



BACK: CAPTAIN GRANT MITCHELL
FRONT: THE YS TEAM: INGRID PENFOLD,
AMY LANGBRIDGE, CAROLYN CHURCH



Into the Wild Blue Yonder

S/Y Yonder Star – The Perfect Floating Venue | Ph: 03 545 7600 | E: yonderstar@yonderstarcharters.co.nz | www.yonderstarcharters.co.nz



CAPTAIN GRANT MITCHELL

AS I WANDERED

down Vickerman Street I caught my first glimpse of S/Y Yonder Star and my mind started to race with a sea of possibilities. I'm thinking a cocktail party anchored off Haulashore Island with a group of close friends, the

sun disappearing over Mount Arthur and the lights of Nelson in the background. The next morning we'd be sailing across the bay to Abel Tasman before wandering along a bush-lined track, then enjoying a tasty meal of fresh seafood on deck with a glass of local wine to wrap up the day. The possibilities are endless.

S/Y Yonder Star is an 87 foot ketch designed by New Zealander Don Brooke and was built on spec by Thackwray Yachts, the same people who built the Spirit of Adventure. She was launched in 1980 as 'Oz' and in 1982 in Fort Lauderdale USA she became a floating film studio. A number of additions and alterations were made to her to accommodate film crews; even an underwater photographic viewing port was added. She retained her 'luxurious

character' and ambience and became an inspirational and creative environment that has seen numerous writers, actors and film makers achieve Oscar nominations.

In 2002 local Nelson owners purchased her in Florida and she returned to New Zealand waters with Captain Grant Mitchell at the helm. He sailed her through the Panama Canal, via the Galapagos, Marquesas, and Tuamotus Islands, via Tahiti and then down the east coast of New Zealand into Nelson on an epic journey which lasted just over two months. Grant then set about painstakingly refitting S/Y Yonder Star to her current glory. It is obvious as you cast your eyes over the vessel that Grant has a keen eye for detail and has poured his heart and soul into her. You can hear the passion the entire YS team has as they speak about her. Their vision of the yacht is the 'perfect floating venue'.

S/Y Yonder Star has spent time in the Bay of Islands on charter, has taken groups across to Abel Tasman for lunches, sailing and walk experiences, and has been used for cocktail and birthday parties in the harbour. As I chat with Carolyn Church (Marketing and Promotions), the ideas really start flowing: wedding venue, product launches, business meetings, team building, and any number of dining options. You would really only be limited by your imagination.

Sleeping a maximum of eight people in luxurious quarters, she has a main saloon boasting the full

audio experience with air conditioning and plenty of space to relax and enjoy casual or formal dining. The galley is professionally equipped to prepare innovative, sumptuous food that will delight. On a fine day, the cockpit on deck is where you'd enjoy great company, good food, and the open air. If you are looking for the perfect blend of luxury, ambience, relaxed comfort, and style then S/Y Yonder Star certainly provides this and more.

If the beautiful mahogany cupboards in the saloon could speak they'd tell romantic stories of movie stars. Imagine Bob Hope sitting around sipping whiskey on ice as the director, one of which was Peter Gruber, calls "Action" and the film starts to roll. S/Y Yonder Star is adaptable, elegant and ready to make that occasion the one you'll remember forever. If you want to charter her for an ocean sailing experience she is built to handle that with ease, or if you just want to relax onboard in the harbour then she will happily play host. Personally, I'm looking forward to finding an excuse now to give the team a call and dream up my own perfect S/Y Yonder Star experience.

The S/Y Yonder Star team will happily work with you to crystallise your aspirations into an unforgettable onboard experience. You can contact the team here in Nelson on 545 7600 or email them at yonderstar@yonderstarcharters.co.nz. For your own virtual tour of what's on offer check out www.yonderstarcharters.co.nz.