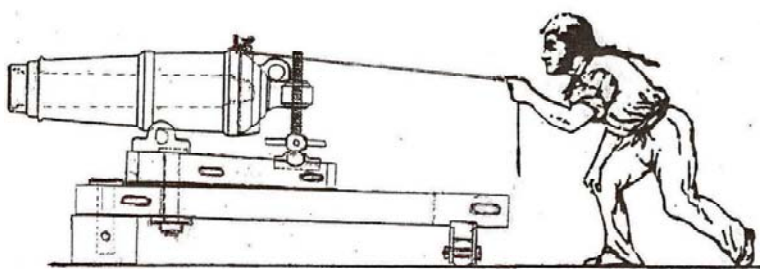


**NZAR ID 280, ARM TYPE: Armed Vessel. Draft date (V1) 18 Sept 2010, Compiled by John Osborne DTT PhD FSG,  
 Pattern: NZs First Gunboat, Wellington / Porirua Harbour. Introduced: 1845. Withdrawn: 1847**

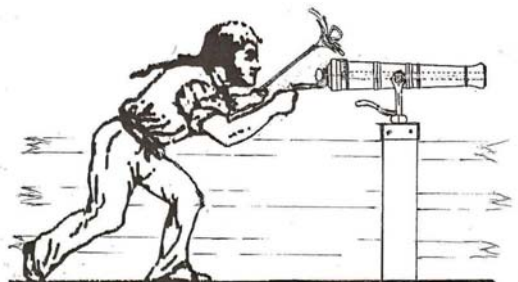
In 1846 the Colonial Records of Revenue and Expenditure listed the purchase of a gunboat for Porirua Harbour for 100 pounds 17 shillings and 6 pence. This modest acquisition was the first boat purchased by the New Zealand Colonial Government for use as a vessel of war. The boat was a longboat which had been recovered from the wreck of the barque *Tyne*, near Sinclair Head, Wellington on 4 July 1845. No name for the longboat is mentioned in any sources. Carpenters from HMS *Calliope* converted her into a gunboat. She was lengthened, fitted with a 12 pdr carronade at the bow, and equipped also with a small brass gun (swivel gun) as protection against musket shot. The *Calliope* took the boat to Porirua in July 1846. The gunboat was used for some time at Porirua on patrol duty, manned mainly by crew from the *Calliope*. In December it was transferred to Wanganui, again aboard *Calliope*. At Wanganui a young crew member accidentally wounded a Maori chief with a pistol. The Maori wanted the surrender of the youth, which was refused, and this was the direct cause of the Gilfillan murders. The gunboat saw more action in Wanganui until, damaged by its own gun recoil, it was disarmed in late 1847.



Above example: The Bay of Islands Longboat "Tutanekai" displayed in the Russell Museum originally used as a whaleboat then as a Utility ferryboat including transporting visitors around the Bay of Islands and children from Waitangi, Paihia and Waikare to Opuia School. Depending on what a longboat was used for it would be called by names such as "Shipsboat" (Pinnace), "Tender", "Whaleboat", "Ferryboat", "Gunboat" (if guns were mounted on board for coastal / harbour defence). These small vessels were propelled by sails or oars, rowed by eight or more.



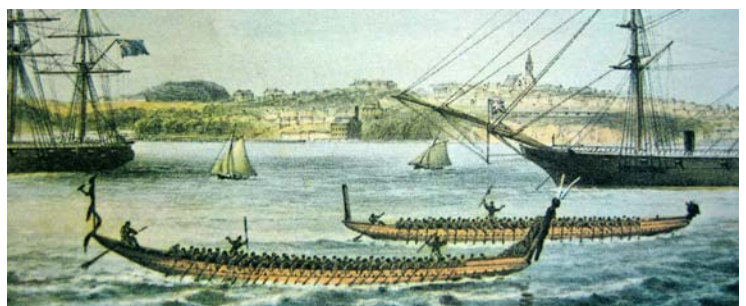
British pattern 12 pounder (4.52" bore) carronade c1800.



British Armstrong pattern 1/2 pounder (1.55" bore) Swivel Gun



Waka Taura c1827



Waka Taura Race Auckland 1862

**During the Musket Wars (1820s – 30s) Maori fitted small cannon /carronades to some of their Waka Taura (War Canoes)  
 Presently researching the Armed Waka Taura used by the Far North Maori War Chiefs c1820s-30s would appreciate any information.**

Acknowledgments and special thanks to:

Russell Museum [www.russellmuseum.org.nz](http://www.russellmuseum.org.nz), [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early\\_naval\\_vessels\\_of\\_New\\_Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_naval_vessels_of_New_Zealand)  
 New Zealand National Archives [www.archives.govt.nz](http://www.archives.govt.nz) Royal Military College, UK. [www.army.mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk)  
 Osborne Arms Museum [armsmuseum@xtra.co.nz](mailto:armsmuseum@xtra.co.nz)