

## HISTORY HIT



## Boats at Balaena Bay

HERE is Balaena Bay, with Rose-neath in the background, photographed just before the First World War. By then yachting had become a popular Wellington pastime, and the bay was one of the few places around the harbour where boats could be slipped. It was a boat building centre too. At the time of this photograph the boatbuilding business in the shed on the right was run by James Bringins. Other notable boat builders who worked there included Ted Bailey and Joe Jukes.

Balaena Bay continued to be a hang-out for local boaties until the 1950s. By then, though, Roseneath residents wanted the beach for swimming. Sand was laid over the stones, and the boats were slowly

moved away.

Most of the classic wooden yachts from the time of this photograph have long gone. One of the best, though, will soon be seen again. The little 22-foot sloop *Lizzie* was built by Bailey at Balaena Bay in 1909. Several years ago she was a derelict wreck in Auckland. Now you can see her on the Clyde Quay slipway (between the Port Nicholson Yacht Club and the Freyberg Pool), being lovingly restored by enthusiasts of the Wellington Classic Yacht Trust. She will be a fine sight on the harbour next summer.

(Photographer: Sydney Charles Smith, 1/1-019613-G, Alexander Turnbull Library)

Each fortnight David Colquhoun introduces a Wellington picture from the Alexander Turnbull Library.

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