachts had enjoyed ideal sailing conditions and for once were some of the first boats into the bay.

At Bert and Margaret

Woolcott's bach, the pohutukawa-fueled barbecues were kept busy for several hours while more than 250 crew and families enjoyed the CYA Christmas party. After a prize giving, the night was topped off once again by a spectacular fireworks display on the beach.

Sunday morning dawned very dark, both the weather forecast and an overnight All Blacks test loss to the English. Most boats left very early to avoid the weather.

The weekend weather was like the rugby, a game of two halves: Saturday was stunning, Sunday was unpleasant. But we only remember the good bits.

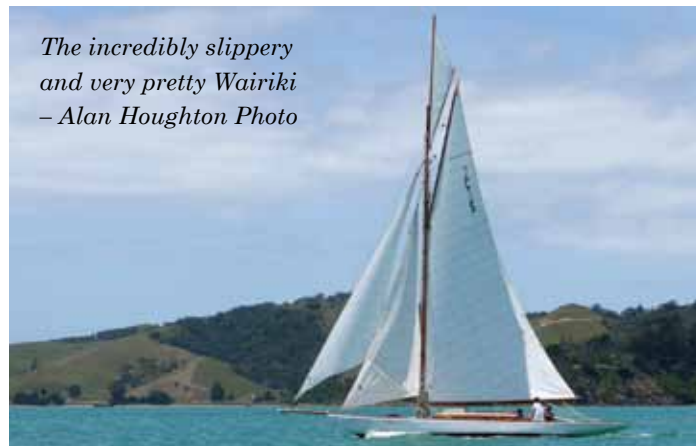
Heather inshore.

The incredibly slippery *Wairiki* was again on form, however *Waitangi* managed to catch and pass her to cross first, with *Wairiki* second and *Thelma* third.

Another group including *Little Jim*, *Advantage*, *Tawera*, *Helen* and *Tucana* finished within seconds of each other. All up a splendid race!

The day concluded with yet another highly enjoyable bbq at the Woolcott's bach, including an array of prizes, a rapidly emptying rum barrel, and sumptuous sizzlings. Breakfast next morning was light on people, only enjoyed by the crew of *Thelma*, with many opting to depart early due to inclement weather.

• See www.classicyacht.org.nz for full results



*The incredibly slippery
and very pretty Wairiki
– Alan Houghton Photo*



Whangateau Boatshed: in any weather, a Jewel in the Crown

*Words and Picture
by Steve Horsley*

This little gem still sparkles brightly as yet another gutsy sou wester tried it's dandiest to blow it away.

Whangateau boatshed clings tenaciously to a wisp of sand bank no more than 12 metres at it's widest point, held together with mangroves and pohutukawa, the home to an eclectic collection of boats.

There's not much room to maneuver, let alone work amongst the collection of old boats inside the shed and outside, in all stages of repair, restoration, or just biding time. Most with a history of some sort, some with very colourful pasts and those that

enjoyed the glory and kept their skippers well furnished with silverware.

George and Pam, guardians of the shed live and work here on the tasks at hand, restoring a dinghy or an H28, painting, rebuilding and remodeling, looking after the fleet of zeddies and idle-alongs, the odd frostbite, P class or starling, floating projects and whatever their hands can turn to gold – because this place is gold.

Walk through the sliding doors and enter another world. A world from another time, sawdust, old steam engines, tools, the smell of paint and life, inhale deeply and you'll be lost forever in the past. Whangateau boatshed is a unique piece

of what was and the sort of place bureaucrats just love to try and pull down.

There's been some battles fought and won and for now the shed survives. The foreshore and mud flats are bustling with cutters and zeddies, there's no room on the sand spit for any more. Just turn up, have a chat and go for a sail.

You'll have to time the tides as it dries at low tide, but sailing out in the estuary with an incoming high tide and crystal clear waters is pure magic. Stretch your feet out over the gunwale, relax and drift around aimlessly thinking of Ratty and Toad. But sadly that will have to be another time.

So when the weather turns

nasty and only a couple of hardy soles venture out, nothing is lost. There's always the shed. Despite the howler, Dean Herbison and friend Steve reefed down the idle along and went out for a blast. A lone sailor in a starling also ventured out, but got into difficulty as the breeze increased and swamped. Russell Ward had Romany fired up in the calm behind the shed and also poked his nose out into the bay for a run.

Plan B was a shortened course, Plan C fire up the BBQ. For those that made the journey it was all worth it regardless of the weather.

There's always next time to go out for a sail.



From left to right Pastime II, Mercedes III, C97 and Ella, a replica Couta boat Below: C97.

A new slant on Trans-Tasman Rivalry

By Robyn Pearce

Fifteen CYA members attended the 2012 CYAA Cup Regatta in Melbourne, always held the first weekend in November, before the Melbourne Cup.

What great hosts our Aussie friends are – so welcoming, warm and friendly. The famous Aussie/Kiwi rivalry was nowhere in evidence, except in wanting to outdo each other in hospitality and inclusiveness.

The original organisers of



this trans-Tasman exchange (with the Kiwis having our turn to play host at our CYA Regatta in February) were inspired. I can't think of a faster way to build concord between the two nations than to share sailing experiences in the way we do – the visitors are spread throughout the fleet and rarely crew on the same boat twice. It's a boat against boat competition, not nation against nation. Quite apart from all the fun, there's a huge benefit in being part of such a well-organised event. It broadens your sailing experience exponentially, for most sailors rarely sail on anything but their own vessel.

Melbourne's wind was as fickle as ever, but at least we raced every day, a reasonably unusual occurrence. It was interesting to experience very different racing patterns from

the Waitemata Harbour, where we have so many islands and diverse directions available to us. In Port Phillip Bay the 'islands' move – big tankers coming up the channel.

Saturday's and Sunday's racing had light winds in the morning, with better breezes in the afternoon. Monday had only one race scheduled, with a pursuit start, so the normal pre-start nerves took a rest. The wind created interesting challenges. Although the day dawned with a brisk wind, by the time we got out on the water it rapidly died. Crew members kept scanning the water, looking hopefully for wind patterns, watching enviously as other vessels caught a lift and slipped ahead. Finally the wind picked up and we enjoyed a tight finish.

The off-water hospitality

was awesome. On Saturday evening Martin and Maria Ryan entertained the Kiwis in their beautiful South Yarra mansion. And Monday afternoon, at the conclusion of the regatta, we tucked into delicious seafood BBQ at the yacht club, accompanied by great music.

We all love a challenge – or we wouldn't race. So, this year's contingent is challenging you to get there next year. You'd go a long way to get a more affordable sailing weekend.

Get that diary out, block out Nov 1-5 2013 and call either Iain Valentine 09 524 2602 or Larry Paul 021 280 0360 immediately.

It is just an expression of interest at this stage but we need to secure the apartments by the end of January.

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