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Painted ships on a painted ocean – all adrift and waiting for the breeze. Alan Houghton Photo

It keeps improving every year!

By Steve Cranch

All eyes were on the weather map leading up to the Southern Trust Classic Yacht Regatta, with a very large high covering the entire country. Forecasts of variable winds with gusts to five knots had the race committee worried and, true to forecast, day one dawned with not a breath of air to be seen.

Around 50 of Auckland's finest classic yachts gathered off Northern Leading, some drifting, some ever hopeful with their sails up while others motored in circles. It was a glorious day and the sight of so many classic yachts gathered together on a painted ocean looked amazing. Many took the opportunity to relax and cool off with a swim or two. However, It just

wasn't any good for racing, which is what most of us had turned up for, and by 2pm the race committee had made an excellent decision to abandon for the day and head back to race HQ for something refreshing.

Saturday arrived looking more promising with a gentle southerly and racing got underway on time into a fickle but building breeze.

Concentration was the order of the day and our new crew man Alastair Bisland, was proving very useful.

Alastair was a visitor from The Isle of Arran in Scotland, who responded to an article in *Classic Boat* magazine and sent an email to Joyce to see if he could get a ride during the regatta. Of course, she said, and, despite racing modern boats back home,

I think after a weekend of classic racing he's now hooked on the classic scene here in New Zealand. We have a spot already reserved for him next year.

The breeze had built a little during the race and we staged a fantastic comeback to round the last mark in the lead. We then managed to completely fluff our spinnaker hoist. Perhaps it was stage fright, or maybe the camera boat following alongside! Frustrating this sailing business as you wrestle with what seems like acres of cloth on the foredeck whilst your arch rivals slip gently by sporting bigger grins than your average Cheshire cat. Never mind, character building stuff they say.

By the time the second race of the day was underway quite, a fresh southwesterly breeze had built, which made for some fine racing amongst all the fleets, before heading back to the Viaduct Harbour, where all the yachts were rafted together for the evening. The evening spot prizes and race results for the day were all handled in the magnificent Race HQ tent setup alongside the viaduct Events Centre. With great

food available, it was the perfect place to catch up with old friends, swap stories and tell tales of the day's events.

Day three (Sunday) and the fickle winds returned, delaying the start a little while the race committee waited for the wind to stabilise. It never did, but nevertheless the competition was fierce with positions changing regularly. The long beat to the finish against an outgoing tide and staggering wind shifts plus windless holes proved incredibly frustrating. However, with such magnificent weather and such an incredible collection of yachts on the harbour, it would be pretty hard to not enjoy yourself. Sunday night's prize giving was ably handled by CYA chairman Rod Marler and the outstanding spot prizes and hilarity by Tony Stevenson.

This regatta continues to get better and better and the return this season of some remarkable yachts like the beautiful 1895 *Moana* and the internationally famous 6 metre *Scout* add to the depth and quality that makes this arguably one of the most preeminent classic regattas worldwide.



Not often these old girls hold hands in public, so it was worth getting up at daybreak to catch the light as Rainbow, Rawhiti and Thelma raft up at the 2013 Southern Trust Classic Yacht Regatta – Alan Houghton Photo

A new mast for Gypsy takes shape



John Pryor admires progress at the New Zealand Traditional Boatbuilding School., where Robert Brooke and Mark Robinson are constructing a new mast for *Gypsy*. All hands were called in to help with the glue up and all available clamps put into service. At just on 15 metres long, it's quite a job getting it all clamped up and straight, but it's looking fantastic.



Mahurangi Regatta debuts a Fabulous Launch Parade

Words & Photos
by Alan Houghton

As always, whether the sun shines or the rain pours, Mahurangi Regatta weekend is a cracker. Lots of sun and no rain this year, but we had plenty of wind to keep the yachties happy.

The forecasters got it right and it just kept building, but those launches that managed to get away early on Friday missed the bad bits. The yachties all had smiles on their faces as they arrived into the bay, so it must have been a great sail up.

2013 was a first for the launch group in that we held a parade of classic launches on the Saturday morning. Assembling the boats in some form of chronological order

was a little like trying to nail jelly, but eventually Dick Coughlan got his 1905 Logan ex pilot-boat Ferro under way and the rest followed like sheep.

Fourteen boats took part, departing Scotts Landing at 10.00a.m. and motoring in 'Indian file' across to Sullivans Bay for a loop of the bay. The crowds on the beach showed their appreciation with waves and whistles.

Despite the conditions, it was great to see a few new faces, or faces we do not see a lot of, like Sarah Charles and Michael White. Their stunning 1919 Joe Slattery Raiona would have to have won 'Best in Show' for the best presented vessel and if there was a safety at sea award, Sarah and Michael

would have to win that as well with all the crew wearing life-vests – well done.

After the parade, the launch groups relaxed and watched the yacht racing up close as the weather saw the start/finish line moved to just off Scotts Landing, so there was some spectacular crewing on display.

Saturday night ashore at Scotts saw the return of the Big Swing Band, a 16 piece group that entertained the masses until late into the evening. How people ID their dinghy in the dark I do not know.

As an event, the Mahurangi Regatta is as loose as it comes, but it just rocks and in my eyes is second only to the Patio Bay Xmas Party on the CYA events calendar.



Main Picture: 'Best on Show', Raiona struts her stuff at Mahurangi. Above: How does anybody find their dinghy after the nocturnal festivities?



Ivor Wilkins Photo

Waitangi secures funding for Refit

The Logan classic yacht *Waitangi*, is out of the water for a full restoration that should prepare her well for another century of gracing the waters of the Waitemata.

The restoration work is, in the main, being funded by The Lion Foundation. Carried out by Horizon Boats Ltd, in Silverdale, it will take approximately 10 weeks and will restore the kauri beauty to original.

The 58ft *Waitangi* was first launched on 13th December 1894. She was the last major yacht built by Robert Logan Snr who founded the dynasty

that, for three generations, was at the forefront of yacht design and building in New Zealand.

Now owned by the Classic Yacht Charitable Trust, *Waitangi* is a protected New Zealand antique under the Protected Objects Act 1975. She is also listed by the Ministry of Culture & Heritage as "the classic yacht of New Zealand."

The *Waitangi* restoration is the fifth to be carried out by the Classic Yacht Charitable Trust, which was founded in 2002 by Auckland marine industry legend John Street

and former television news presenter Bill McCarthy.

In the wings and awaiting restoration are the 56ft LOA

Logan design *Ariki*, first launched in 1905, and the 40ft Logan design *Kotiri*, first launched in 1897.



John Street presents a David Barker painting of Waitangi to Mike Smith, Chairman of The Lion Foundation to mark the funding of the 2013 refit.

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