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WOOLLACOTT ASSOCIATION PRESS RELEASE

WOOLLACOTT ASSOCIATION FORMED

A new owners' association has been formed to cater for the owners and enthusiasts of Woollacott designed boats. This new association will be closely affiliated with the Devonport Yacht Club, which has traditionally been the home for Woollacott designed boats.

There have been many hundreds of traditionally constructed wooden yachts and launches built to the designs of master craftsman Bert Woollacott and his son John since Bert Woollacott took up residence in Devonport in the 1920's. In 1950 Bert Woollacott designed and built the veteran ketch *Ladybird* which won the inaugural 1952 Hobart to Auckland 1570 mile Trans Tasman classic skippered by Bert's son John. *Ladybird* won this race and sailed into New Zealand yachting history with its all Devonport crew to become the first New Zealand yacht to win an international ocean race. It was also the Bert Woollacott designed ketch *Marco Polo* which became the first New Zealand built, owned, and crewed yacht to sail round the world in the early fifties.

With the rejuvenation of interest in classic yachts in recent years there has been much discussion amongst a number of Woollacott owners on how best to preserve the interest of boats designed by this inspirational Devonport boating family. The end result now is the formation of a Woollacott Association within the auspices of the Devonport Yacht Club.

All owners and friends of Woollacott designed boats and other interested parties are therefore encouraged to log into the association's new website www.woollacott.org.nz to download a membership form and to learn of developments planned to stimulate continuing interest to preserve these wonderful proven sea kindly yachts and launches.