

"WAITANGI"

Adapted from an Article by
B. PAUL FREYBERG.

THE cutter "Waitangi" was built in Auckland by the late Robert Logan, Sur., in 1894, for Messrs Jas. Jamieson, Thom Kirker, Sydney Winstanley, Wm. Waters and David Georgeson, all Wellington yachtsmen. "Waitangi" remained in Wellington until 1930 when she was purchased by Messrs. J. W. Frater, J. B. Johnston, A. Burt and W. Alexander, all prominent yachtsmen of Auckland.

She was sailed up to her new port and had some extensive alterations made, including sleeping accommodation for 11 people. In 1923 an engine was installed and about 1930 her boom was shortened by 3ft. making for easier handling. Throughout her time in Auckland she has rarely had a season without a flag officer of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron being aboard, Messrs A. Burt, J. B. Johnston, J. W. Frater, J. H. Frater and C. Tewsley, all being Commodores of the Squadron for various terms.

"Waitangi" still races in the Auckland Anniversary Regattas and Squadron Races, winning the T. M. Alexander Memorial race to Kawau on time allowance on February 23, 1946, being the 3rd boat to finish after "Ariki" and "Porangi" had beaten her by only 28 seconds.

At present she is unable to hold her own with the modern Bermudan rigged boats on the wind, but is well in the hunt whenever her sheets are eased.

"Waitangi's" dimensions are 57ft overall, 11ft. beam and 9ft. 3in. draught. She was built to win the New Zealand Championship to be contested at Wellington Anniversary Day Regatta in 1895. The price for building "Waitangi" was £400 cash, the yacht "Xarifa," and the 1st. prize in the Championship £100 if she won.

Shortly after Robt. Logan Senr. built the "Waitangi" he built three $\frac{1}{2}$ raters for members of the Arawa Sailing Club, Wellington. Two of these boats were designed by the then famous Fife of Scotland, one the "Miru" was built for Mr. A. H.



The "Waitangi."

Turnbull (well remembered for his generous gift to N.Z. of the Turnbull Library, Wellington). Mr. Logan had previously built for him the cutter "Rona" (pictured on "Sea Spray's" cover design) which in her day won the second class Championship of N.Z. "Miru" is still a very smart craft in Wellington, but has had her fin removed and is now converted into a keeler. The second boat built to Fife's design was the "Ruru" built for Mr. Martin Chapman. The third $\frac{1}{2}$ rater was built for T. Y. Wardrop and was designed by Professor Scott.

"Waitangi" was launched in Auckland on Thursday evening December 13th., 1894, and while on a cruise at Auckland, met and had an informal race with the famous "Volunteer" and it is reported that she beat the "Volunteer" easily, doing a speed of about nine knots. "Volunteer" would have

probably been under Yawl rig, and racing on the wind, as her strong point was a lead, in which she would leave "Waitangi" behind in the same way that she did "Viking" in the 1894 Auckland Regatta. "Viking" was the previous year's champion.

"Waitangi" did the trip from Auckland to Wellington in six days, eighteen hours, being sailed down by Capt. Dick Butt. She arrived in Wellington on Wed. Jan. 16th., 1895. The "Atalanta," built by Chas. Bailey Jn. for Messrs Canning and Smith of Napier, arrived from that port on the same day. On the next day the "Mascotte" arrived from Lyttelton and on Jan. 19th. at 1 p.m. her consort "Pastime" also arrived from this port in charge of Mr. J. Whiteman after a very rough passage. Three locally built boats made practically their first appearance at this regatta. The ill-fated "Siren," a six tonner designed and built by Mr. Norman Anderson, competed in the handicap yacht race, but the weather was too light for her and she was unplaced, the first prize being won by the famous old veteran "Pet," another old warrior "Jemie Reid" taking second prize. "Mima," once the hope of Wellington to defeat "Mascotte," also started and finished second, but was disqualified, the only other starter being "Ariel."

Another locally built craft of some claim to fame was little "Dauntless" afterwards a champion $\frac{1}{2}$ rater, but then over that rating. "Dauntless" at first was a bulb finner and rated 1.5. She competed in the third class race for boats from one to two and a half rating and finished third. "Iris" and "Greyhound" taking first and second places respectively. When the three $\frac{1}{2}$ raters arrived from Auckland "Dauntless" was cut down by slicing about a foot off her freeboard and a dagger fin and forward fin replaced the lead bulb fin. "Curo" a new 14 footer built by Tom Hodder for Jimmy Jones of Oriental Bay that was launched about the same time as "Dauntless" was unplaced at the Regatta.

The general impression in Wellington previous to the 1895 Regatta was that "Waitangi" would win the regatta only if a moderate breeze was blowing. In light weather "Pastime" was the favourite and if the breeze was very strong the impression prevailed that "Mascotte" was bound to win. The championship regatta was really representative. "Waitangi" represented Auckland (Mr. Logan was not to hand over the boat till after the race), "Mascotte" and "Pastime" Lyttelton, and "Maritana" Wellington in the first class. The second class championship boats were "Atalanta" representing Napier, "Rona," "Isca," "Waiwetū" (now known as "Viking"), "Mahina" (now known as "Romp"), and "Mapu" upheld Wellington.

"Atalanta" scored a great victory by finishing one min. ahead of "Rona," but was disqualified by carrying a larger mainsail than she was rated for in defiance of the racing regulations, the race being

held under the length and sail area rule for handicap. "Rona," sailed by her owner Mr. Turnbull, was awarded first place and "Isca" second.

The first class championship race started in a light northerly but half an hour later a light southerly sprang up and a good sailing breeze ensued.

"Maritana" was away smartly at 11 a.m. handled by veteran George Martin and 25 sec. later "Pastime" crossed with Malcolm Miller at the tiller. The new boat "Waitangi" followed 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ min. later, time being lost through making weather position and getting jammed. Mr. R. Logan Snr. was in charge. Last of all came "Mascotte" looking a picture with her white hull showing up against the black hulls of her rivals, and all kites set, including a club topsail. Mr. Jas. Sinclair at the tiller looking as cool as ever.

The boats merely crawled along as far as Evans Bay where they encountered a brisk southerly breeze.

"Pastime" was first round Pt. Halswell, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ mins. ahead of "Waitangi," but on the beat up to Worser Bay "Waitangi" took the lead and rounding the buoy first, was never headed throughout.

At the end of the first round "Waitangi" was 11min. 10sec. ahead of "Mascotte," winning eventually by over 27 minutes without time allowance.

"Waitangi" and her builder received an ovation on crossing the finishing line and a double charge from the signal gun saluted the victor.

A splendid race for third place took place between "Maritana" and "Pastime." Both boats were close together from Korokoro to the finish on the beat up and barely a length separated the two boats when "Pastime" crossed the line third. On corrected time allowance "Pastime" beat "Maritana" by 9 mins. 11sec.

Mr. David Georgeson, one of the original owners, has recently died at Wellington at the age of 88 years.

Four men employed by Mr. Robert Logan Snr. and who worked on "Waitangi" are still alive, Ted Brooks, H. McKenzie, Tom Wells and W. Oliver.

AUCKLAND POLICE BOAT.

The launch used by the Auckland Water Police to patrol the boat harbours and for other purposes, has now been returned to her original owner.

When an accident takes place the police have to telephone all over the place to get the use of a launch.

Auckland yachtsmen consider that a launch of about 40ft., with a Diesel engine is urgently required to carry out this necessary duty.