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Riverhead Rendezvous

Words and Photos
By Alan Houghton

Sunday 10th November saw 18 of the CYA's finest classic launches cruise to the historic Riverhead Hotel on the banks of the upper Waitemata Harbour. This bi-annual event is one of the most popular on the CYA calendar and saw around 150 people making the trip, some by car, to enjoy a BBQ lunch in the hotel's recently-expanded garden bar.

The meal, service and hospitality was the best yet and the designated CYA area proved a hit with plenty of room for members to mingle.

Great also to see several 'new' boats make the trip: *Mahanui*, *Karina*, *Maria*, *Pirate* and *Waikiore*. The smallest boat there was Mike

Mahoney's just-launched St Ayles skiff (see separate story.)

Several vessels (*Raindance* included) did some impact hydrography at the hotel basin end. Sometimes one forgets that a big high tide = a big low tide.

June 21 is our next Riverhead Rendezvous, so put it in the diary now as these trips are the epitome of what classic woody boating is all about – fun, friendship and fraternity.



St Ayles Skiff A joy to row

By Steve Cranch

The first St Ayles skiff in New Zealand *Wee Tawera* was launched on 23 October only two weeks before the CYA Riverhead launch cruise and, with only 30 minutes of rowing under our belts, the opportunity to stretch out for a decent row to Riverhead was too good to be missed.

A hearty bunch of St Ayles

enthusiasts gathered at the Hobsonville boat ramp to embark on the 5nm row.

The St Ayles is a joy to row and much easier than you expect at first glance. Olympic rowers we are not, but enthusiastic we most certainly are and in a little over an hour we arrived at the Riverhead Hotel for a well deserved lunch and refreshments.

• For more information:
www.nzcoastalrowing.org

Battle above the Bridge

By Dan Ranell

Saturday 9 November saw the annual Northcote Birkenhead YC Regatta take place in the upper harbour. This event is a favourite with skippers due to the uncrowded race course and quick fire two-race format.

The sun shone bright while the unsympathetic breeze provided tricky conditions to add to the challenges of strong tidal flow.

Race one was shortened after the fleet condensed at the top mark in a full flood tide. After a short lunch break, race two provided good pressure and better racing conditions.

Kiariki and *Advantage* dominated the A and Modern divisions while *Wairiki* and *Jessie Logan* shared the limelight in the B Division.

An excellent day with the city as a backdrop for the beautiful classic fleet.



Bill Belton Photo

Motuihe Classic Picnic



Held on Waitangi Day, Thursday 6th Feb., this new event on the CYA calendar is aimed at involving the whole family. Motuihe is close to home and provides multiple anchorage options. So pack a picnic for Mum, Dad and the kids and come down to the island and join up with the classic yacht and launch fleet for a gala day. Put a circle in the day – now.

DIARY DATES

Jan 24 - 25

Mahurangi Regatta

Jan 27

*Auckland Anniversary
Regatta*

Feb 6

*Waitangi Day Picnic at
Motuihe*

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