



THE TRIAL

Keeler Built By Brothers

A new 54ft A class keeler was launched by the Auckland Harbour Board floating crane from the Birkenhead wharf at noon today. Called Leda, the yacht is owned by two brothers, Messrs C. G. and W. A. Wilson. Her design is based on that of an English ocean racing yacht by a well-known Swedish designer.

The yacht was built by her owners, with expert assistance from a Northcote boat-builder, Mr J. H. Young, in a backyard three miles from the sea, and was hauled to the wharf by transporter. She took two years four months to build and her owners have been saving for her for the last 10 years.

They plan to use her for extensive ocean racing and cruising. A great deal of work still needs to be done inside, but the owners hope to give her a trial in the ocean race to Tauranga at Christmas and may compete in the Tasman race in 1951.

The Leda is 53ft 8in overall, and 35ft on the waterline, with a beam of 11ft 2in and draught of 7ft 6in. Displacement is 13 tons, with 6 tons of lead on the keel. She will be cutter rigged, her mast being 70ft long and boom 21ft 6in. Sail area in main, jib and staysail is 1000 square feet, she has 750 square feet in her Genoa jib, and about 2000 in a parachute spinnaker.

Construction is double skin of half-inch and inch timber with ribs on 14in spaces and three fore and aft stringers. Her deck is also double skin and a feature is a streamlined dodger with perspex windows in front.

The yacht has a roomy cockpit and galley, full head room in two cabins and ample stowage space fore and aft.

Typical of most Swedish designs, she has easy sections with a high bilge and a long run. Six feet shorter than the Auckland champion, Ranger, and heavier than any other boat in the A class fleet, she should nevertheless have a fair turn of speed, particularly in the open water, and is a creditable achievement by her builders, all of whom are still in their twenties.

