



Lizzie's Story:

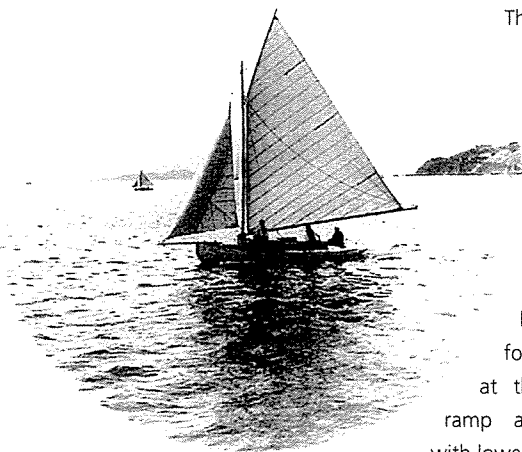
Those passing by the Oriental Bay Boat Harbour's slipway can observe the small keel yacht *Lizzie* being extensively overhauled. There are many points of interest represented. The yacht is over one hundred years old. She was built by E Bailey in 1909 at his boat yard in Balaena Bay. Bailey of the well known Auckland family of boat builders, moved his building operation in 1912 to a sight within a few meters of where *Lizzie* is now resting. We cannot identify the actual place, as the buildings are relatively recent.

The now Academy building was the member-built original clubhouse of the RPNYC.

The buildings immediately adjacent to the slipway were constructed for the US Marines in the mid 40's. There was another storey covering both of these buildings and spanning the slipway. The lowered area where the slipway is now was also constructed for the Marines. They beached their landing barges here, rather brutally, for servicing. There was a steel roller at the lower edge of the concrete ramp and the roller made it easier with lower tides.

Lizzie can best be described from this extract from the NZ Yachtsman November 1912.

Kindly provided by Harold Kidd, '*Lizzie, the Champion of the Second Class of the Port Nicholson Yacht Club which is shown on our cover was designed and built by Mr. E. Bailey of Wellington, to the order of Mr. Charles. J. Ward, being launched in February 1909. Her first race was a challenge race with the third class champion Taipare which Lizzie won owing to her superior qualities working to*



windward, although only with her cruising rig. Her crew consisted of E. Bailey, skipper, G. Taylor and the owner and his son. Since then she has been sailed in most of her races by Mr. C. F. Ward jnr., and although always on scratch, out of 21 races the Lizzie has finished 1st in eleven races, 2nd in seven races, 3rd in two races and 4th in one winning 9 first prizes, 6 seconds, 3 thirds and 3 times unplaced. Last year she annexed the Port Nicholson Yacht Club Points Championship with 99 points out of a possible 105. Her measurements are 22 feet overall, 19 feet on the water line, seven feet – six inches beam, draught four feet, with 17cwt of lead on her keel and 3cwt inside.'

The Taipare mentioned earlier was designed by John Moffat (see our Moffat Cup) and amateur-built in Home Street off Kent Terrace. Taipare was the first of the (almost) modern spoon bow yachts built in Wellington and was considered quite a success when new.

Lizzie represents a hull form that is still current. Her concept shows a remarkable understanding of what makes a good sailing yacht. Her shape is not far short of the contemporary yacht, some 80-100 years younger. Vastly different from those being built only 5-10 years before her. That is wetted service reduced, firm, powerful turn of the bilge, a pleasing entrance with almost maximum water line length and a keel approaching the fin with the ballast low and slightly bulged to further lower her centre of gravity.




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