



## M.V. Ranoni built 1937

About 1936 Alex & Theo MATTHEWS of Maunu, Whangarei purchased the Ranoni off Mr Donty Main. His parents lived in the large white bungalow which still exists on the corner of Apirana Ave and Bank St Whangarei.

The Ranoni was moored at the Town Basin for many years.

The Matthews brothers purchased a boat shed at the rear of the Whangarei Engineering Company to house the Ranoni. The sheds no longer exist.

The family enjoyed many outings in the Harbour.

During World War II - in 1940 - the Naval Department commandeered the Ranoni for a patrol boat. It was captained by Mr Vere Harrison a local resident.

After the War the Ranoni was purchased by a Mr Snell - from Waiotira.

I am sorry I have no photos.

Donty Main daughter  
Mary Johnston,  
4343105

Tong 046 4351478  
Christine Snell.

Ron Matthews  
(son of T.G.M. Matthews)  
5 Apirana Ave  
Regent  
Whangarei

## Whiteman

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**From:** Harold Kidd [Harold@hklaw.co.nz]  
**Sent:** Friday, 23 December 2011 12:10 p.m.  
**To:** g.whiteman@xnet.co.nz  
**Subject:** Ranoni

Graeme,

PS The clincher is a ref in the Northern Advocate of 28/12/11

"Messrs Rushbrook's fine launch *Ranoni* berthed at the Town Wharf last night after a pleasant run from Kawau. She left again for the North before noon today".

Cheers,

Harold

**Harold Kidd** | PRINCIPAL

**HAROLD KIDD LAW**

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416 Glenfield Road, Glenfield, Auckland (P O Box 40294, Glenfield, 0747 | DX BP64509), New Zealand  
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Version: 2012.0.1901 / Virus Database: 2109/4696 - Release Date: 12/22/11



**Graeme Whiteman**

**From:** Mary Johnston [mary.johnston@vodafone.co.nz]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 09, 2009 10:18 AM

**To:** Graeme Whiteman

**Subject:** Ranoni

Hi Graeme

It was very nice to meet and talk to you yesterday. You galvanised me into action to find the 'stuff' I had relating to the Ranoni. After going through a multitude of old photos I had in an suitcase which I hadn't looked at for years I finally found what I was looking for in a folder where I have been collecting data on the Main family (and had intended to do something with some day!). One was a photo of the Ranoni with my father standing in the stern off the Whangarei Heads, I think. The other is a clipping from a newspaper recording my parents' marriage on 5 February 1925 and their subsequent honeymoon on board the Ranoni. What I have is only a photocopy of a framed picture. I don't know who had the original but I will try to find out. I spoke to my sister Betty and she suggested I talk to my cousin Alex Main who turns 93 shortly and who often used to accompany Dad on board the Ranoni to the island at Whangaruru. He lives in Ngunguru and can possibly supply a lot of useful information.

I'll send you a photocopies of what I've got if you give me your postal address.

Kind regards

Mary

11-Jun-09

## Graeme Whiteman

**From:** Mary Johnston [mary.johnston@vodafone.co.nz]

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2009 5:10 PM

**To:** Graeme Whiteman

**Subject:** Fw: Interesting that Bob.....

Hi Graeme

The following is news about the Ranoni from my brother Bob who is the oldest in my family ie 82, I think.  
Regards Mary

Yes the Ranoni I have been on it down the harbour where uncle Alex lost his hat overboard. We had to go back and pick it up. Grandpa Main was teasing me by making out he was rocking the boat. I didn't like him because I didn't know how far he would go and what would happen. If I remember correctly from Dad the boat hull cost 90 pounds. The motor was a Buffalo twin ignition, probably two spark plugs to each cylinder and one for mag ignition. Also the boat was used during the war as a Q Boat for coastal patrols. I have no doubt that it did a good job under different conditions, as a fine sea boat.

Internal Virus Database is out of date.

Checked by AVG.

Version: 8.0.169 / Virus Database: 270.4.1/1511 - Release Date: 6/20/2008 11:52 AM

No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG - [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

Version: 8.5.339 / Virus Database: 270.12.58/2164 - Release Date: 06/08/09 17:59:00



afternoon we ran back through the Broken Islands, and soon arrived at the bay and got our party ashore.

Jan. 5th.—We left Paddison's early, and went around to LeRoy's and over to Warren's, where we met the launch Uenuku. The crew told us some of the experiences they had on the run up to Cape Maria, since detailed in *THE YACHTSMAN*.

Jan. 6th.—A very early start, for about 1 a.m. it was raining and blowing hard, and we found that the 'hooker' had got away with her anchor. We soon got the engine going and the anchor aboard and went back into shelter. Just to make sure, we put two anchors out, and they held alright. During the morning we made a start to go outside through the Governor's Pass, but a big sea was running, so we came back into Fitzroy, where the rest of the day was spent.

Jan. 7th.—We ran down to Whangapara through a big roll, and made fast to the wharf. We had a look over the mill, and ran across to Brett's wharf and walked to the hot springs. The journey to the springs is well worth the trouble.

Jan. 8th.—Left Whangapara at 8.30 a.m., and after a very good run we arrived at Mercury Bay early in the afternoon, where we stopped for two days.

Jan. 10th.—Left Mercury Bay at 5.15, and set our course for Tauranga. We had a very lively run down the coast, as it came on to blow hard about 8 o'clock and kept up all day. At Tauranga we made fast to the steps at the wharf. When we landed the clerk came and demanded wharfage, and also said we were blocking the traffic. One launch (also a pleasure boat) came to the steps while we were there, which just shows how were affecting the 'traffic.' Next thing the clerk did was to bring the harbourmaster along to shift us, so to save the clerk from worrying to death, we paid the wharfage bill of 1s. 8d. (10d. per day it amounted to, being 2d. per ton), and moved into the stream. We have been alongside most of the wharves between Mongonui and Tauranga, and this was the first time wharfage had been demanded from us. We did the sights of the city in a taxi, and arrived on board about 10 p.m.

Jan. 11th.—We went for another drive, being invited to the pictures at night by our old Onehunga friend Griffiths, who is running the picture show there.

Jan. 12th.—Ran down to the Mount at the Heads. Had a look round the various camps and visited the caves. While some of the boys were inspecting the tunnel outside the entrance to the caves, someone thought it would be a brilliant idea to smoke the others out like rabbits. This was done, and you may guess the result. They did come out, the only difference being that rabbits don't speak when they come out.

Jan. 13th.—Up at 5.30, and left by motor car for Rotorua, where we did the various sights, and arrived back at Tauranga at 7.30 p.m.

Jan. 14th.—Ran up as far as Whangamata, and as it was blowing hard, we put in the night here.

Jan. 15th.—Left early for Mercury Bay. Did a bit of fishing, and had quite a good time ashore.

Jan. 16th.—Left early, and had a run out to the Great Mercury, and after dinner, over to Kuaotunu. Went ashore and inspected Mt. King battery and several other things of interest. This being an open roadstead, we were very lucky in striking so fine a day for our visit.

Jan. 17th.—Left Kuaotunu at 5.30 and ran to Cape Colville, where we had breakfast, and then went on to Cabbage Bay. After a short stop there, we went on to Coromandel.

Jan. 18th.—Coromandel was very quiet all day, so we decided to get up a dance. We hired the hall, and with the assistance of the girls, had quite a good evening.

Jan. 19th.—Up at 7.30 and got the launch cleaned up. We soon had our party on board, and set off to Te Kume for the day. This harbour is well known to all Auckland yachtsmen, and we were delighted with it. The launch *Pirate* came into the bay while we were there. Two of their crew, P. Payne and M. Stewart, joined us for the rest of the trip. Shortly afterwards we got our party aboard, and ran back to Coromandel wharf.

Jan. 20th.—We spent the day doing the sights. At night we had a grand finale picnic, 28 all told on board, going for a run out into the Gulf.

Jan. 21.—Left Coromandel about 9 o'clock, and ran down the coast to Kirita, where we did a bit of fishing. Then on to Tapu. Leaving Tapu, we made our way to the Thames, where we stayed for four days. We paid a visit to Messrs. A. & G. Price's foundry, and found the works very interesting. We took several parties out for a run, returning to Shortland. Brown here made a name for himself by rescuing a sheep out of the river. The man who was assisting him in his task fell off the launch in his excitement, and had to be dragged ashore also. At night we were invited to a musical evening at 'Pirate' Payne's, where we spent a most enjoyable time.

Jan. 25th.—After saying good-bye to our numerous friends, we left the Thames at 11.15 p.m., and ran up the coast to Coromandel.

Jan. 26th.—Went up to town and said good-bye to a few of our friends. Then back on board, and started for home. The run up to town was looked upon as a sort of funeral, broken with a general sigh when we reached Judge's Bay. The course of the cruise had taken us over about 850 knots all told, the engine, a *Herald* (I think it is the only one of its kind in the town), doing its work without the slightest trouble.

### Phases of the Moon

New moon	...	Mar.	8	11.52 a.m.
First quarter	...	"	16	8.28 a.m.
Full Moon	...	"	22	11.26 p.m.
Last Quarter	...	"	30	0.28 a.m.



## Cruise of the Launch Ranoni.

By BILL B.

The members of our crew—Messrs. C. Rushbrook, E. Rushbrook, W. Wilson, P. Guppy, J. Jeffs and W. Bell, all Manukau yachtsmen—arrived on the beach, Judge's Bay, early in the afternoon of December 24th, 1912, and the ran the launch to the man-o'-war steps to pick up our benzine and provisions. At 10.30 we left our moorings for Arkle's Bay, and after a very smooth run, anchored there for the night.

Dec. 25th.—All hands were aboard until after dinner, when we went ashore to make ourselves known. After a pleasant time ashore, we ran into the mouth of the Wade River for tea, this being necessary on account of the roll coming into the bay.

Dec. 26th.—Getting up early, we made a start for Kawanu, and arrived at Mansion House Bay at 8 o'clock. We cleaned up, and went ashore to await the arrival of the steamer. Friends of the boys arriving, they spent the time ashore with them, and then had to bid them good-bye for a month.

Dec. 27.—In company with Mr. E. Payne's launch Pirate, we set off for Whangarei. We had a very smooth trip all the way up the coast, and it was not long before we arrived at the town wharf, the crew going up to town to renew friendships of the year before. Arriving on board about 11 p.m., we ran down the river to Onerahi, intending to take some friends up to Whangaruru next day.

Dec. 28th.—The friends arrived by the steamer, but would not go to Whangaruru, so we decided to spend the day near the Heads. Had a good look around the various bays, and came back to the town wharf again. Had a musical evening with the Pirate's crew.

Dec. 29.—Went for a ride out to Kamo Springs, arriving back at 5.30.

Dec. 30th.—All hands started cleaning and polishing, and only being dressed in pyjama suits, the local paper gave us a rub about the way we were dressed.

Dec. 31st.—The day was spent at Whangarei. Late in the afternoon Seabird and Rehutai arrived from Russell. The New Year was duly welcomed by all the crews.

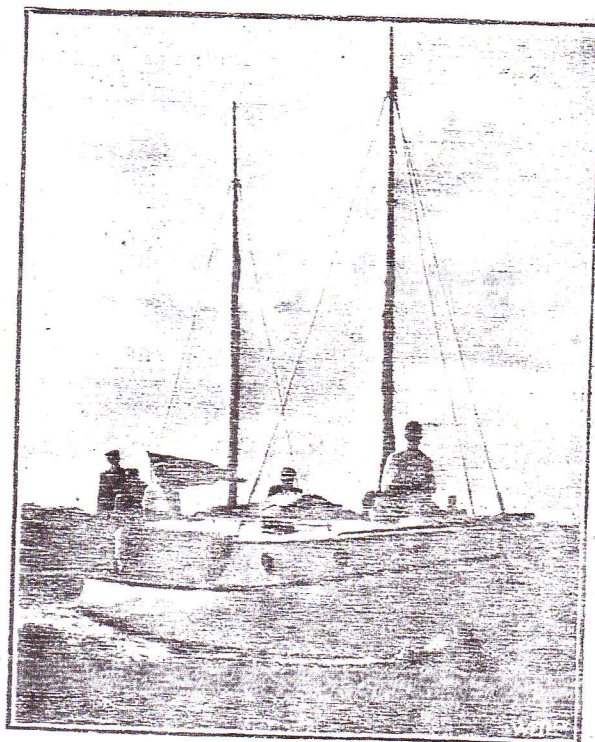
Jan. 1st.—When our friends arrived we set off down the river to the regatta at Onerahi. A large number of Auckland boats were present, some racing, others doing the same as ourselves, visiting friends.

Jan. 2nd.—A little necessary shopping done, we set off down the river. We had on board a member of

Waione's crew, so ran into several bays, eventually finding the yacht anchored in Stewart's Bay. After putting our friend aboard we left for the Barrier. Off Bream Head we ran into a big roll, which made the craft jump about a lot. We lashed two billies, containing a pudding and potatoes, to the stove, and when they were ready we sat down on the cockpit floor to eat them. Some of the boys did not seem very hungry for a wonder. A run of a little over six hours brought us to Port Fitzroy, and it was quite a change to have smooth water again. We anchored off Warren's for the night.

Jan. 3rd.—We went to a small bay to do some washing, and soon had a line of clothes out. This done, we got a fresh loaf and some scones from Paddison's for tea. About 6 o'clock we ran around to the next bay, called Okiwi, but the wind coming into the bay fairly fresh, we decided to go back to Fitzroy.

Jan. 4th.—We took a party from Paddison's for a picnic to Tryphena. The run through Port Fitzroy and along the coast between the islands is one well worth taking, and the weather was at its best. Arriving at the bay, a punt came out and took all our party ashore, after which we were told to sit round while they served lunch, which was duly appreciated. While in this bay we met the old man whose occupation seems to be drinking painkiller. He is about 90, and reckons on seeing another 20 years yet. We wished him luck. (The Roma's crew mentioned having met this old 'sport'). After a very pleasant



Messrs. RUSHBROOK'S RANONI



# The men of NAPS

Last week I wrote about the private launches used as Z-boats during the war, how they were brought under the wing of the Royal New Zealand Navy and how they and their owners eventually became the Whangarei section of the Naval Auxiliary Patrol Service.

As promised, I shall conclude that story this week with a list of the boats and some of the men who served in them during the time NAPS existed.

There were 36 full-time personnel and 44 part-timers in the Whangarei section of NAPS and sadly, space does not permit printing all of them in this column.

As a result I can list only the names of the boats and the men who were still in service at the time the Naval Auxiliary Patrol Service was disbanded.

The names of all the vessels listed were entitled to use the letters H.M.N.Z.S. as a prefix but, for the sake of brevity, I have not used it here and as the crews were frequently rostered or assigned to different boats some duplication of names will be noticed.

**Z-30 RAUMATI.** Fully mobilised. Owned and captained by Alf Walker. Deputy skipper Jim Robinson. Crew members Cliff Scarfe, Tom Harnden, Sammy Conaghan, Hec Knight, Tonky Franklin and Don Bayliss.

**Z-31 RONGOTAI.** Fully mobilised. Owned and captained by Les Waldron. Deputy skipper Jim Christopher and later Robin Wilkinson. Crew members were, Ossie Mann, Bill Durham, Calvin Beehre Barney Finch and George Dudding.

**Z-33 MEANDER.** Fully mobilised. Served in the Bay of Islands and in Whangaroa before coming to Whangarei. Owned and skippered by Sid Guest. Deputy skipper Murdoch McDonald. Crew, Dick Hutchings, Kelvin Lacy, Jack Cumming, Chris Rogers, Bert Young and Will McNaughton.

**Z-36 MENAI.** (Not illustrated). Fully mobilised. Owned and skippered by Bill Reynolds. Was one of the three boats to serve out of Auckland. While in Whangarei the crew were:

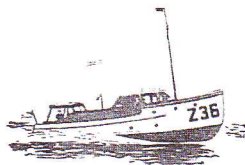
Skipper, Bill Reynolds, deputy skipper, Bert Cattach and later Horrie Whimp. Crew, Ron Lacey,

## The Ships



**Z31 RONGOTAI.**  
Owner, L. Waldron.

**Z36 MENAI.**  
Owner, A. D. Baldwin.



**Z37 SILENS.**  
Owner, Stan Lovatt.

**Z33 MEANDER.**  
Owner, Syd. Guest.

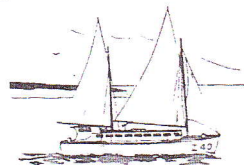


**Z30 RAUMATI.**  
Owner, Alf. Walker.



**Z38 RANONI.**  
Owner, Alex. Matthews.

**Z40 NGAIO.**  
Owner, Jim Mason.



**KUMI**  
Owners, Whangarei Harbour Board.



**Z43 MISS AUSSIE.**  
Owner, Cliff. Atkinson.



**Z35 OLEO.**  
Owner, Eric Wright.



**Z34 ALOHA.**  
Owner, A. I. B. Wilkinson.



**Z42 KOWHAI.**  
Owner, Fred Reynolds.



**Z32 MY GIRL.** Owner, Len Adams

Jack Cumming. Crew, Ray Beehre and Doug Withey. Spent most of her service stationed at the Barrier.

**Z-32 MY GIRL.** Partly mobilised. Owned and captained by Len Adams. Crew, Trevor Hayes. Normally used for fast work and carrying the commodore about.

**Z-35 OLEO.** Partly mobilised. Owned and skippered by Eric White. Not really a NAPS boat because it was under charter to the Navy most of the time.

**Z-XXX KUMI.** owned by the Whangarei Harbour Board and usually skippered by Archie McKenzie.

It was never given an official Z number but was placed at the disposal of NAPS for use in emergencies so has been listed as being partly mobilised.

**Z-37 SILENS.** partly mobilised. Owned by Stan Lovatt and skippered by Archie McKenzie or Roy Cleary his deputy. Crew, Lyall Bird, Bill Bisset, Bruce Lovatt and Calvin Simpson.

**Z-40 NGAIO.** Partly mobilised. Owned and captained by Jim Mason. Deputy skipper Tom McKinnon. Crew, Jack Carpenter, Bob Baker, Peter Roberts and Ian Crawshaw.

**Z-MOERANGI.** (Not illustrated). Partly mobilised. Owned and skippered by Hughie Cox-Smith. Crew, Tai Cross, George Young, John Roberts and Bob Snooks.

**Z-42 KOWHAI.** Partly mobilised. Owned and captained by Fred Reynolds. Deputy skipper Bill Reynolds. Crew, Les Robertson, Edgar Simmons, Ray Crouch, and Noel Walker.

**Z-43 MISS AUSSIE.** Partly mobilised. Owned and skippered by Cliff, Atkinson. Deputy Skipper, Rollo McLean. Crew: Sammy Conaghan and Gordon Pullman.

**Z-34 ALOHA.** Partly mobilised. owned by A. I. B. Wilkinson and skippered by his son Laurie. Crew: John Roberts, Sammy Conaghan, Hec Knight and Bernie Finch.

Bill Flower, Graeme McKenzie and Cliff Scarfe. Toward the end of the war Bill Reynolds had to return to Whangarei and sold the Menai to Arnold Baldwin.

**Z-38 RANONI.** Fully mobilised. owned by Alex Matthews, skippered by Vere Harrison and later by



## Whiteman

---

**From:** Harold Kidd [Harold@hklaw.co.nz]  
**Sent:** Friday, 23 December 2011 9:01 a.m.  
**To:** Kent Gray (MAG); g.whiteman@xnet.co.nz  
**Subject:** RE: Ranoni

Dear Graeme,

I'm at the office and frankly can't remember what I said in the article about *Ranoni's* launch date.

However, looking at my database again, I see that Charles Gouk had her planked up in June 1911, she was out of his shed at Beaumont Street and complete, on the beach, (I imagine waiting for her engine installation) by mid August, while the first mention of her afloat is when the Rushbrook brothers took a trip to Thames in January 1912. That Easter they took her to Te Aroha etc.

That's all consistent with what you say.

Do you want a copy of my database which has all the references, mainly NZ *Yachtsman* magazine, NZ *Aquatic* magazine, *Northern Advocate*, NZ *Herald*, *Auckland Star*? I can also forward copies of articles on a couple of her early trips including images.

Cheers,

Harold

Harold Kidd | PRINCIPAL

**HAROLD KIDD LAW**

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**From:** Kent Gray (MAG) [<mailto:kent.gray@boatingnz.co.nz>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 December 2011 10:18 p.m.  
**To:** Harold Kidd  
**Subject:** FW: Ranoni

FYI.  
Merry Xmas.  
KG

**From:** Whiteman [<mailto:g.whiteman@xnet.co.nz>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 December 2011 5:36 p.m.  
**To:** Kent Gray (MAG)  
**Subject:** Ranoni

Hi Kent

I would like to contact Harold Kidd, about the launch. Which he made some comments about in your April 2011 Magazine. I owned the boat for many years and there were some discrepancy in what he has written and what I was always told and so it would be good to talk to him, and find out where he obtained his information. Ranoni was launched prior to Christmas 1911 and set sail for her maiden cruise on Boxing day 1911, If you please pass this e mail on to him it would be greatly appreciated. WE intend to have celebration of the birthday in the next few weeks and intend to get a representative from all the previous owners, some of them have already been contacted and are keen.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Graeme Whiteman  
Rehia  
35 Wellington St  
Russell  
09 4037975  
0274 366 358

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**From:** Harold Kidd [<mailto:Harold@hklaw.co.nz>]  
**Sent:** Friday, 23 December 2011 12:10 p.m.  
**To:** [g.whiteman@xnet.co.nz](mailto:g.whiteman@xnet.co.nz)  
**Subject:** Ranoni

Graeme,

PS The clincher is a ref in the Northern Advocate of 28/12/11

"Messrs Rushbrook's fine launch *Ranoni* berthed at the Town Wharf last night after a pleasant run from Kawau. She left again for the North before noon today".

Cheers,

Harold

**Harold Kidd** | PRINCIPAL

**HAROLD KIDD LAW**

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Version: 2012.0.1901 / Virus Database: 2109/4696 - Release Date: 12/22/11

## Whiteman

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**From:** Harold Kidd [Harold@hklaw.co.nz]  
**Sent:** Friday, 23 December 2011 4:37 p.m.  
**To:** Whiteman  
**Subject:** RE: Ranoni  
**Attachments:** patio11.bmp

Graeme,

Harvey & Lang were in Beaumont Street too so someone might have got confused in later years.

What do you want to know about *Ranoni*?

One thing I don't know is the make and model of her original engine. It was replaced with a 25-30hp Buffalo in 1924.

Have a good Christmas.  
Here's my boat.

Cheers,

Harold

---

**From:** Whiteman [mailto:g.whiteman@xnet.co.nz]  
**Sent:** Friday, 23 December 2011 2:31 p.m.  
**To:** Harold Kidd  
**Subject:** RE: Ranoni

Harold

Thanks for the reply. I was hoping that I may be able to find out where you got the information about the *Ranoni*, I always unstood that she was built by Harvey & Lang, and surprised to see that you said she was built by Charlie Gouk. Just after I had bought her I met one of the son's of the Rushbrook family, and later one of his sisters and her family came and had a look at her in my boatshed in Whangarei, but unfortunately they have both passed on quite some time ago.

We intend to have a party to celebrate 100 years of cruising in her in the new year, intend to get some of all the families that owned her here, there has been interest in doing it.

I have a story from a 1913 boating magazine of a cruise that they did in her, it is very interesting.

If you can help me with further information or where I might find it I would appreciate it.

Thanks

Graeme Whiteman  
Rehia  
35 Wellington St  
Russell  
09 4037975  
0274 366 358

P.S.

A lot of those boats in that article I am fairly familiar with, my father went down with the Wilkinson family to look at the *Aloha* prior to buying her and as a young baby I was out on the *Menai*.