

A classic tale – a couple of weeks ago Greg received an email from a young man Nixon who had just purchased an Electron on TradeMe, being one of two RC yachts that were listed. The main photo didn't show the Electron; however, Nixon quickly identified it as being a Des Townson gem, Electron number 91, being the 7<sup>th</sup> Electron ever built and originally purchased by S Mellsof of Auckand.

Purchased in 1988 the red boat was originally named Zzzzap, however the boat is now known as Tui and is black above the waterline.

Nixon's interest in Townson boats and sailing stems from his grandfather's (Dennis Craig) long association with Des Townson and Dennis still owns a Townson Zephyr (#184) and Mistral (#28) sailing dinghies, both are currently listed on TradeMe for sale.



After several emails with Nixon, Greg and I offered to do some remedial work on the boat to get it "seaworthy" and reliable for Nixon to use over summer.

Nixon plans to try and restore and preserve Tui which will include having a full deck restoration done once Greg gets a better understanding of the work and cost involved.

Quite unexpectedly on Thursday at Sandspit Yacht Club Electron afternoon, Nixon and Grandfather Dennis arrived with the Electron to join in with our sailing.



I was able to help them rig the boat, however there are many minor/major irregularities and modifications which need to be sorted with the boat and rig.

This didn't stop Nixon, on the transmitter and Grandfather issuing sailing tactics, joining in the racing with 11 other Electrons.

By the fifth race and starting behind the fleet, so as not to get in too much trouble, Nixon was not requiring too many instructions and managed to round the first mark in first place! The power of youth! Nixon has been sailing for about 6 years since he was 8, so knows his way around a yacht – and Port and Starboard tack!

After the sailing Nixon left the boat with me to start some upgrade work which Greg and I have offered to do for free. We are replacing all the electronics, steering arm, and updating to a digital transmitter with a few second-hand parts we have, along with a set of good used WW sails.

On Tuesday I will deliver the boat to Greg as there are a lot of other things that need his specialist attention and by the afternoon Tui should be ready to race over the summer. Nixon and Dennis plan to attend SSYC next Thursday again (they live in Kumeu area) and race with us.

It is so good to have a keen young man racing an Electron and I am sure it won't be too long before we see Tui collecting honours. Nixon may be able to attend OYC over the school holidays also.

Well done Nixon and a big cheer to Dennis for encouraging and supporting his grandson.

