



A Great Day Out in the Country

By Alan Houghton

On March 12th, while the CYA yachties were having their first race of the season, 65 of the launch group hit the road and headed north to Whangateau for a shed visit to check on the progress of *MV Laughing Lady* at the Whangateau Traditional Boatyard.

A high tide ensured they got to see all the old girls afloat. The visit was one of those magic moments where CYA members get to visit special places. As always it was nice to meet Pam and George in the shed and share the occasion with a bunch of serious wooden boat nuts.

CYA member James Dreyer gave a brief talk on the history of *Laughing Lady* and how the restoration was coming along. Probably the best question of the day was,



Alan Houghton Photos

“Are you taking her back to the USA?”

“No, she is here to stay, the Waitemata and greater Hauraki Gulf is her new home.”

After the shed visit, everyone headed up the hill to CYA members Carolyn and Shane Anderson’s (*MV Waimiga*) stunning property for a tasting of locals wines and their own estate olive oil. A BBQ followed and then a coastal walk. There are plans to make this trip a regular on the launch calendar.

A big thank you to Pam and George from Whangateau Traditional Boats and Carolyn and Shane. And James Dreyer for letting us all crawl over *Laughing Lady*.



Main picture: The picturesque Whangateau Boatyard.

Above: Lunch with a glorious view.

Diary Note

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



The War Canoe returns better than ever

If there were an award in the Queen's Honours for saving classic wooden boats Blanche and Ian Cook would be this year's recipient for the restoration of the magnificent 67' racer *Innismara*.

In fact, they would have won it last year for their work on the motor launch, *Lady Shirley*. And they still have *Erewhon* to come.

If we wind the tape back to 2002, the Bernie Schmidt-built ex champion of the Waitemata was sitting in an old warehouse crying out for someone to love her. Fast-forward to 2011 and she was still in the same shed, but minus her lead keel



Innismara on display at the RNZYS – John Bertenshaw Photo

and looking very grim after sustaining fire damage to the forward sections.

A few of us had been following her Trade-me auction, hoping she would be saved from the chainsaw.

Things looked bleak until at the last minute a bid appeared for the sum of \$3010 from a bidder by the name of Cook Fam.

She was trucked into a shed at Yachting Developments to take her place alongside *Ranger* and *Erewhon*.

Fast-forward again to mid October and *Innismara* returned to the water. If you had viewed her in her early days, you would have to agree she truly is better than the day she was first splashed. Once again the

Cooks and the team at YDL have saved one of our iconic classics.

Owning one of New Zealand's best classic yachts, the 60-ft *Ranger*, is a wonderful thing. Owning two, *Ranger* and *Innismara*, is almost un-manageable. The question around the docks is, who will sail what?

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Perfect Conditions for the start of the Racing Season

By Daniel Renall

October 12th kicked off the classic race season with a record 14 yachts turning out for perfect sailing conditions.

A short in-harbour course created a spectacle with A and B division yachts decorating the Waitemata to the east and west of the bridge.

Celebrations were in order as *Kotuku* made a return to the fleet following a restoration by the Tino Rawa Trust and skipper James Mortimer.

To top things off, the newly re-launched *Innismara* was on display at the RNZYS; can't wait to see her racing.

A Division:

- 1st - Rainbow
- 2nd - Waitangi
- 3rd - Katrina

B Division:

- 1st - Frances
- 2nd - Jonquil
- 3rd - Gleam

• The classic fleet will re-assemble on November 1st for the Northcote Birkenhead Yacht Club regatta and the grand opening of the club's new facilities at Birkenhead wharf. Put it in your diary.



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