



## *From the Chairman.....*

Dear friends and supporters

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2014.

Over Labour Weekend last year, the Foundation hosted the Auckland Premier of a documentary "The Drowning Country" written, directed and produced by Caroline Fitzgerald. In addition to telling us a fascinating story of Carolyn's great grandmother Orpheus Beaumont, and development of the life jacket in New Zealand, the documentary highlighted New Zealand's appalling drowning statistics and emphasised the safety message of always wearing a life jacket whilst on the water. The documentary was supported financially by the Maritime Museum Foundation because the trustees felt it so clearly fitted our criteria of research, education and preservation of maritime history.

Our participation in the Festival would not have been possible without Auckland Councils' generous facilitation of the Tall Ships Festival 2013. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely the following sponsors: Dunsford Marine, Auckland Shipbrokers, Western Viaduct Marine, VFRC, Hutchwilco, Brookfields Lawyers, Classic Yacht Charitable Trust, and of course Voyager New Zealand Maritime Museum. Without the support of the sponsors, the event would not have been the success that it was.



In conjunction with the screening of the documentary, we ran a number of prize draw competitions and invited participants to receive information relating to the work of the Foundation and Voyager Maritime Museum. A number of participants agreed to receive information and we welcome their support.

There is further information relating to the winners of the prize draws later in this newsletter.

Those who are new to the Foundation may not be aware that it was originally established to support the Bill Laxon Maritime Library at the museum. Later in this newsletter is a brief summary of Bill's involvement with New Zealand maritime history and the Maritime Museum.

If you would like further information concerning the Foundation, further information appears on our website [www.maritimemuseumfoundation.com](http://www.maritimemuseumfoundation.com) or please contact me through the secretary at: [secretary@laxonfoundation.co.nz](mailto:secretary@laxonfoundation.co.nz)

Our work is only possible with your ongoing financial support and included with this newsletter is a donor card for your use should you be able to make a donation. If you have received this newsletter by email, and wish to make a donation, please contact the secretary.

Thank you for your continuing support.  
Yours sincerely

Ian McCombe  
Chairman



Ian pictured with Caroline Fitzgerald at the Tall Ships Festival 2013

## Congratulations to our Prize Winners – Tall Ships Festival 2013

**Dione Bird** – winner of the exclusive sailing experience for 12 people on board *Breeze* courtesy of the Voyager Maritime Museum, as well as a \$250 meal voucher at the Waterfront Café

**Peter Bass and Michelle Sutton** – winners of unique sailing experiences on board *Thelma and Waitangi* – courtesy of the Classic Yacht Charitable Trust

**Jeannete Roe, Erin Daly and Andrew Bain** – proud new owners of Hutchwilco Mariner life Jackets – courtesy of Hutchwilco (pictured here).



**Blain Austin, Peter Allan, Bryan Hefer, Latonia Crockett, Joyce Liang, Frances Bearne, Karin Heubner, Doug Carter, Peter Robertsham and J Hunter** – winners of vouchers for a harbour sailing on *Ted Ashby* and Maritime Museum entry – courtesy of the Voyager New Zealand Maritime Museum.

## Bill Laxon .....



Bill Laxon's keen interest and subsequent knowledge regarding maritime history began at an early age. His maternal grandfather, a marine engineer employed by the Northern Steamship Company, was the catalyst for Bill's nautical zeal, and he always maintained that it was only poor eyesight which kept him from following a sea going career.

Bill's personal library grew along with his writing and reading, and at the time of his death in 2004 his collection of shipping magazines and catalogues, articles and books, was well into the thousands.

The Voyager National Maritime Museum was the recipient of the Laxon collection, and due to its volume and value, the library's name became the Bill Laxon Maritime Library. Should you require access to any of the Laxon Collection, please email Marleene Boyd – [marleene@maritimemuseum.co.nz](mailto:marleene@maritimemuseum.co.nz)

Maritime Museum Foundation  
Po Box 89 189  
Torbay, 0742

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