

WOW Experience the Spirit of New Zealand – 28 August 2012



Thanks to the quick thinking of one of our WOW ladies four of us got to go for a morning sail on the Spirit of New Zealand tall ship which visited Tauranga this week. At 45 metres long it's a barquentine design of 3 masts with a square rigged foremast and a fore-and-aft rigged main and mizzen. It was built in 1984 to be sailed as part of the Youth Development Program of the Spirit of Adventure Trust. Oodles of chunky ropes were tied off around the ship but it was well organized and clean thanks to all the young crew aboard. Myself (Megan Harris), Gill Needs, Chris Glen and Lynley Irvine stepped back in time to a bygone age hauling on the halyards with a 'Two, Six, Heave!' while the crew used a special knot to clench the rope before tying it off on the stainless steel bollard – 'No jammer cleats here, mate!' All eyes watched nervously up at the keen crew as they gingerly shuffled along the yard arms to untie the top sails and all aboard were mesmerized when they dropped to set into the steady 10knot westerly breeze.



Although getting underway by 9.30am we had to circle in the confined channel in Pilot Bay for 50 minutes as the Port authorities would not give clearance through the Entrance until a commercial ship had entered the harbour – this frustrated many but we eventually got out for a jaunt in the lumpy stuff. For half an hour we headed out to Mayor Island then with a well orchestrated tack we returned to the Port by noon ready for the afternoon booking. Feeling thrilled by the whole experience we debriefed over lunch at The Deckchair café.