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Patio Bay is as good as it gets

In terms of classic boating events, it would be hard to beat the Patio Bay Race Weekend. It's the ultimate classic boating experience crammed into 24 hours.

This year, the classic yachts started their Mark Foy handicap race mid morning and crossed the finish line off Patio Bay, Waiheke Island around 4.00pm.

The yacht fleet was made up of 20 classics and 15 modern classics from the Townson fleet. Now, some of you might be thinking that the Townsons would blow the 'old gaffers' away. But, when you have a supreme handicapping team (Dan Renall and Steve Cranch esq.) and mix this with some of the best classic skippers in the world, the scene is set for some great racing.



*Photo finish – Thelma wins by the length of her bowsprit.
Below: Classic launches and yachts mingle companionably in the anchorage*

The lead changed numerous times and with less than a mile to go it was anyone's race. Several crews appeared quietly confident that it was in the bag, only to find themselves becalmed.

Enter that shrewd classic skipper, Tony Blake, at the helm of the ever slippery *Thelma*. Her crew caught a

breeze, which they managed to carry to the line, holding out the fast finishing Townson *Sunlight*. The winning margin was the length of the bowsprit on *Thelma*. That's close after 17.8nm.

The yachts were joined on the day by a dozen-plus classic motor launches which all enjoyed a grandstand view of the finish.

As has become the norm, crews spent the late afternoon rehydrating and debating the 'what ifs', before heading ashore for the CYA Xmas BBQ at Margaret and Bert Woolcott's bach.

A magic day in a magic setting with a bunch of pretty nice people – but you get that around classic wooden boats.

• Race results can be found at www.classicyacht.org.nz/sailing

By Alan Houghton

Diary Note

Jan 23-26 Mahurangi Regatta weekend

Jan 25 Launch Lunch Cruise - Warkworth

Jan 25 Kawau Boating Club Dine & Dance

Jan 26 Auckland Anniversary Day Regatta

Feb 6 Launch Cruise – Riverhead Hotel

Feb 14 – CYA Waitangi Day Picnic

Don't miss out on any CYA Events or Outings – Visit <http://classicyacht.org.nz/events>



Alan Houghton Photos

Centre-boarders brave the blustery breezes

Words & photo by
Steve Cranch

Saturday 29th November saw the Herne Bay Yacht Club hosting the 2nd annual Centreboard Cup Regatta. Race HQ was at the original Richmond Yacht Club boathouse, c1913 at Sloanes Beach Herne Bay.

Boisterous conditions greeted a hardy bunch

of mullet boat sailors, one St Ayles skiff and a small sailing dinghy all braving the thin water above Watchman Island. A strong westerly wind and incoming tide made for some exciting racing for the mullet boat fleet in rough conditions. The winner of the mullet boat race was L8 *Valeria*, with L53 *Orion* second and L10 *Tamatea* third.

It was particularly nice to see the gaff rigged L28 *Melita* and L7 *Komuri* braving the conditions and displaying some great seamanship.

Meanwhile, family and kids battled it out on the beach with a tug of war, running races and a special visit from Santa.



Melita handles the stiff breeze with aplomb

Melbourne Pilgrimage

Words & photo by
Shirley-Ann McCrystal

In late October a team of CYA NZ sailors embarked on the annual pilgrimage to Melbourne to participate in the Australian CYA Regatta. Race HQ was the Docklands complex, where 10 yachts of the fleet were moored. The regatta was held off

Williamstown, where the 'Couta' boats and 'Tumlarens' based their fleets.

The Kiwi contingent was divided between Mark Chew's beautiful 42' Phil Rhodes-designed *Fair Winds* and the remainder of the fleet.

As a curtain-raiser, NZ won the first of what should have been two warm-up Inter

Dominion races in Elliott 5.9 youth training boats, but the wind blew up to 41 knots, so the second race was abandoned. The other three days of racing were in good breezes and highly competitive.

The sailing was exciting

and as always the hospitality excellent. The Kiwis were asked to choose the best-restored yacht in the Australian fleet. After much discussion *Oenone* a beautiful 36' gaff cutter was chosen.

If you have not been, it's a must do event.

Kawau Knees Up



If you are attending the 2015 Mahurangi Regatta over Anniversary weekend, the Kawau Boating Club are reviving the dances which the Lidgard family started for yachtsmen and the locals. From 6pm on Sunday 25th, the bar will be open, there's a great bistro menu and a good band. Come and support the new Kawau Boating Club at the redecorated clubrooms, formerly the Kawau Island Yacht Club.



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