

Commentator Number 1 White. "Rambler" Owner: Aaron Martin, Rambler was built in Matakana in **1913** of kauri carvel hull construction. Said to be used for mail delivery from Auckland to Kawau Island until 1915, she was powered by a petrol Chev 4 engine. At this time she would have had a low cabin just above the portholes and a mast with steadying sails. Owned by a bootmaker in the 1960's and used for sea fishing from Matakana and Leigh. Top cabin added around this period. Engine changed to a two cylinder 20 hp Chinese diesel about 1990. Discovered at Half Moon Bay, Howick in June 2000 after searching northland for a suitable vessel. Many changes have been made since - revamped interior, hand made cedar mast, bronze & brass fittings, hand carved mahogany signs, navigation lamps & doors, special hand woven authentic fenders - the list goes on. Length: **7.9m**



1. **"Ellen"** Owned by Helen and Grant Wallace. Length: 8 metres. Of strip plank cedar she was built 2006 from a "plug" taken off an old abandoned hull found in Kopu. She is a "Milkmaid" design by Bailey & Lowe built by Malcolm Sowman. "Ellen" is powered by a 29 HP diesel with standard straight drive.



2. **"Haumoana"** Owned by Dave and Glenys Wilson. 31' Kauri launch designed and built by Colin Wilde in 1947.

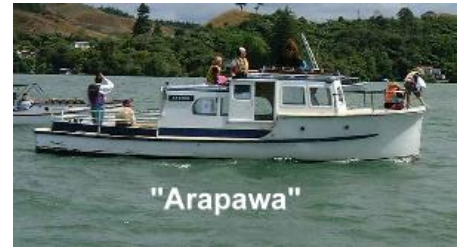


3. **"Elva"** Owners; Grant & Gillian Cossey. Built by Collings and Bell in **1911**, vintage kauri launch, Elva was displayed at the 1912 Auckland Boat Show. The name originates from one of Mr. Collings three daughters. Owned by Hugh Preston, she was used around Auckland, Kawau and Great Barriers Islands. Elva was purchased from north of Auckland by Malcolm Pearce in 2002 in need of a coat of paint and a bit of normal boat type maintenance.



Purchased in 2004 by Grant Cossey and Nigel Brock. Length: 22 feet, **6.6m**.

4. **"Arapawa"** Owned by Rachael & Warwick Jamieson. Probably built by Ernie Lane around 1906 to 1915. Length: **9.2m**
Used in the Sounds as a ferry to Arapawa Island. Brought to Rotoiti in 1996 by Michael & Mary Taylor, Rachel's parents, and has been in every parade since the start of these annual parades.



5. **"Carbis Bay"** Owned by Tracey Mackay and Maureen Clarkson, a 7.6 metre Launch built for the Hill family in 1986. She is a Salthouse KB760 design.



6. **"Rainbow"** Owned by Rod and Florence Prosser. Designed and built by Chris Robinson at Ohiniamutu around 1930, a 20 foot Kauri launch.



7. **"Doris"** Owner: Peter Taylor. She was built in **1950** at the Deeming shipyard in Opuia for a wealthy farmer who owned land on the Purerua Peninsular in the Bay of Islands. She has spent all her life in the BOI and was used to pull barges and take supplies from Kerikeri, Opuia and Paihia. Her statistics are 24 ft long, 8 ft beam carvel hull with 1 inch kauri plank on close framing. She has a new Kobota 27 hp diesel and gearbox but apart from that, is in original condition. A friend and I motored her down from Kerikeri to Westhaven (23 hours at 6.5 knots and just as well the sea was calm!) and from there she was transported to Rotoiti.
Renovated by Tony Mitchell in 2007 with a total repaint, new roof with 2 hatches and new glass.



8. **"Achernar"** the brightest star in the constellation Eridanus and used to determine south. Renamed **"Betty"** by Adm."Bull" Halsey in the War years. Purchased by Don and Dianne Atkinson in August 2008.
History as told by previous owners:
1939 The only launch designed by R L Stewart a well known yacht designer for his father. Built by



Collings & Bell that year in their yard in St Mary's Bay, now known as Westhaven. Plans are in the NZ Maritime Museum.

Kauri plank construction, Hull 30ft 10in, Beam 9ft 2in.

When war broke out Achernar was taken over by the Navy. In the latter part of the war Admiral William "Bull" Halsey, US 3rd Fleet, used the boat when on Rest and Recreation in Auckland renaming her Betty. Admiral Halsey despite committing what is considered one of the greatest blunders in naval history (Battle of Leyte) went on to become US Fleet Commander in 1945. After the war Achernar was shipped to the US but was dropped and broke a number of ribs enroute in Fiji. She was shipped back to NZ.

Achernar had a number of owners from that time on in Auckland - Mr Seager of Seagers Engineering Takapuna, Tauranga - local Surgeon Harry Gilbert, Thames - Mr Bill Cotton, and then back north spending most of her time in the Bay of Islands, around Great Barrier, the Gulf and Mayor Island - Dr Graham and Andrea Witney.

1984 saw a major refit and a flying bridge added at the Lane Motor Boat Co in the Tamaki River.

1993 gearbox & shaft replaced, new motor was able to be lowered and moved aftwards so as to be accommodated under the rear seats in the main cabin & forward seat in the cockpit.

2008 upon purchase the flying bridge was taken off and she was restored by Mike Lowe as close as possible to her original colours and shape.

9. **"Windsong"** Owned by Jim & Shirleyanne Burch, a 27' Shipbuilders design, built 1960 of D/D ply construction.



10. **"Fleetwing"** Owned by John and Caroline Brough, a 1980, 7.92 metres classic Mason launch, designed by Tony Mason and built by Mason Marine.



11. **"Hercules"** Owned by Michael Marston and built by David Grace 2016, "Hercules" is an 11 foot miniature version of the traditional ocean-going Tugboat, with fantail round stern and rope bow whiskers, also known as "bow pudding". Designed by Berkeley Engineering in the USA, many have been built around the world. The very detailed plans called for ply in 8x4 sheets, but metric NZ sheets are smaller so they adapted as they built. The build took two winters, launching just before Christmas 2016.



12. **"Revenge"** Length: 36'. Built by Charles Erik Thompson and Son Aratapu in 1905 but no other details, of fine Scandinavian origins, she resided on the Kaipara Harbour for 110 years until 2015 when purchased by the current owner Michael Marston who relocated and relaunched her 1 October 2015 on Lake Rotoiti. She is of carvel plank counter stern design, built of kauri with puriri cross floors and pohutakawa ribs and is fixed by copper nails and roves.



Built & launched at a cost of 95 pounds, she originally had a cast iron wheel "which was flaming cold on frosty mornings". The mast is now a flag pole on a front lawn at Tinopai.

She was built as a sailing fishing boat for Morgan Bros who sold her to Edgar Brown who sold to the Fisheries Branch of the Marine Department in late 1930. Early on she evidently had a Twigg 40hp, which the Fisheries Department replaced with a Kelvin-Ricardo 24-30hp "paraffin engine" in October 1930. The Fisheries Department then sold her to their skipper Bunny Tilby in 1948 who then sold her to Colin McPike who sold her to Bill Pook who sold her to Bob Moyle in 1968.

Bob Moyle had Eric Williams convert her to a pleasure vessel (i.e. new cabin, bulwarks and hull work etc) which is the state she is still in today.

Bob Moyle also replaced the 4 cylinder Ford with the current 6.2 litre straight-6 Ford diesel of 150HP.

Sold by Bob Moyle in about 2012 to Fiona Johnson & Peter Cathro, who then sold to Michael Marston in 2015.

13. **"Diana"** Bob & Jane Smith. Length **30 feet**. **1936** Carvel built Vintage Launch designed by John Atkins and built by Renovations, CT Marine. Diana has had a major refurbish and was relaunched in September 2008.



14. **"Avalon"** Owned by Keith and Karyn Larkin, built 1953, 20 foot kauri boat.



15. **"Chug"** Owned by Paul East.

She is a 22' Kauri Clinker built in **1930** by an unknown builder.

Motor: 10hp 2008 Nannidiesel. Cruise speed: 7 Knots.

"Chug" started out life as a ships lighter in the Northland area. The original 10hp Lister-Petter diesel motor was thought to have been installed in the early 1950's. Chug was rebuilt/restored 25-30 years ago by the then Okawa Bay owner at which point the cabin structure was added. She was named

"Chug" at that time. Chug has undergone a further minor restoration and a re-power with the Nannidiesel.



16. **“Nautilus”** Owned by Robbie & Anne Sinclair. Kauri planked vintage launch built by Lane's in Auckland 1948. Has been on Lake Rotoiti since 1996. Before that at Tauranga.
Length: **8.5m** Owned by Buzz Rathbone and Gus Gardner 1996 to January 2012.



17. **“Sambuca”** Owned by Buzz & Patsy Rathbone. 24' launch designed and built in 1957 by Tony Mason. Built of cedar plank and fibreglassed. Interior wood of mahogany.
Powered by a new 220hp Mercruiser inboard outdrive.
Brought from Tauranga – previous owner was Bill Mitchinson.



18. **“EM”** Owned by Stephen Knowles. 28' Kauri launch designed and built by Robertson in 1970.



19. **“Alberta”** Owned by Jon & Lois Dustin. 28'6" Kauri launch. Designed and built in R N Burgess & Co's yard, Judges Bay, Parnell and launched in December 1913. In 1925 the original Petrol Motor was replaced with a Sabb 16HP (the word 'Sabb' being a local Norwegian synonym for toughness and reliability).
She was rebuilt by Maurice Reynolds in the 1960's and again more recently.
Alberta was used for racing (8 knots) on the Auckland harbour and as a pleasure craft. She spent 99 years of her life in Auckland with various motors and as a fishing boat. The last motor was a 16HP 2 Cylinder Sabb but unfortunately it sucked up some weed and overheated. This caused the head to crack and unfortunately we could not fix it so replaced it with a 3 Cylinder Volvo Penta 36HP. Far too much power for the size of the boat, although very handy when approaching a Jetty.



20. **“Driftwood”** Owned by Allan Carvell. She is a 5.5m replica (Hudson Bay) tug, built in 1991 and glass over wood construction. "Driftwood" was designed and built in 1991 by well known Kerikeri boat builder Colin Reid. Her design is a



replica of the Hudson Bay tugboats. She was owned by Alan McLeod of Waipapa for about ten years before being acquired by her current owner in July 2017. Still in Kerikeri, she is now birthed a little further down the channel at Rangitane. Driftwood reputedly served as Northland Harbour Board Tugboat No.4 (NHB4) in the 1990's (perhaps in an honorary capacity).

21. **"Allie Mac"** Owned by Ian and Cheryl Pilcher who previously owned a 24' Mason Clipper in the 80's, we decided to find another one and restore it. We found this boat in Gisborne, in the deceased estate of Bryan Thompson who had owned it for the past 17 years spending most of its time on Lake Waikaremoana. The first owner was Harold Melhop (1980) from Invercargill then Graham Johnson (1987) from Hamilton. It seemed sound but in a very bad state of repair. The restoration was like Topsy it just grew, so 5 ½ years later with a lot of love, effort, heartache and a lot more money here she is. Allie Mac, named after Ian's late Mother.



22. **"Miss Kathleen"**. Owned by the late Barry Green, now entered by Ross Green a 27'6" Logan designed and built, 1902 kauri planked wooden displacement launch built in Auckland by Logan's for a wealthy family in Whangarei. Used for pleasure boating she spent most of her time in the Bay of Islands. Subsequently used for long line fishing. The motor is a 30 hp David Brown and is 50 years old. The vessel was rebuilt in 1989 at a cost of \$22,000. Purchased by Barry in late 1997 from Captain Richens, an old sea captain.



23. **"Aratu"** Owned by Ross Green. 5.2 metre kauri launch built in 1923 by Archy Logan originally as a race yacht. The mullet hull was converted around 1940 to what it is now.



24. **"Te Awhina"** Owner & Builder: Allan Clark. Designed in 1979 as a towboat for Concordia Co. America. Plans and offsets published in R D Cullen's book "Skiffs and Schooners. Powered with a 6 hp Yanmar Built: 1999, Length: 4.8m.



25. **"Emperor"** was built in 1932 Length: 7.6m. Designer: Charles Bailey

Owner: Alan Griffiths. Entered by Roger Griffiths.
Built in Auckland in 1932 for use on Lake Rotorua.

This kauri boat spent its first 15 years on Lake Rotorua before being sold to R. Deare in 1947 for use on Lake Rotoiti. At that time the cabin was modernised and a new Morris Commodore 6

cylinder petrol engine was fitted by the then well known Ian Harris, boat repairer, Otaramarae. The present owner purchased the boat in 1996 from Ian Steele. A light weight diesel has replaced the mighty "Morris" which was donated to the Maritime Museum at Paeroa.



26. **"Manowai"** Owned by Dennis Walsh. A 32' kauri planked launch built around 1921 possibly built by Bailey & Lowe, designer unknown.



27. **"Kotuku"** Owner: Noel Nicholson.

Kotuku is a 28 foot double skin kauri launch built by Robinson Brothers Boat Builders in Rotorua in 1923. She has a beam of 8'6" and a draft of 2 ft. Her early uses were varied and interesting, she operated as a tourist launch out of Okawa Bay and was used for lake weed spraying around Rotoiti.

Kotuku was purchased by Jack Bloomfield of Auckland sometime around the 1930's. She remained in the Bloomfield family of Gisborne Point for 3 generations.

Kotuku was originally powered by an Ailsa Craig Marine Engine that required cranking to start. She was re-powered and had a major refit when the cabin was altered in the 1950s.

A Grey Marine 6 cylinder engine was installed at that time and for a long period of time she was housed, maintained and serviced by a Mr Harris at Otaramarae.

In the 1970s she was sunk in her boatshed when youths tampered with the water intake, but was refloated without permanent damage.

During a refit in the 1980s she had a Volvo Penta 140HP motor installed and had a major upgrade of her propeller shaft and rudder.

In March 2005 the previous owner, Alec Buchanan took her to Tony Mitchell's boat building yard at Otaramarae, Lake Rotoiti where she was given a complete refit before her re-launching in October 2005.



28. **"M V Snark"** Owners: William & Caroline Main, Length: **7.8m** mullety. Originally built in **1912**, the hull was found in the mud at Tauranga by Geoff Main and rebuilt by G.Main & N.Macky in 1990. Relaunched in 1992. Since then has entertained many people on Lake Rotoiti.



29. **"Waihaha"** Owned by Peter and Prue Birt. A 1923 Bailey and Lowe built carvel planked veteran launch. 8.5 metres long.



30. **"Lady Glad"** Owners: Marcus & Jan Wilkins and family. Entered this year by A Whitmore. Commissioned in 1981 by Mr. Marshall-Lee, she was built with kauri hull and teak decks by Bill Visser of Kingfisher Boats, Tauranga, on the lines of tugs operating in the North Sea off Holland. The present owner heard of the Lady Glad and subsequently purchased her incomplete, having her completed by Bill Visser. She was launched in **1987** at Taheke and has been on Lake Rotoiti ever since. Length **6.4m**.



31. **"Firefly"** Owned by Rod and Florence Prosser. Built:1882. A 25' counter sterned launch restored during 2008, she is considered likely to be the oldest launch to still be in operation in the country.

It is understood that she was built north of Auckland in 1882 although details of her history remain a mystery. It is likely that she was used to ferry supplies to farms and islands.

Midway through last century she was used in a practical role on Lake Manapouri when the power station was under construction.

Allan Clark, a previous owner, suggests that she has never been used with a sail and believes that she has been powered by at least six different engines at different times. She is now powered with a Stuart Turner two cylinder, two stroke petrol engine enabling her to reach speeds of around five knots.



32. **"Relax-ay-voo"** Owner: John Duncan, Length: 9m, Designed by Bruce Askew.



33. **"Caravel"** Owner: Richard Stevens. Built: 1962. Length: 6.1m. Built by the late Norm Keen for the late Chip Stevens of Hauparu Bay.

Kauri planked (carvel) construction with teak decks and mahogany cabin. Powered by original 75 hp Volvo Penta BB70 petrol engine (approx 1700 hours from new).

Caravel was styled after the Thames police launches of the 1950's and design criteria included that the engine was not to encroach on cabin space, she had to accommodate guests in the cockpit or in the cabin (sitting headroom) without undue changes in trim and her dimensions were limited by the existing shed and cradle. Norm, a master craftsman, created this beautiful example of traditional boat building at his boat yard in Okawa Bay during the winter of 1962. She was launched on Christmas Eve and has been a familiar sight on the Lake ever since. **Launch, Merit Award, 2005 Parade.**

"Caravel" features as the cover story in "Boating NZ" February 2015



34. **"Nemo"** Owned by Ken Royson, a 4.4 metre Pelin designed launch built in 2006. Recently repowered by a 15hp mercury.



35. **"Polaris"** Owned by Monte Jones. 14' runabout designed by Richard Hartley and built by Monte Jones and others 1959.(Now 60 years old) Richard Hartley designed, open outboard runabout - "Starflite".

Polaris was built in 1958/1959 by Monte Jones aged 16 years, together with Don Stewart and Keith Brown, both aged 15 years.

Built originally as per plan and cabin and bunks were designed by the builders and added in 1960.

The hull bottom was fibreglassed in 1963 and the rest of the hull and cabin were dyneled in 1978.

Up to 3 people have slept on board at times while cruising on Lake Taupo.

Originally powered by a 1947 3.6hp Scott Attwater outboard, then an 18hp Evinrude, followed by a 40hp Evinrude. Currently powered by a 1968 40 hp electric start Johnson. The auxilliary motor is the original 1947 Scott Atwater motor that first powered Polaris when launched. The 72 year old motor has been fully restored back to new condition.

Polaris was runner up for best amateur built boat in its class in the 1963 Auckland Boat Show. She was also in the 1970 Auckland Boat Show and was the oldest boat in the 1977 Auckland Boat Show.

Polaris has been used extensively from the Bay of Islands to the Nelson Lakes, and also the Waikato and Whanganui Rivers. It's interesting to note that the



vessel has given pleasure to five generations of the owner's family.

A lot of the fittings were made by hand by the boys, such as pulleys for the steering and the hatch for the anchor warp. The top windscreen was cast from patterns, hand finished and chromed. Stainless steel strips were also made by them. The duckboard on the stern was made out of an old Kauri writing desk lid. Meranti quarter inch three ply was used over Kaihikatea frames and stringers. Aerolite glue with copper nails and bronze screws for fastening. The hull was treated with Metalex rot preventative.

The current trailer was designed by the owner in 1970. All steel work was cut by hand. The winch is home made, using a cog off a old bit of machinery and then cutting the small pinion gear out with a hacksaw.

The handgrips on the trailer were off an old Masport lawn mower.

36. **"Great Scott"** Owners: Neville and Catherine Stewart, Built: 1957,

Length: **4.9m**. The mahogany speedboat was built in Tamaki, Auckland as a day fishing boat for Lake Rotorua. Original owner and builder, Stuart Marsters had a holiday home at Waitete, Ngongotaha, immediately above the footbridge. When he sold the house to Mike Russell in 1979, the boat went with the house. Restored in 1999, basically just revarnishing and painting. The boat won a 50 mile race in 1959 on Waikato River averaging 42 M.P.H. Original outboard was a 28hp Scott Atwater which we still have, hence the name. Now powered with a 1958 Johnson 35hp electric start electric choke. Boat purchased in Taupo in February 2017 and spent the winter restoring to the present state, renovation completed in late September 2017.

