

BREEZE

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Looking resplendant after a total rebuild, the famous One Tonner Rainbow II in practice before the regatta

ONE TON REVISITED

By Alan Sefton

SIX entries, including two One Ton Cup winners, will compete in the One Ton Revisited Regatta in early March. The regatta is a salute to the yachts that helped launch New Zealand's international yacht racing reputation, particularly Chris Bouzaid's famous Rainbow II.

Rainbow II went back into the waters of the Waitemata Harbour on February 2 this year, nearly 45 years since she was lifted aboard a freighter bound from Auckland to Germany where she would challenge for yachting's One Ton Cup off Heligoland.

There, against the might of the world's sailing powers, the little white Kiwi one-tonner clinched victory on 20 July, 1969 – the same day that Apollo 11 landed on the moon. In winning the prestigious trophy, the 36ft S&S design, built by Max Carter ignited a rocket of her own, launching New Zealand into a blitz on every major

offshore racing event in the world until New Zealanders ruled ocean racing – on and off the water.

To help pay the bills, Bouzaid sold *Rainbow II* to Bermuda immediately following her Heligoland success. He then went on to win a second One Ton Cup in *Wai Aniwa* (also competing in One Ton Revisited) in Sydney in 1972.

Some 40 years later, visiting Bermuda on business, he found in sad disrepair the yacht that he freely admits changed his life forever.

Bouzaid didn't hesitate. He contacted Auckland sailing mates John Street and Peter Cornes and, with help from Bill Speedy, of Oceanbridge Shipping Ltd, brought *Rainbow II* home and donated her to Street's Classic Yacht Charitable Trust.

Rainbow went into the Silverdale yard of Wayne Olsen's Horizon Boats where she was taken back to bare timber and structurally refurbished.

She was then brought south to the famous old yard of Percy Vos, in Auckland's Wynyard Quarter, where the final parts of her restoration were completed by a team of volunteers from the Classic Yacht Trust and Bouzaid's former crews.

The One Ton Revisited Regatta sees the eight entries scheduled to compete in a five-race series comprising a race to Te Kouma, two 20-mile Olympic Courses, followed by a 35- and a 25-mile Gulf race from 28 February to 7 March.

The fleet will be berthed in the Viaduct Harbour as part of the attractions surrounding the Auckland stopover of the Volvo Ocean Race.

On-shore events included a gala dinner and film evening at the RNZYS, including historic footage of the 1969 and 1971 One Ton Cups. Guests were also treated to a sneak preview of a new TV series that reveals the America's Cup as it has never been seen before.

ONE TON REVISITED ENTRIES:

Pacific Sundance, owned by B Hyde, Farr design, built by Cookson in 1983.

Rainbow II, owned by C Bouzaid, S&S design, built by Max Carter in 1966.

Result, owned by B Hill, Lidgard design, built by Lidgards in 1977.

Revolution, owned by A Wallis & M Cossey, Farr design, built by Land in 1984.

Wai Aniwa, owned by R Foley, Carter design, built by Steel Yachts & Launches in 1970.

Impact, owned by K Kelly, Lidgard design, built by Roper in 1974.



Wellington-based Cup winner Wai Aniwa – Photos this page and opposite by Ivor Wilkins

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20-22 March
2015

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