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Fidelis celebrates 50th

By Steve cranch

Photo: Ivor Wilkins

In the last week of January *Fidelis* once more sailed the Tasman arriving just in time to celebrate her 50th birthday here in Auckland.

Built by Fred and Jim Lidgard for Auckland Vic Speight and launched 24th January 1964, she was then purchased by Jim Davern who campaigned her hard for many seasons winning numerous offshore races including the 1966 Sydney Hobart race, the Auckland to Suva and Noumea races.

These days *Fidelis* resides in Sydney under the good care of her current owner Nigel Stoke and is still regularly competing in the major offshore races.

Whilst in Auckland, *Fidelis* has been enjoying the classic yacht scene and great rivalry with old foes *Ranger* and *Ta Aroa*. She has competed in the Mahurangi Regatta, the Auckland Anniversary Day Regatta and the CYA's Southern Trust Classic Yacht Regatta before returning back to Sydney at the end of March.

On the 12th of March as part of the birthday celebrations, a new book on her history was launched at a special function at the RNZYS. The book, written by Sandra Gorter and titled *Fidelis: The Ocean Greyhound*, covers her history to date, although I suspect there will be many more adventures to come.

Waitangi Day Beach Picnic

By Alan Houghton

Waitangi Day 2014 saw the inaugural CYA picnic held at Motuihe Island. It turned out to be a day that rewarded the brave. Despite the forecast, now-casting was showing 41 at Tiri and 30-35 at Bean

Rock. But, the 15+ CYA launches and yachts that made the trip were rewarded with a sheltered anchorage, sunny skies and warm water. Over 75 CYA members and families enjoyed lunch ashore and the chance to catch up.

The event will become a regular on the CYA calendar. Circle Waitangi Day 2015 in the diary now.



Alan Houghton Photo

Lake Rotoiti Parade

By Alan Houghton

The weekend of 8-9th February saw a group of CYA members travel south to the Rotorua lakes area to attend the 17th Lake Rotoiti Classic and Wooden Boat festival.

After 17 years, the organizers have a very successful formula in place – Friday kicked off with a lakeside meet and greet BBQ at the Lake Falls Motor Camp. The weather on Saturday dawned wet and misty, so the main event was postponed till Sunday.

Chris Miller and I took the opportunity to explore Lake Rotoiti as guests aboard Russell Ward's steamship *SS Romany*. Despite the conditions, we both left with a smile on our face – steam rocks.

That smile was even bigger later in the day when we boarded a 5.7L V8 turbo powered replica Chris Craft *Judy H* for a dusk 75kph blast across the lake.

On Sunday, the parade commenced with a procession around the foreshore to give land-based admirers a view of the 70+ classic vessels taking part. The CYA burgee was flying proud on the day-boats, *Otira* and *Sara Hutton*. Then it was off to a picnic at Wairau Bay. As Tony Stevenson commented, 'lovely people and special boats'.



Alan Houghton Photo



Tony Stevenson Photo

Top: *SS Romany* and *Judy H* at Lake Rotoiti
Above: Boarding ladders at the Wairau Bay picnic.

AUCKLAND ANNIVERSARY REGATTA 2014

Neil Chalmers

A forecast fresh southerly and a strong flood tide meant reefed mains and small headsails for most of the classic fleet. Yachts charging down to the start line provided good viewing for the spectators on Princes Wharf and team on the committee boat. Several yachts were within a nano second of being recalled.

Frances excelled in the fresh breeze to take a well deserved line and handicap win in the B division and gave the Logans – *Spray II*, *Wairiki* the trifector.

The classic schooner *Arcturus* revelled in the conditions and took the handicap win in the A division with *Rainbow* second and *Thelma* third.

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