

THE 2014 WHANGATEAU CLASSIC DINGHY REGATTA

Serious words to the weather gods were rewarded by perfect conditions for sailing at the Whangateau Boatshed classic dinghy regatta, hosted by Pam and George, the resident boat builders and caretakers of this treasured spot.

9.30am: Sunday 5th May, on a warm and sunny morning, nautically dressed crews arrived at the boatshed to launch into the fun of scrabbling for boats, tillers, rudders and sails. Rigging was a learning process for many with lots of concerned looks of success with plenty of Kiwi makeshift ingenuity applied.

10.30am The start line along the tiny beach became festooned with wonderful classic craft and crews looking to score an advantage of headway. The boats ranged from the Whangateau Zeddys, Idle Along, Cutters and whaler, to the several imported vessels whose proud owners arrived to join in the festivities. Experienced skippers spied good sails and expertly rigged their craft with more gear than was found in the shed, including lycra pants.

11am Toot went the starter for the skipper to sprint from a Le Mans start to where their trusty crew held their craft in the shallows, prepared for the shove off and early jostling/fending to vie pole and windward position.

The usual course, that obscure stick out there, to one of those catamaran, saw Steve Horsley and Rachael Orr in the fast Idle Along Cindy lead the way

The half way mark, John Pryors beautiful classic launch Rotomahana, became a target where each boat was expected to ball into the cockpit. Marksmanship was not a highlight, but good seamanship was called for to prevent close shaves of paintwork and rigging.

The second round of the course saw the fleet spread with the usual flukey winds, and boats just not doing as they were told.

12pm: First on the beach to collect the coveted first place was the first off the beach, Steve Horsley in, and close on his wake launch skipper Shane and Rini Mann whose Zeddy did wonderfully against a two sail contender.

No involuntary swimming was seen this year, and by the broad smiles from the finishing crews all enjoyed the wonderful conditions and fun sail.



1pm: All boats on the beach and the BBQ was lit. The beach was crowded with crew and local supporters to join in the post race festivities and prize giving. Prize giving: Steve Horsley and Rachael Orr was awarded first prize of local wine.

A Waitemata Woody tee shirt was presented to the second place getter Shane by :Alan Houghton.

A superb painting painted by Steve Fleming was donated by Hugh Gladwell which was auctioned with the proceeds going to the boatshed.

The special prize for best nautical dress was awarded to a young Pirate Brady Coleman.

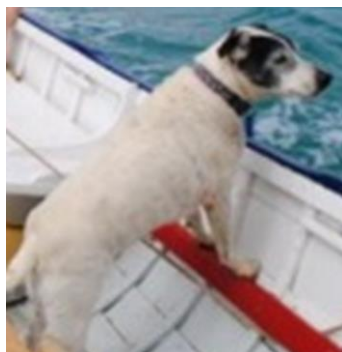
The picture of the day was an ideal setting for the majestic Laughing Lady whose recent arrival from America saw her elegantly perched on her cradle in the door of the boatshed overlooking the days activities. She proved a highlight to the people on the day who were able to view over her lines and mechanics. I wonder what Jacqui Onassis would have thought of her new home?

De-rigging and packing away of the little craft was no less fun with willing and helpful hands to finish the day nicely weary.

Photos of the day were kindly donated by Alan Houghton of Waitemata Woodys, Rae Collins and John Pryor.

A big thank you to the Wayne, the kind gentlemen who spent all afternoon on the BBQ to cook perfect steak and sausages for the sailors and guests.

And lastly, to our dear Sparky who passed away this year and whose new home was perfectly sited to watch over us all.



***"A big thank you to George and Pam for having the boatshed looking so great for us
and for lending us your boats to play on".***



The winner carefully surveying his craft



A Beautiful dory and owner Steve Hendriksen



Pirate Judy



John and John watching over the fleet



Seafarers ready to do battle



Pirate Rae a stalwart classic sailor



Cutter crew shoving off



We should have handicapped you steve



Perfectly set sails



Rather friendly pirates, I guess from the same ship



Pirateg's power



The beautiful 'Maggie, and master Alan Good"

Tropical Paradise



Just messing about in boats the perfect way



Cool calm and collected. Must be something wrong



How's this for great rigging,, but check out the muscles



Trim boys trim



Whos is on foredeck here mates





Just perfect

***"There is nothing , absolutely nothing, half so much worth doing as simply
messing about in boats."***