

# Help, sponsorship needed for restoration

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New Zealand, and left her abandoned in the Whangarei Harbour where she eventually sank at her moorings after splitting a seam.

The Northland Harbour Board eventually forced her sale to recover mooring fees and to remove her from the harbour.

"They probably had no idea what they were getting rid of," says part owner Stewart Hanson.

"They sold her for \$15,000 to a 24 year old consultant. It was probably worth more than \$250,000 even in poor state."

Stewart and a silent partner purchased the vessel last August after finding it advertised in the *Trade & Exchange* by an elderly gentleman, father of the 24 year old New Zealand owner.

Stewart had the boat hauled out in Whitianga, where it had since been, and had a team of five people working on it full time for nearly three months.

"We stripped the boat down to its bare essentials and had started major carpentry work and its varnishing and spraying."

They were forced to abandon their Whitianga based restoration after the Marina Society decided that it needed its hardstand space urgently.

The vessel was then moved to Clevedon, where it resides on a property in Ness Valley awaiting repairs to start back up.

"It was a shame to have to stop work on her in Whitianga," says Stewart.

"The people there were excellent. We had so much good advice and had a carpenter doing some work for us on a volunteer basis."

The owners have had a recent offer to purchase the vessel for nearly 180,000 Pounds (Close to \$NZ580,000).

"Not a bad profit, but I don't think we will be selling her," says Stewart.

She really is one of a kind. As far as we know she is the only Colin Archer in New Zealand, and only one of 30 remaining in the world.

"It would be a shame to loose her. After her America's Cup Jubilee Regatta Challenge we had been hoping to sail her around the world and have a documentary made on her.

"I think she has far more potential as a sponsored museum type entertainment and education vessel than anything else."

The owners have decided the vessel is not for sale, and would prefer to use her for non-profit ventures to teach others about maritime history.

The Karin III's owners have already invested nearly \$100,000 in her refurbishment.

"They are desperately seeking additional sponsorship and volunteers who can "chip in" with a bit of sanding, painting and/or carpentry in order to have her finished in time.

"We are also seeking some donations of pine which urgently need to replace some of her planking. Getting

and labour is our most critical thing at the moment."

The team will also be seeking additional crew to help in the race at a future date.

It is hoped that the Karin III will be restored and ready by June, in time for her America's Cup Regatta Challenge.

Anyone interested in helping can contact the owners on 0212585766 or via email: karin3@orcon.net.nz.

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