

aroundtheyards

MCN Shipwrights

It's enough to make you cry. This beautiful 1969 Riva Superaquarama barrelback started life as a head-turner but years of neglect mean she's now in need of a complete overhaul at MCN Shipwrights' West Auckland yard.

Barbarella has spent the last five years in Hong Kong not being used, but soaking up the humidity which is thought to have caused the timber to soften.

The double-skin mahogany hull has few fair surfaces left, but it's hoped a replacement can be sent in two parts from the European manufacturer. The holly-lined decks are also in need of repair and her topsides need attention too.

Since arriving in New Zealand, *Barbarella* has been fitted with a new tandem-axle Voyager trailer. She's

expected to be back in the water by the end of the year, and with twin seven-litre 350hp engines roaring away, it won't be long until she's turning heads once again.

Also in Marco Scuderi's yard is the triple-skin kauri *Victory*. The neglected 1906 yacht was facing the chopping block until Marco stepped in and bought her, not wanting to see her be destroyed.

"The day she arrived I spent an hour just sitting and looking at her," he says.

"The cabin top was screaming "chop me, chop me, chop me"."

Italian-born Marco plans restore the 38ft yacht, which started life as a fishing boat, to her true design which means no teak decks and no winches.

"In her day you would set the lines twice, once you get the sails across, and



then the skipper yells at you so two people need to pull them tight. At the end of the day you're buggered."

The final boat at MCN Shipwrights is *Ngataki*, Johnny Wray's yacht that was made famous in the book *South Seas Vagabond*. The 1932 yacht is undergoing serious repairs thanks in part to the Tino Rawa trust.

When she arrived she was a real mess according to Marco – "start a new page in your note book" – but since then she has

had serious attention to the hull, including a complete recaulking and the painstaking job of putting her planks back in place with 2500 silicon-bronze screws. The floors, frames and stringers have been repaired or replaced and work continues as the trust allows.

The original bulwarks have been recreated, and so has the original-looking lazarette, albeit a bit wider aft.

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