
The Creation of the Slipway

The History of the Bay of Islands Yacht
Club- part 2

The Paihia Yacht Club...

On October 22, 1949 at the home of Mr C Banton the first meeting of the Paihia Yacht Club took place.

Present were Mr and Mrs Banton (but it is noted that Mrs Banton's roll would have likely been to serve refreshments) P. Williams, A.Morse, Harry Banton, E. Carter and C. Spanhake.

At this first meeting, as well as other topics regarding the structure of the Yacht Club, a discussion was had on a boat hauling out area in the corner of the middle bay, Horotutu Beach.



It is understood that the first club most likely operated out of the Joyce's whale shed in Paihia. This is located in the Northern corner of the middle Bay, Horotutu Beach.



Figure 7 Joyce's boatshed, March 2007. (L. Alexander)

**22nd May 1950 a
proposal was made to
change the name to
“Paihia Yachting and
Boating Club”**



Constitution...

At this same meeting a proposed constitution was discussed-

“The objects of the Club shall be the encouragement of yachting and boating generally and with other purposes connected with the Club as members shall deem necessary”

Apart from minor edits these are still the words you will see today in the BOIYC Constitution.

First haul out area

10th June 1950 a letter was received from the County Council authorising the use of the site on the Northern end of Horotutu Beach as a haul out area for pleasure craft. This included winch and portable rails. Parking Bays to be established and charged at one pound per annum and that a sign was to be erected “Paihia Yachting and Boating Club Haul Out Area.”

Memories

It was recalled by Harry Hudson how for years “the yachts sat on the third beach with everything on board, and nothing ever went missing”.

The middle beach was used for haul outs from 1950-1955.

Point of interest

There is an interesting letter written by Glenn and Sharon Tobin in Peggy's book.

It recalls how Glenn and a Routly boy, who were members of the Paihia Yacht and Motor Boat Club, used to store their yacht near the beach opposite the stone Church in Paihia and how....

“In ‘51 or ‘52 two well dressed gentlemen spoke to us. They said they were 2nd World War Veterans. If we changed our name to Bay of Islands Yacht Club there was 25 pound in the bank and also land at Waitangi for us. Us boys went home and told our respective parents. They got legal advice on the subject. That was the beginning of Bay of Islands Yacht Club at Waitangi.”

Meetings

24th February 1952 a Special General Meeting was held to discuss a future site for the Club at Waitangi. The meeting adjourned to Waitangi to inspect jetties and surrounding ground. It was resolved to interview the Waitangi Board to find out what land was available.

April 1952 discussions on the Terms of a Lease was held with the Waitangi Trust.

— Unclear...

It has been difficult to determine exactly when the BOIYC's Slipway was built and completed? There are suggestions that the Slipway was here before the first lease with the WNT?

Things that we can confirm is the Slipway was built by yacht club volunteers.

These early members not only provided the labour but also donated funds towards the costs to build the Slipway.

In recognition of these contributions, a Life membership and two free slips per year were given to these members.

Memories

Harry Hudson's memories of the building of the Slipway from the 1950's include the challenges of working with concrete and the ocean.

"Because we had to start at low tide the concrete had to set quickly, so we used a quick set product. It was liquid to add to the water. We either forgot to read the instructions or didn't have any.

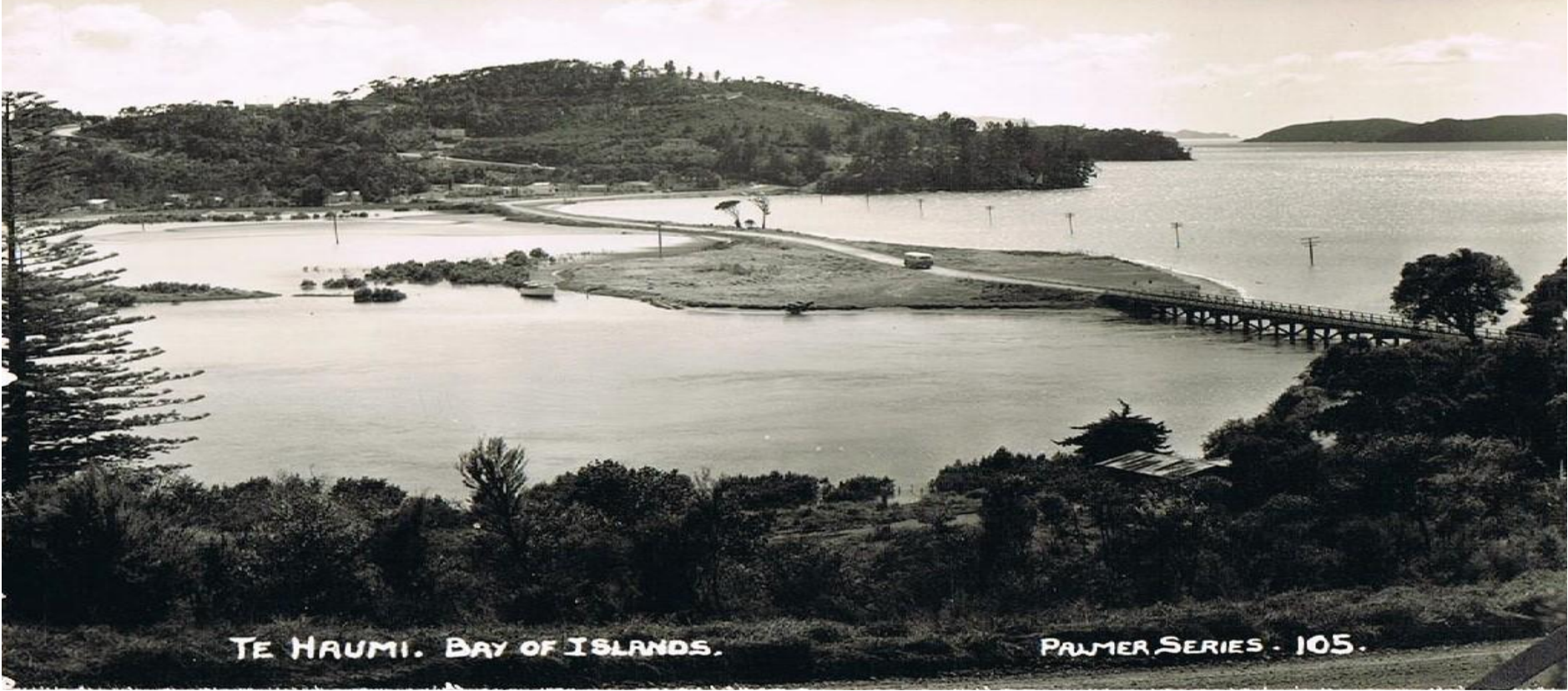
"The first lot set in the mixer so the rest of that day was spent with hammers and cold chisels breaking the stuff out of the mixer. From what I can remember, the Slipway was completed without further mishaps"



Labour force

The demographic of the club in the 1950's and 60's appears to have included a healthy proportion of young adults. Many of these members were from Kaikohe and the surrounding area.

In conversations with some of these members it appears that a group of young men spent their weekends away in the Bay of Islands camping at that yacht club or an alternative bunking arrangement and spending their time building not only the Slipway but eventually the Club house.



It is understood that many of the original members of the Yacht Club from Kaikohe came to Paihia because this is where their family Bachs were located.

The slipway has played an important part in the activities of the Yacht Club, in that it gave owners a place to slip their boats and maintain them, as well as providing income for the Club.



Winch

The first winch was sourced from Russell. It was an old heavy winch, which was set up at the top of the slipway. It took four men to operate it.

“Eventually a Ford 10 motor was sourced and we changed the winch to accommodate the motor. It was then decided to build a winch shed closer to the water at right angles to the slip”.

Memories from Howard Dixon 50's and 60's

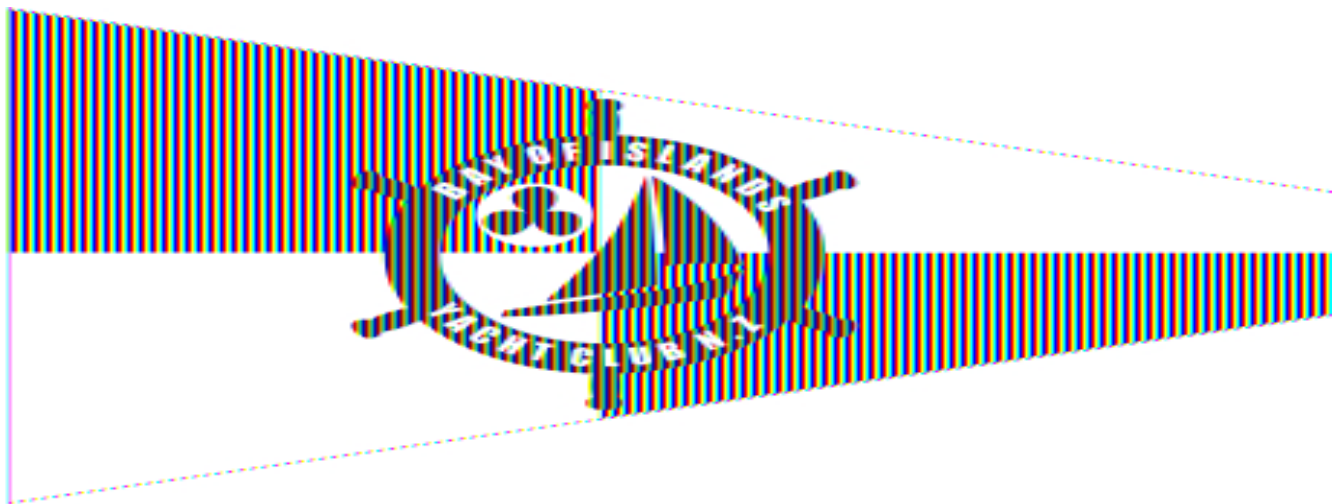
“Going with the men in Dad’s truck to haul an old Farmall 12 tractor out of the Bamboo to get the motor to use on the winch. When this motor gave trouble, we got the engine out of our old Farmall and took it down to the Club”.

“Remembering the old hardwood trolley with big spoked wheels”.

“Going around a boatyard in Auckland with my dad where we saw a cradle with arms sticking straight up. All our cradles had always been V-shaped. Dad came home, found some small solid railway wheels and made the bogies. Then we milled some Blue Gum and built the first adjustable cradles”

“Before the tractor at the Club, timber jacks were used to move the boats around, it’s amazing a sphere never went through the hull!”

June 1958 -
proposal to
change the
name for a
third an
hopefully final
time to “Bay of
Islands Yacht
Club Inc”.



*Bay of Islands
Yacht Club*



Launching of boats on the Slipway was often a family event.

An possibly a stressful time. This next series of photos sums thing up nicely.





**Right side of
the photo
gives a view
of the first
clubhouse on
the property.**

**This is now
the location
of our boat
shed.**





—
There is
always cause
for
celebration
once a boat
is back in the
water.







Graeme Dixon completed the mechanization of the Slipway winch. This will save hours of toil and sweat. The Slipway can take boats with drafts up to seven feet and can be extended.

In 1962 a shed was removed from the “Falls” to Waitangi and rebuilt as a Winch shed. The shed was fitted out with spare tools, spades, and other things that had been left lying about, and made for a more tidier look.

1974 a proposal to extent the Winch shed was made to house the pick up boat.

1976 a Lease was approved regarding a Grid at Waitangi

1985 the Winch shed was extended with storage racks to accommodate the small boats. A working Bee was held after permission was granted by the WNT June 1988 to complete the shed ready to take the centre boarders.

1993 the Slipway was extended and it was agreed to make a special entry into the minutes to acknowledge the good work that was done on this project.

—

The first tractor used on the Slipway came from Kaikohe. This was not replaced until Grunt arrived.



The Arrival of “**Grunt**” the tractor
2008



It has been noted that if you wanted to serve on the Slipway, you served an apprenticeship under Graeme Dixon and Tom McIntosh, so Graham Velder says.



Keith and Graham getting the slip way cleaned of stones etc ready to slip another boat . Moorings shown in back ground

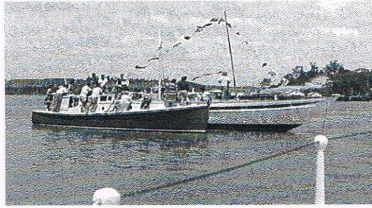
His wife, Peggy, can still remember Graham coming home quite pleased with himself at being allowed to handle the tractor.

“He felt like he had made it when he was actually allowed to drive the tractor”

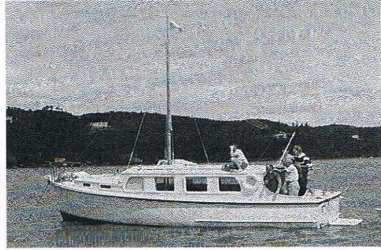
Some Members' Pride and Joy



Doug Gallagher "**Milady**"



Launching of "**Arita**" at Deeming boat yard Opua



M V Wilson "**Haumana**"



Syd Penney "**Maibe**"



Jim Penney Family "**Velencia**"



D G Dixon ,G Valder "**Golindrina**"



Keith Edwards "**North Star**"



N Puddle "**Cherokee**"

Slipway Life Membership 1955/56

E. Allen

Eric Baker

Colonel Browne

Graham Dixon

Archie Edwards

Laurie Goodhue

Jim Penny

H. Slyfied

J. Stenbeck

P. Williams

Memories from Newsletters regarding the Slipway

1961- Members will realise that a sterling job has been done on the slipway this year by Graeme Dixon and Ted Homewood. These chaps have done a welter of work for the Club and deserve great praise for the manner in which they have carried out their self-imposed duties. Members will know that this winter the “Owaka” reputed to be 20 tons was slipped on the Club’s slipway and many people are now awakened to the excellent facilities we have in this direction.

1969- The winch shed is now completed and is a great asset. Once again it has become necessary to remind owners of the importance of having a suitable cradle for their boats. Already this season we have had two cradles collapse, fortunately the boats were not damaged and no bodies were hurt.....

The era of the 1960's and 70's was an important time in the history of the Club, with the granting of a lease from Waitangi National Trust Board, at Ti Point, entrance to the Waitangi River. One of the criteria for the lease was that a Slipway and Haulout be established. Dick, along with others were instrumental in completing the project.

The others being Bank boys from Kaikohe, and an assortment of Trade Apprentices, Shop Assistants, Farmers, Transport Operators and School Teachers, all with a common interest in the sea and their boats.

The working bees for the Slipway and after the Clubhouse were legendary. With the days work done it was over to the Duke in Russell for the 6 o'clock swill and on a special night a couple of extra hours in the House Bar.

By David Hope-Lewis

In 2003 David Hope Lewis published these words in the a Club Newsletter...

The Slipway operation is a major player in the viability of the Bay of Islands Yacht Club, in that you need to be a member to use the facilities.

Our initial lease with WNT in 1952 was granted on a slipway being built.

In due course the Slipway was built with voluntary labour and run by the same voluntary labour.

David noted that 52 years later the Slipway hands receive little or no reward for their leisure time donated for the benefit of the Club. I believe this is still the case 17 years after David wrote this.

I would personally like to Thank the volunteer members who manage the Slipway and the calm demeanor they have during a stressful process.

—

Thank you...
