It’s a **Tough Life** in the Bay of Islands

A Fairy Tale from long ago - written by Maggie, recited by Annette,

with Maori interpretation by Roger and support from Ruth and Angus

[Editor’s note – this story weaves in the names of all the boats in the BOI fleet, plus a couple of clubs]

Early in the year 1800 a daughter was born to **Shard** and **Bodacious** just outside London close to the **Thames**. She was named **Prisca**. Whilst she was growing up she often longed to find out more about the workings of the sailors who plied the river. One morning with an **Alibi** that she was going to visit her grandmother in **Southern** Britain, she ran down to the river and hid in one of the square riggers called **Soren Larsen**. Three days out she was discovered by one of the crew and made to work her passage. The ship was bound for the West Indies to pick up spices. On arrival the **Caribbean Girls** greeted the sailors with a delicious rum cocktail called **Turanui Spirit**. One **Caribbean Girl** wore **Cotton Blossom** and **Hibiscus** ... **Stars** shone bright every night and although it was a **Tough Life** on the ship they enjoyed the sailing and the fishing. The **Soren Larsen** carried on down the coast of South America and round Cape Horn. They visited several of the **Polynesian Islands** trading spices and fruit. Finally they reached **New Zealand** and the **Bay of Islands**. This turned out to be a magical place, many islands with calm anchorages and sandy bays. They were greeted by the local **Maori** in their canoes including one of the chiefs, **Inatui**. Of course he immediately took a shine to **Prisca** and it was not long before he asked her to marry him and thus to become **Queen Prisca**. They decided the marriage ceremony should be on the beach on **Robertson Island**. The sailors dressed up in their finery and the family and friends of **Inatui** arrived in their **Choice Transport** named **Ngatokimatawhaorua** built of three **Kauri** trees. There was a big party after the ceremony and many of the sailors succumbed to the charms of the Maori girls. **Jim**, the skipper of the **Soren Larsen**, invited everyone back to the ship to continue the celebrations. The guests were taken out on the cutter **Alomar**. During the party all the guests were delighted to join in congratulating **David and Bronwen** on their excellent organization of the party and everyone lived happily everafter.

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