



WOOLLACOTT ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Newsletter: Issue 4 December 2009

Welcome to the fourth Newsletter of the Woollacott Association.

Numbers joining the Association have been steady which is very encouraging, along with steady hits on our website. We do encourage you to contact other Woollacott owners and tell them about our great website (www.woollacott.org.nz) and have them sign up to the Association, after all this is history in the making! We'd also like to encourage you to be involved and send you thoughts and ideas to us.

Please see the up coming events and mark these dates on your calendars, we have selected just a few where we would like to get as many Woollacotts on the water as possible, the picnic at Narrow neck will be a fun day and is not far for most people to sail to (or drive to). The DYC Duder regatta is a great event with a special division just for Woollacott yachts. The main event we would like to target is the get together on 12 March at DYC for a meal before heading out to Woody bay for the weekend, I would encourage you to race with the DYC B Division to Woody Bay.

Truant's 50th Birthday celebrations are to be held on 19 December at 1000hrs with the launching of Truant at DYC, quite an event is being prepared with speeches and the breaking of a champagne bottle, we look forward to seeing you all there.

The steering committee have continued to work on a number of items, the first being the House Flag which has caused quite a debate, agreement is close. The second being the membership cards which will be issued after payment of next year's fee. The website is still strongly supported and as information is received it will be posted.

Mike Strong - Woollacott Chairperson

JANACE ANNE



Janace Anne

Terry was asked just the other day to make a contribution about Janace Anne for the latest Woollacott Association Newsletter. He happily agreed and then quickly suggested that I should do it instead because he didn't think he would be very good at that sort of thing.

So here I am wondering how to go about this when I'm actually quite a novice when it comes to yachts. I'm still learning how to sail and I struggle to use the correct terminology and until Janace Anne came along there has literally been gaps of years between boating trips for me.

What I do know is that there is something about Janace Anne that has mesmerised us both. She has given us the opportunity to realise a long held dream. The effect she had on us started the day that we first saw her and as her beauty unfolds it has become real and tangible.

We bought her in the winter of 2007. Terry and I had stopped to admire Ebb Tide during the winter haul out in Devonport, Auckland. Janace Anne was up alongside her looking a bit tired and worn but we still thought she looked pretty good. Not long after that Terry was driving by and spotted a very small reluctant looking "For Sale" sign in front of her and rang the owner, Malcolm Dickens, straight away.

I'd completely forgotten about her by then but when Terry rang and said "I'm picking you up, there's something I want to show you." I knew something very

exciting was up. After he showed me I just couldn't refuse being part of such a great opportunity. The transaction was made and we became the proud new owners of a 1956, 28ft Woollacott Ghost by the name of Janace Anne.

And then the work began.

We didn't have a lot of spare money to put into her but we had something equally important. That was Terry's carpentry skills, enthusiasm and a really solid, and sometimes known to be relentless, work ethic. I knew early on that if I wanted to see my husband at all in the weekends I was going to have to embrace this project and join in to the best of my ability as well.

That winter we cleared out a fair few years of memorabilia and gave her a good sand down and repaint inside and out. Basically we tidied her up as best we could and put her back on the mooring. The engine needed an overhaul, the sails were pretty tired but a perfect job was not an option at that stage.

Terry remembers well Jeff Cook saying to him "Do what you can and then get her out and sail her. You can do the work as you go but keep her in the water" He always thinks that was the best advice he had. Well we didn't do a lot of sailing that first year but we did get her back in the water.

There followed a lot of sloppy times out on her mooring of 50 odd years with Terry carrying on with whatever work he could do. We were really pleased the following winter when we finally got Bill from Bayswater Marine out to help overhaul the motor. It was especially great to have some on deck engine controls fitted to replace the previous string system which was a bit tricky to manage. During that first year we also recovered all the squabs which were well needed and made a huge difference to the comfort levels and aesthetics below the decks. We had a bit of a problem with the old propeller which resulted in hauling Janace Anne out in December 2008 for some repairs. That inevitably led on to more maintenance whilst she was there. We managed to get the old propeller working again but a new one was ordered to fit at the next haul out.

For Christmas of 2008 we commissioned Lidgard Sails to make a wonderful new main and head sail and with Janace Anne all clean and bright we ventured out for some well earned sailing. We were confident that all the work we had done on her would encourage her to carry us through the remainder of the summer safely. We enjoyed exploring the beautiful islands and bays out in the Gulf and getting to know her a bit better.

From early on Terry had been very keen to clean her right back to bare boards below the water line. This was so he could inspect the hull for any areas that might need attention. He could tell by the many layers of paint that this had not been done for years and was a bit concerned at what this might be hiding.

During this last winter of 2009 he set about doing this and was really pleased to find that she was incredibly sound and seaworthy. We completely repainted the outside of her and finished off the areas inside that were left out the previous year. We were able to attend to all the issues that had concerned us including cleaning down and repairing the rudder, with help from Don Anstiss, and fitting the new three bladed propeller. We have also just finished having her completely rewired by Leo Fowler which feels like a real luxury. A new bilge

pump has been installed and we have replaced the old halyards. The last thing on the list for this haul out is to fit a new mast head light before we slip her back into the water.

We feel that Janace Anne is a testimony to the boat building skills of Alan Williams and the design talent of Bert Woollacott. We have just had her resurveyed for insurance purposes and the surveyor described the workmanship on her as being of the highest quality. He also described the original kauri timber used for the hull and deck as being nearly the best available for longevity.

One of the greatest things to come out of this project is the community spirit and friendship of all those people who work away over the winter months at the Devonport Yacht Club. The encouragement, advice and helpfulness have been really appreciated. This extends to the many people that pass by and stop to admire the boats. They really do add to the unique quality of the place.

There is still a long list of future projects including a new galley, overhauling the cockpit, fitting life lines and maybe a dodger. And of course some additional new sails would be a great asset as well. The list goes on....

But those things can wait for another haul out because we're both really looking forward to simply enjoying ourselves out on the water this summer, exploring new places and most of all getting a little closer to Janace Anne.

As an end note here is a poem from the man who doesn't think he can write...

The midnight wind
searches for the eastern dawn

For days and nights
the west wind has carried all before her
Squalls and whirlpools abound

Salt spray gathers in thousands
turning vision inwards

Trust the map of the heart
and the midnight moon
to find dawns horizon

A quietness does exist
within the sun's rays
on their journey west.

by Terry Willmer

I went down to the boat last evening and saw this written in pencil on the hull below the water line. Beautiful words that will dissolve into the ocean.

Natalie Willmer - December 2009



Janace Anne on the move for relaunch



As good at the day she was built

NOTICES:

Up Coming Events:

Saturday 19th December: 1000hrs for Truant's 50th birthday launch at DYC

Friday 29th January: Mahurangi Night Race

Friday 12th to Sunday 14th: February: Classic Yacht Regatta

Sunday 21st February: Picnic with Wakatere Boating Club and Devonport Yacht Club at Narrow Neck Beach

Saturday 27th February: Devonport Duder Cup Regatta (Division 4)

Friday 12th March: Woollacott Association get together over Dinner at DYC, please let me know if you are able to attend by Wed 10th March so that a booking can be made for the top deck.

Saturday 13th March: Woollacott get together at Woody Bay (DYC also has a race that starts at 1000hrs to the same location which I would encourage you to join)

For Sale:

Trade me listing: <http://www.trademe.co.nz/Trade-Me-Motors/Boats-marine/Yachts-sail-boats/Moored-boats/auction-253287482.htm>

Woollacott Classic "Ingrid" \$59,000 ono

26ft "Nada" design built in 1956. Excellent and safe cruiser. This is a big 26footer which could even suit as a live aboard. Has a big double berth up forward.

These boats were originally conceived for offshore cruising.

Major professional rebuild in 2006, consisting of a complete new interior from bow to stern in Macrocampa and with Mahogany trim.

New bowsprit and samson post as well as companionway hatch and all other exterior trim. Extended cockpit in teak with seat lockers.

New paint and varnish.

Some details:

- Sails: Main, No1 and No2 Genoa, Stay sail and Yankee. Inner forestay is detachable for big genoas.
- New electrical system with 20watt solar panel, house and starter battery.
- Speedo and depth sounder combination instrument.
- Separate gas locker.
- Anchor locker with 30 m of chain and 27pound CQR anchor.
- Toilet with holding tank.
- 2 main settees with lockers behind.
- Galley: new 2 burner stove with grill, 80l inbuilt fridge, opposite sink with work platform/chart table.
- 180l stainless water tank.
- Currently Ford diesel, which will be replaced by Bukh 10 hp Marine diesel.
- Three bladed variable pitch Max propeller.
- Fibre glass dinghy.

The boat is currently in my shed for the engine exchange to the 10hp Bukh Marine diesel and a repaint of the topsides and revarnish of all trim and hatches. You could save yourself between \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00, depending on how much of the above work you would like to do yourself.

Call or e-mail me to arrange viewing the boat.

Regards

Herbert Krumm-Gartner
Classic Boats Ltd.
0274784490
09 4122053

Ingrid on Hard Stand



salpeter (153) ✳



salpeter (153) ✳

Top Right: fine craftsmanship of the cabin

Bottom Right: Ingrid under sail



salpeter (153) ✳

FEATURE BOAT: Truant

Designer: John Woollacott

Design: Truant

Dimensions:

28' LOA

24' 4" LWL

8'7" Beam

4'4" Draft

4.45 tons

Launched c1959

Painted white



TRUANT'S JUBILEE

On December 19, 2009 a special relaunching of the 28foot Woollacott sloop Truant will take place at the Devonport Yacht Club to mark the yacht's 50th Jubilee.

Truant was designed and built by Bert Woollacott's son John in 1959 and launched by John's youngest daughter Gail just prior to Christmas that year at the Devonport Yacht Club. The yacht was built in the open under canvas covers on John Woollacott family's front lawn in Wairoa Rd in Devonport. Truant is built of single skin construction on permanent frames and steamed timbers and planked in North American Oregon pine. Following her launching I used to crew on Truant for John on a number of long distance blue water races including three Whangarei-Moko Hinau Islands -Poor Knights races and a number of other local blue water classics. On one Whangarei race we got a real pasting racing in an easterly gale and being one of only three yachts out of a fleet of eighteen which were able to complete the course. On another occasion, I sailed with the family one Christmas holidays up north as far as Doubtless Bay and return. After taking over the yacht in 1967 I owned her for the next thirty one years and raced and cruised in her extensively covering many thousands of incident-free nautical miles. I have kept a log book of all my sailing experiences in Truant including a record of all the crews who have sailed with me over the years. My sailing highlights in this fine little sea boat include a five month voyage around New Zealand in the summer of 1972/73 and racing in the first Two Man Round the North Island Race in 1977 in which Truant won the Borough of Devonport Trophy for the first Devonport yacht on handicap. The voyage to Stewart Island

and back up New Zealand's west coasts was a real adventure and was to prove the yacht's sea keeping abilities under some pretty atrocious weather conditions encountered in southern latitudes. In those days navigation had to be by traditional means, sextant and chronometer and where radio coverage was not what it is to-day. I have done quite a bit of offshore sailing in my life but this particular voyage will always remain the highlight of my fifty two years of yacht ownership.

I treasure the memories of all my voyages and of all those who have sailed with me in Truant. Truant has always been a happy ship; has never let me down and believe me we have sailed in some really tough situations. She has also taught a number of young men a lot about seamanship many who have gone on to make their mark in the sailing world.

In order to take over Ladybird in 1997 I reluctantly had to part with my beloved yacht and sold her to an old friend of mine, Mike Sweeney who used to crew with me as a teenager. Mike eventually sold Truant to Mike and Natasha Strong who later came into partnership with me in Ladybird and sold Truant to her current owners of Bill Rimmer and Steve Hinton partnership.

Martin Foster

Bill and Steve

Would like to invite you to the

50th Birthday Re-Launching of

Truant

At

The Devonport Yacht Club

Saturday, 19 December 2009, 10.00 am





Truant



Please send your stories and feedback to Mike Strong (mikes@hvpower.co.nz)