



**Log of S/V *High Drama*
No.13 Aotearoa: New Zealand
Land of the Long White Cloud
June 2002**

G'day, mates! Kia Ora!

Welcome back to the sailing vessel *High Drama*. We are preparing to head to Fiji, at last. Re-fitting *High Drama* has been a long and arduous process. We will miss the down under land of quaint things that differ from our customs: The light switches go down to turn on, the drivers sit on the right side of the car and drive on the left side of the road. The "pokey" is a gambling machine in a bar, and "Good as Gold" is the word of the day. When things are great, they are "Ticketty-Boo!"

As always, we enjoy hearing from you. Please write to us at: KD7GWH@winlink.org or WCX7992@sailmail.com that we can receive by radio, even at sea.

PLEASE DO NOT write to us at HighDrama@xtra.co.nz! We no longer have that email address!

Egg on my face!

In the last rendition of the Log, this author praised the Maori Television Network for hiring a well-qualified director over the objections of militant Maoris who believed that the director should

have some Maori blood. John Davy, the man who was hired claimed to have a master's degree from Denver State University, a popular Internet diploma mill that sounds quite close to the legitimate University of Denver where my brother Tom attended school. Mr. Davy also claimed an affiliation with the British Columbia Securities Commission, but that organization never heard of him. Then he claimed that he had been hired by the Commission "secret and confidential" assignment. The local newspaper roasted Davy and the headhunting firm that failed to screen his credentials. John Davy is now serving an eight-month prison sentence for committing fraud on his resume. Some Kiwis think that he has bled them enough by spending an \$80,000 salary advance that he cannot repay and that he should be immediately deported and not remain a guest of New Zealand any longer, even in jail.

Morrison's Visit

Instead of a boat ride on *High Drama*, Mike and Stacy Morrison got a hike in Shakespear Park. Ann and Mike are pictured below.



We visited a World War II observation pillbox in the hills of Shakespear Park. It seemed like a cell.



We visited a tourist farm and saw the sheep. Stacy and Mike each wrestled with a ewe before sheering it. Watching the dogs work the sheep was a treat. Sorry, no pictures. Notice that the raincoat is the uniform of the day.



Wrestling with sheep proved to be easier than it looked!



Statistics published in preparation for New Zealand's effort to comply with the Kyoto Accords stated that sheep and cattle accounted for 44 per cent of New Zealand's methane (greenhouse) gas in the atmosphere. We were surprised to learn that sheep and cattle emit methane when they chew their cud. We had suspected a by-product from the other end.

Etchell Class Racing

We spent a day on the water watching the New Zealand Etchells' Championship. The night before we saw the races we spoke with one of the crew on a boat. Rob, a Kiwi in his mid-20s explained how fortunate he was to race against Dennis Connor and John Bertram, the Aussie who beat Connor for the America's Cup in 1983. The Etchells class consists of 30-foot yachts with very light rigging and a comparatively large sail plan. Amazingly, the only instrument permitted is a compass. The true skill of the sailors comes through. It also amazed us that Dennis Connor raced in this small class when he had options on bigger boats. But the lack of instruments seems to be quite a draw for hard-core racers. After winning the North American Etchells' Championship a few months ago, Connor beat a field of 50 Kiwis and Aussies here a month ago to win the New Zealand Championship.



Jockeying for position.



Tossing lunch to our team.

We asked Rob whether with 50 yachts all attempting to find the favored end of the starting line there were ever any collisions. He said, "No, every one pretty much knows the rules of the road."



Some questions should remain un-asked.

Splashdown Party

When it appeared that *High Drama* would return to the water we organized a splashdown party for all the folks who worked on her. The party was held in the paint shed on a Friday afternoon and the event was well attended. Of course, a few visiting yachties came too.



Dave, a paint “shooter” and his partner Luzette cooking “bangers on the barby”



Joe a painter and Keith the electrician



Penny and Geoff, project manager, and Carl, paint shop manager



Ann and Paul celebrating.



Carla (*Jubilaem*) and Alistair

The Prime Minister Sends Her Thanks to *High Drama*

Although Prime Minister Helen Clark had prior schedule commitments at the time of our splashdown party, she made a public announcement and sent a Certificate of Thanks to *High Drama* for major contributions to the New Zealand marine economy.



"I wish to extend New Zealand's heartfelt thanks to the yanks on **High Drama** for their contribution to the marine economy."

Helen Clark, June 17, 2002

The Shakedown Cruise

After the Splashdown party we headed out 40 miles into the Hauraki Gulf to Great Barrier Island for a shakedown cruise. We sought to give the boat a test before heading off to Fiji. We found a lovely anchorage in Smokehouse Bay inside a fiord-like enclosed bay called Port Fitzroy.



High Drama at anchor



Neighbors in Smokehouse Bay



Reunion with *Talisman*

One morning while we were at anchor in Smokehouse Bay our good friends Peter and Gina on *Talisman* sailed right up next to us. We first met them in Panama and had not seen them since Tonga. We spent two days getting caught up. While we accomplished a re-fit they had sailed down to South Island, a challenge that most cruisers don't accept!



Talisman



Peter and Gina



Sunset on a grey day

New Friends *Jubilaem* and *Make Time*



Jubilaem, a 78 foot Don Brooke motorsailer after re-fit



Jim feeding ducks



Jim the night *Jubilaenum* left for Australia



Carla (*Jubilaenum*) and Ann.
Notice that it getting colder in Kiwi land!

Make Time

Make Time moored across the dock from us at Gulf Harbour Marina. Geoff served as project manager for ***High Drama's*** re-fit. Geoff had served as captain on several large yachts and proved an invaluable manager for us. We never would have completed our re-fit in one season had it not been for Geoff's efforts. Penny also made a significant contribution and helped by varnishing and removing hardware in preparation for painting. Haley and Astral provided much needed comic relief.



Geoff & Penny and daughters Astral & Haley

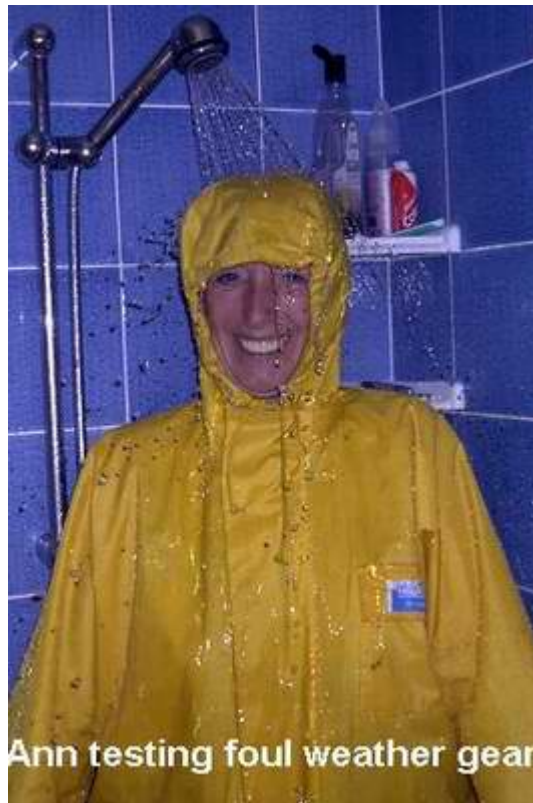
Miscellaneous photos



The Shed where Bob & Robin (*Misty Dawn*) are living.



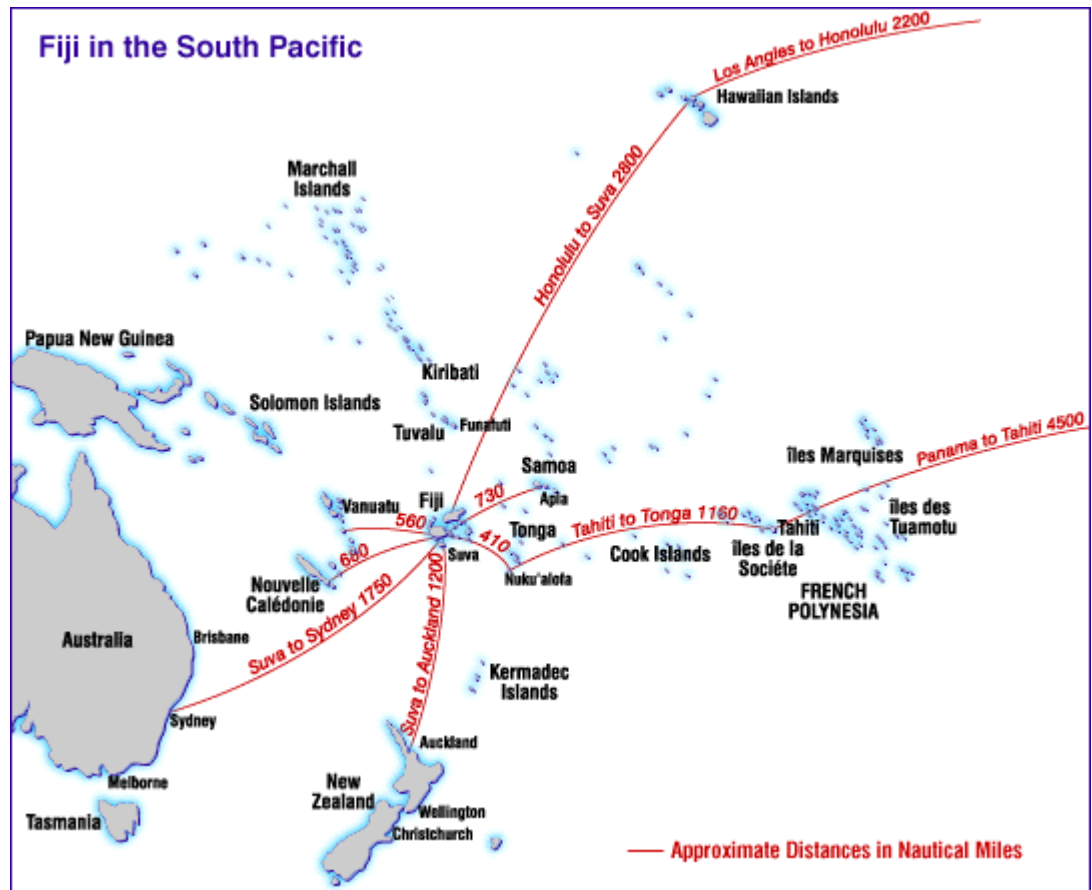
Bob makes wooden dinghies, shown here hanging until the tide rises.





Disgusted with two computers.

Conclusion



We hope to sail for Fiji in the next few days.
Thanks for your visit to our website! Be sure and send us an email!

Jeff & Ann Brooke

S/V High Drama

KD7GWH@winlink.org or

WCX7992@sailmail.com

We will be at sea by the time that you read this.