

New cutters a safer option

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SHIPSHAPE: Basil Hart, of Dickson Marine, with the first fibreglass cutter the Port Nelson company has made for Outward Bound in the Marlborough Sounds.

MARTIN DE RUYTER / FAIRFAX NZ

A Nelson-built cutter will help put Outward Bound students through their sailing paces.

The newly built 9.75 metre fibreglass Endeavour III was transferred from Nelson's Dickson Marine to Anakiwa in the Marlborough Sounds on Friday. The cutter-style boat, an open sailing boat, will be used for sailing and rowing.

Outward Bound chief executive Trevor Taylor said a decision had been made to build three new boats after an accident when one of the organisation's cutters was run over in Queen Charlotte Sound last year.

"It's repaired now and back on the water sailing, but when we looked at the other cutters and decided if they'd been in a similar accident we would have had a more serious outcome."

"We took the view that for the safety of our students and courses we should look at replacing the plank rigger cutters over a three-year period."



As part of the celebrations and events around the organisation's 50th anniversary this year, they had decided to raise money to build three new cutters. A total of \$600,000 needed to be raised to have all three boats built, one had been completed and the second was due to be constructed soon, also by Dickson Marine.

"[These boats] will last for another 50 years. They will last a lot longer than the other cutters."

The Endeavour III had been for its first sail last week and Mr Taylor said it went well and the boat was fast.

Dickson Marine sales manager Basil Hart said construction had taken about three months. It had been designed by Jim Barnett of Blenheim and because of increased buoyancy in the build, it did not have to carry an onboard liferaft, freeing up space.

Mr Taylor said the cutters were an integral part of the Outward Bound programme.

"The boats are down at Anakiwa and every year the students swim out to the cutters, row them in and they begin learning the skills they need to sail them..."

- The Nelson Mail

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