

# **NEW ZEALAND**

## **The Quick Guide**

Some nice places to see when cruising  
North Island



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**Data 2009**

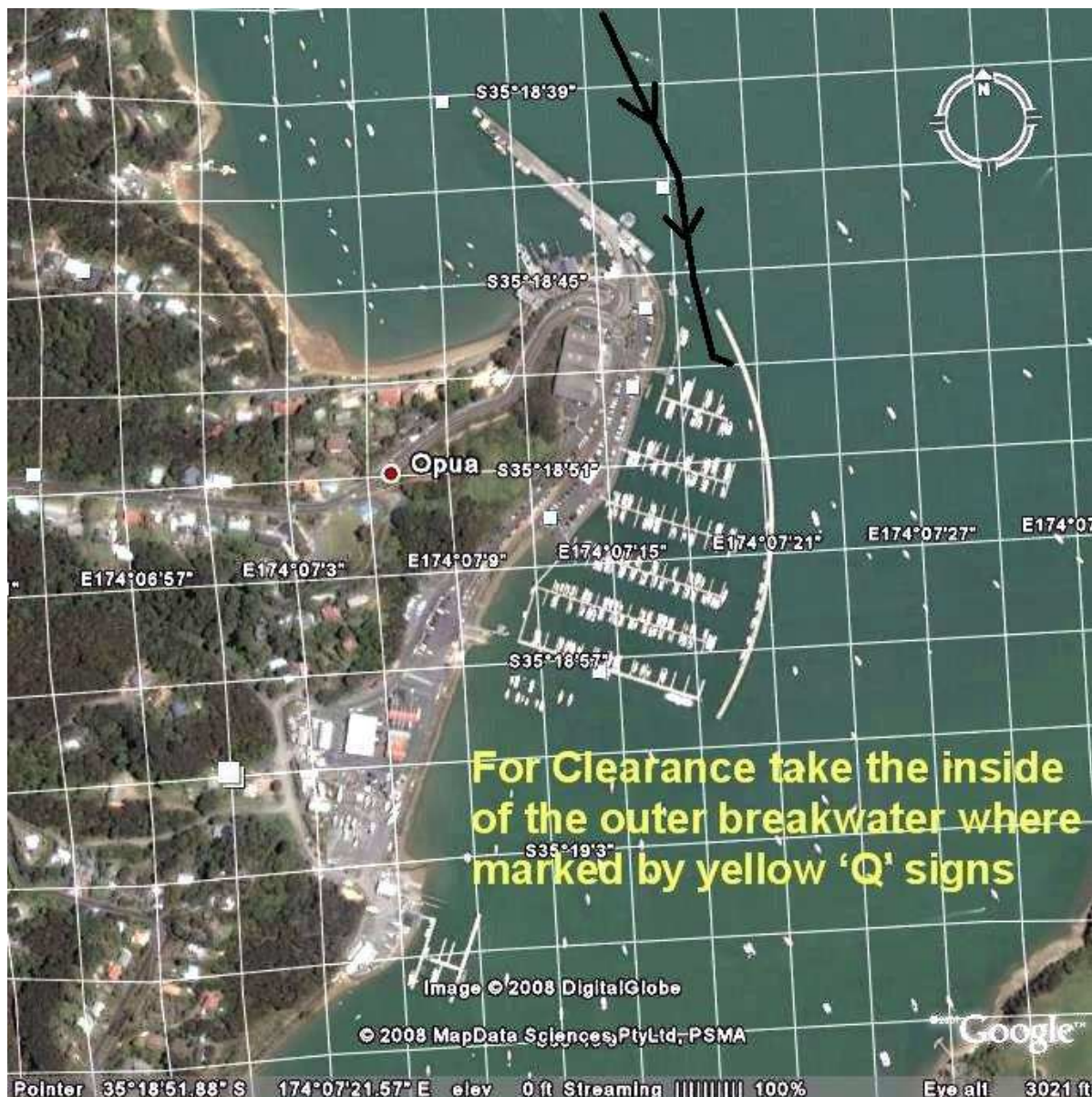
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## Welcome to New Zealand

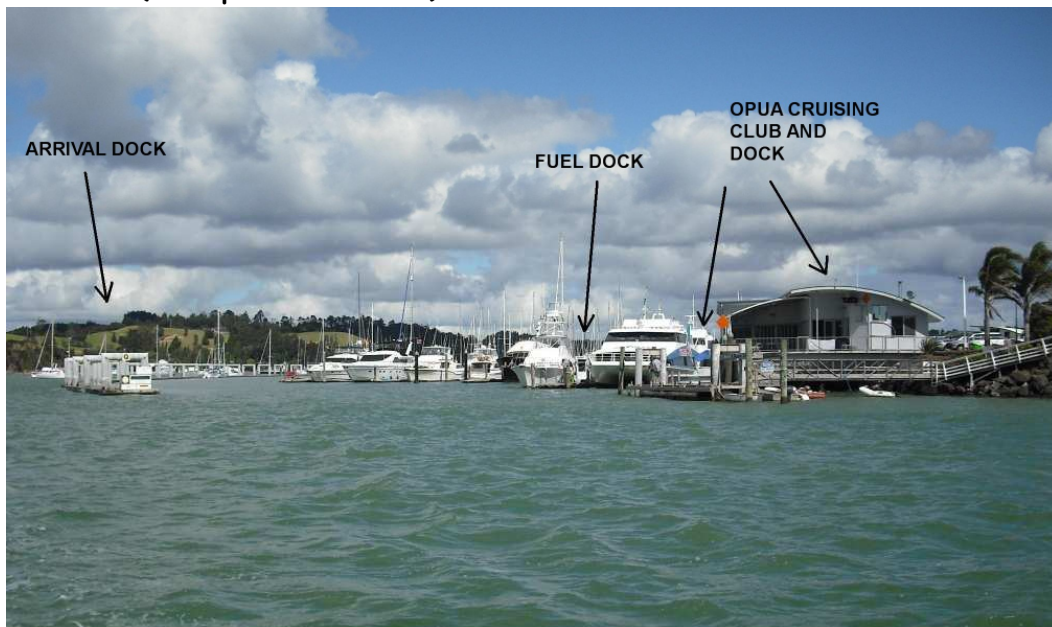
### Opua Marina : Customs Arrival Dock





## ARRIVAL...

**Most** people aim to arrive in Opuia, it's the first 'check-in' port that you come to and usually it's a rush to get in before something nasty comes along; during the 'arrival season' the Customs and Immigration run a 'well oiled machine' clearing in boats efficiently and quickly at the 'easy arrival dock' which is part of the outer breakwater within the Opuia Marina. This berth can be reached day or night and in the foulest of weather; you can put a call in to Opuia Offshore Communications (Des) as you arrive (ch 16) or call the Marina (ch 12) during working hours. You can berth on both sides of the jetty but if you are small, the inside is more sheltered (see photo below); there can be a fair bit of current!



## Opua

Whilst Opua is considered by many to be 'just a Marina', there are actually quite a few things to see and do here if you have the time. There is a great coastal walk into **Paihia**, where you get to sample what the Department of Conservation Parks and Walkways are like. New Zealand is full of these walkways, all well maintained, well sign posted and full of interesting things to see. Whilst there, ask about a brochure showing the local walks as there a couple of nice ones around Paihia and more out on the islands.

Close by the Ferry Landing is the Blue Water Bar and Bistro which, whilst not cheap by NZ standards, produces good food at a reasonable price. They also have a 'Take-away' that is very convenient if you need a ready made meal 'to go'. For 'Picnics', sandwiches and pies are available at the Opua Store; which is a Grocery and Post Office, they also have Internet whilst WiFi is available in both in the Marina and the anchorage.

On the subject of Picnics..... Getting in to the swing of creating a great Picnic will really help you enjoy these remarkable islands, this is the land of the great out-doors, there are just so many fantastic walks which end with a beautiful view and a Picnic table ready to go; don't forget to take the chilled bottle of white!

At the end of the wharf in Opua lies the "Tucker Thompson", a small Brig; whilst not the finest example of a Square Rigger we yachties do get a chance to ride her for free and get a lift into Russell at the same time. If you have not had this experience before, it can be quite enlightening as the crew are always ready to explain the workings of their ship (departs about 0740 but best check the day before); they will also bring you back in the late afternoon if you are still over there. The Marina Café does great seafood chowder, enough so that two people can share a bowl and still feel well fed!

**Russell** Just a few miles from Opua, Russell offers a couple of protected anchorages and easy access to the shore. The main pier has an area allocated for tying dinghies but watch you don't get caught under the pier when the tide comes in.

Ashore this quaint little tourist town has some fine places to dine or just have a couple of drinks overlooking the anchorage. There is a good bakery (they make nice Olive Bread), a well equipped hardware store (Hammer Hardware), which does gas refills and a Four Square Supermarket. Whilst the supermarket is adequate, there is a much better selection across the bay in **Pahia**.

There are a couple of nice walks here and an easy starter will take you to Flagstaff Hill, from where there is a nice view across the bay.



There are a lot of moorings close off the town and it pays to anchor well away from the Ferry Route; the pier here can get quite busy, particularly at weekends. You can pick up helpful information at the tourist office and a visit to the DOC (Department of Conservation) Office is a must as here you can get all the latest information and local regulations for the Bay of Islands Marine Park; plenty of maps with walking trails available! If the anchorage off Russell is too crowded you can always anchor in **Pomare Bay** Posn: 35 16.642S 174 07.722E and take the dinghy in to the Boating Club dock at the 'back end' of Russell in Matauwhai Bay.



## Matauwhai Bay

As stated, the back end or south anchorage for Russell; whilst not 'right off the action', it is less congested (although you have to lie outside the local moorings). It is quieter and there are no rushing ferries with associated wakes; in general it is easier to find an anchorage in shallower water and the Russell Boating Club provides a nice dock for you to take the dink to (donations welcomed). This Club also provides some of the best value for money lunches and dinners in the bay....Sunday Roast being the highlight.

Anchor posn: 35 16.360S 174 07.596E



You can just see the Boating Club dock over to the far right



## Paihia

Just a few miles away from Opuia this small town is always bustling and lively, when compared to Russell it's a little 'down market' and caters more for the back-packers than the well heeled, however there are a couple of nice restaurants and some smaller café's and bars, Its really the only place on the bay where you can walk ashore and engage in 'normal shopping'. The Four Square Supermarket in town has a larger selection and the Woolworths, just out of town would provide just about anything required.

Paihia is the main starting place for most of the tours going out into the Bay of Islands; you can also organize land tours to such places as Ninety Mile Beach in the remote North East. If you want to "Swim with the Dolphin's" or blast through the 'Hole in the Wall' on a jet boat, things that you can't do from your own boat..... this is the place to arrange it.

There is room to anchor right off Paihia but you do have to leave the ferries plenty of room to get to the pier; however it would be safer to anchor off Russell and use the tender so long as the wind allowed.

Woolworths is about half a mile north of Paihia, just south of the Waitangi River. **Waitangi** and its famous Treaty House stands just North of the river. Here it is possible to get the full New Zealand Cultural Experience in a very short time. They do dinner for \$60NZ (PP) and you get to see some very good dancing. You cannot leave NZ without somewhere experiencing a 'Hangi' ('dance'... but now generally a war dance). Details are available from the tourist offices in Paihia and Russell.

This brings us to a "Mr John" anchorage special.....



## Motumaire Island / Waitangi Bay Anchorage

This island and anchorage lays just a few cables north of **Paihia Warf**, so long as there is no big northeast swell or a northerly wind, it's a good anchorage but a little shallow if you draw more than six feet (so go carefully!). The bottom however is soft mud and shelves very slowly so you can move well inshore.

We move up into a small bay on the east side of Motumaire Island and it has more protection than shown on the chart.

Anchor position: 35 16.430S 174 05.546E with about 6.75 feet at MLWS.

We take the dinghy across to the Paihia Warf, where there is plenty of room to tie safely out of the way of commercial traffic. There is also Fresh water on the dock. Woolworths is within easy walking distance and there are plenty of shops, hardware and electrical stores close to hand. If you are doing a big store up then you can take your tender to the beach just a few hundred yards from Woolworths but watch out that there is no swell when you do it.

There is at least protection from the wakes of the passing tour boats; this can be quite annoying in both Russell and the more southerly Paihia anchorages.



## The Bay of Islands

That just about sums it up, a big bay full of Islands and anchorages. Most of the islands are Parkland and Recreational Reserves so there are few if any services available on any of them. This is a great place for 'getting outdoors', walking, trekking, fishing, swimming and such like. You should be 'up to speed' with your BBQ because this is a great place for it. If you are not into fishing then you'll have to start out with a well filled fridge / freezer, however if you are into fishing you will be well rewarded in this 'target rich' environment. We have been in and out of the Bay a few times since arrival and have caught fish every time, just towing a line and a lure behind the boat. Kingfish are readily available in the positions marked in your 'Fish Guide'.

### Roberton Island (Motuarohia Island)

Just three miles beyond Russell, this island has one of the most popular anchorages in the Bay (thus it may be best not to do it on a weekend!). The reasons for its popularity lie in the nice beach, easy anchorage with plenty of room and a safe spot for the children to swim. Ashore there is a natural pool in which the DOC has laid out an underwater nature trail, the more hardened divers may find this a little tame but it's a great place for beginners to get to grips with snorkelling. There is also a very short and easy walk to one of the islands peaks, which has some nice views and is a great place to watch the sunset; or get some pictures of the boat in the bay.



## MOTURUA ISLAND

**Moturua Island** is the next island east of Roberton Island, just half a mile away; it is another Recreational Reserve and has a great walk, which takes you right around the island (in just a little more than an hour) descending onto the beaches at **Waipao Bay**, **Mangahawea Bay**, **Otupoho Bay** and **Waiwhapuku Bay**. All these are great anchorages and one would suit in almost any conditions; the two southeast bays (**Awaawaroa** and **Hahangarue**) are not linked to the trail and have private houses in them.

**Otupoho** is a little on the small side and may require a stern anchor but once there, you are not going to have much company!

### **Waiwhapuku Bay**

Is on the NE end of the island and gives protection from North to South through West with generally good holding; our anchor

Position: 35 13.075S

174 11.638E in 10 feet

at MLWS. At the

northern end of the

beach the round-island

trail heads off up a fairly

steep incline, starting

this way would take you

anticlockwise round the

island which we do not

recommend; it is best to

go clockwise so that when you reach the top of this incline,

before descent, you find a couple of nice benches on which to sit

and take your picnic with the most magnificent view. These are

the only benches on the trail however another great picnic spot is

up at the Par Site; also on the north eastern tip of the island,

there is an old concrete Pill Box, left over from WWII and this

gives a great platform to sit on.



## Urupukapuka Island

This is another Recreational Reserve with great walking trails and fantastic anchorages giving shelter from just about any weather; laying just another mile and a half east of Moturua Island.

### Cable Bay

The most southern bay on Urupukapuka Island is Cable Bay, it is not always named in the guides or on the chart so don't be surprised if you don't find it Anchor Posn: 35 13.651S 174 14.67E. It is however, quite popular; probably due to the nice beach and good snorkelling area close at hand.



It is permitted to camp in this bay so there are often a few tents ashore; there are some very nice walking trails on Urupukapuka Island so this is a good place to check out the southern end however if it is crowded, more

room can generally be found in Urupukapuka Bay just around the corner to the North East. Getting to the shore here is equally easy and the same trails accessible. In case you would like a snack ashore, there is a Café and small shop in **Otehei Bay**, This particular bay gets quite busy and it is also very short of water on the approach, so unless you want to be constrained by the tide, it's best to avoid anchoring here.



## Otaio Bay

Also on Urupukapuka Island, this bay gives good shelter from the NW through North to SE and has plenty of room for anchoring; there are two beaches in the bay with firm sand and nice swimming / snorkelling. Anchor Posn: 35 12.804S 174 13.488E.

Again there is access to the tracks and we did a nice circular tour (2.5hrs) going out to the north and returning from the south.



There are some great views and the tracks are easy to do, not a great deal of wildlife, plenty of sheep and a scattering of birds. Still a nice place to take a picnic ashore and wander around or even better, for the serious "get fit" brigade, start early and get running!!!

We looked at **Paradise Bay** but considered it more exposed and less attractive.

## Omakiwi Cove

**The Eastern Part of the Bay** looks to have some great anchorages and it does but the water tends to be a bit thin in places. Omakiwi is about the best of the bunch. We anchored Posn.: 35 14.412S 174 14.064E and had about twelve feet under the keel at Low Water.

Beach landing was easy and ashore we found a nice track leading off to the north up into the Pine Forrest; after about five minutes walking we were amazed to find an extremely well tended Mouri Cemetery. Whilst I wouldn't normally recommend anyone to go on a walk to look at a Cemetery, this one was unusual enough to warrant the trip. We carried on down the track and this eventually took us through / over a couple of gates and on to the main road by which we made our way back to the beach and the dinghy. It was on this walk that we first encountered some Red Crested Lorikeets; we hadn't been expecting 'Parrots' so were quite pleasantly surprised.



## North of the Bay of Islands

### Moturoa Island

This is a wildlife sanctuary only an hour north of Russell, it has some nice little beaches in small private coves dotted around its shore. Ashore there are a few nice short walks with some picturesque views, however there are also a lot of 'summer homes' scattered around and it is difficult to know whether one is trespassing or not. I like to know where I'm supposed to be when wandering about ashore and lack of signs and information in this case made it unwelcoming.... As we were leaving we noted a tour boat full of people headed for the main jetty, maybe we missed something?

There are some nice anchorages and plenty of snorkelling areas ...  
We anchored off the NW coast just outside of some moorings



Posn: 35 12.395S 174 04.526E. It's a pretty anchorage....

We passed between Moruroa and the mainland, there is a 'twenty-three meter clearance' cable strung across the gap.

**North of Moturoa** are two large inlets Te Puna and Kerikeri with numerous bays, anchorages and places to walk ashore. They are both shallow however and thus often missed by visiting cruisers.

## Kerikeri Inlet

On the north shore is Doves Bay, which has a neat little Marina and is the home of the Kerikeri Cruising Club. The remainder of Doves bay is full of local boats on moorings, so to is Opito Bay and the northern coast right along to Motutapu Island. This would not be a big deal except that when there is a NE swell, it runs right up the inlet and a wind against tide situation makes it uncomfortable. If you get the right weather it is well worth while to get ashore on the northern shore and visit Ake Ake Historic Reserve at Akeaka Point. Another good reason for being here is to visit the town of Kerikeri this lies up at the head of the inlet and is approached via the Pickmere Channel.

The rule for this is: Draft over four feet you have to follow the channel, draft over six feet you have to stay in the channel, draft over seven feet you may never find the channel. Whatever, it should be done on the rising tide leaving a good hour and a half for getting up there.

For visiting Cruising Yachts you really need to have arranged a mooring to go to in advance of this expedition.

Moorings Northland may be able to help :Tel.(09) 4026939

Or 0274 998060. However the guy on the spot is Collin Ried Tel. (09) 407 8988.

Once you get up there, you still have a good twenty minute walk to the town from the Stone Store dock but it is easier coming back. (and thumbing a lift is very rewarding on this route).

Kerikeri is a lovely little town and there are some really nice walks available, Rainbow Falls being the most popular. There are New World and Woolworths supermarkets available for stores, lots of places to eat and drink and lots of historic New Zealand around to view: The Stone Store, Kemp House, the historic Power Station, the river walk and the Scenic Reserve are all well worth seeing.



## Kerikeri Basin

Looking towards the Stone Store



Looking out from the dock at the Stone House; the boulder bank is visible to the left, you can just see the red marker by the yachts to the right. It's real shallow to the right of a line from the dock to the yacht in the background.



## The Cavalli Islands

Only a couple of hours north of the Bay of Islands this is another nest of Islands with a couple of nice anchorages and some really great fishing / snorkelling waters. It is however a little more exposed and you need settled conditions to get the most out of it.



The best anchorages for SE to Nly winds are **Waiti Bay** and **Papatara Bay** on **Motukawanui Island** and for southerly winds a fair anchorage can be taken on the north end tucked into an unnamed bay (Anchor Posn: 34 59.298S 173 56.650E in 12 feet) It can get crowded on fine weekends but during the week you can often find solitude here; whatever, it is a good stopover on route to Whangaroa Harbour.



The rugged solitude of the **Cavalli Islands**.

Mr John IV... 1988



## Whangaroa Harbour

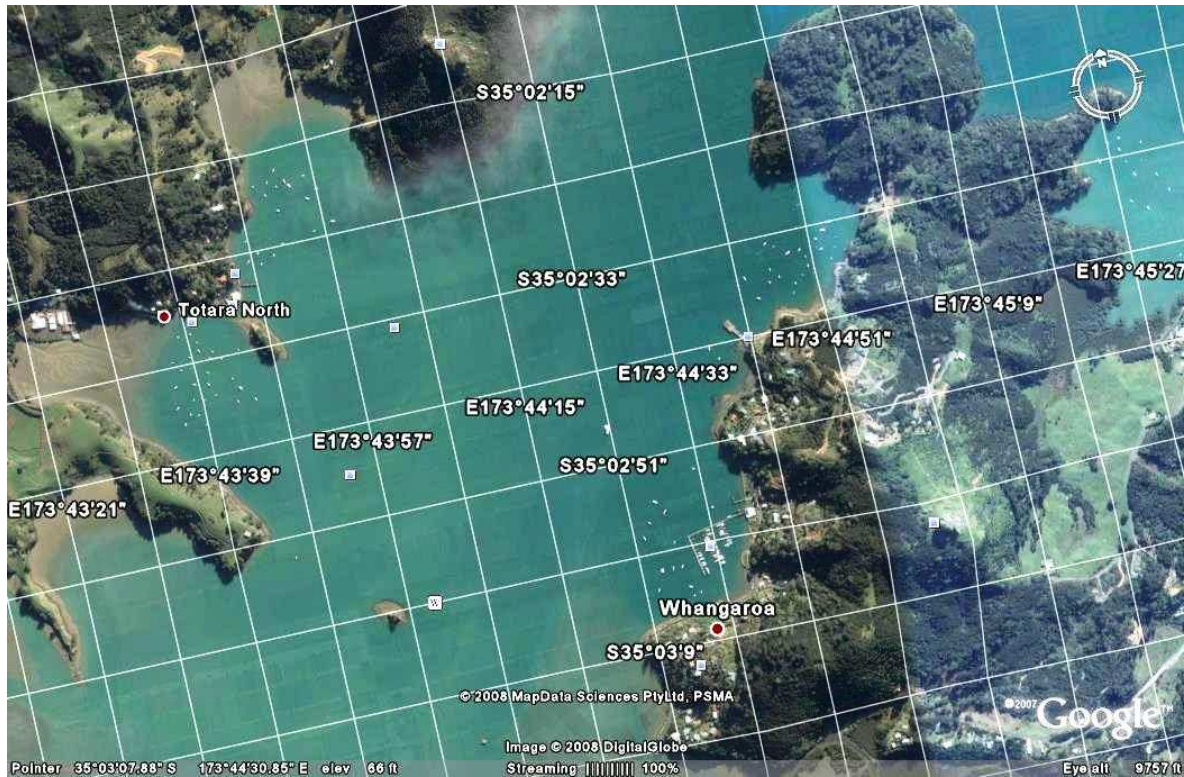
One of Northlands best protected harbours this beautiful expanse of water, overlooked by photogenic peaks and rolling hills, is only a day sail from the Opua Marina and should not be missed. With great shelter and lots of anchorages there are plenty of nooks and crannies to explore; there are also some excellent walks



1988 View across the harbour from Mount St. Paul's, above the village. The bay in the foreground is now occupied by the small Marina and boats are clustered around it on moorings.....



## Whangaroa Harbour and Marina



Google's more up to date photo shows the Marina with off lying moorings.

**Further North** there are several more good places to visit however they require a little more effort and can be hampered by both weather and draft restrictions. They are beyond the scope of this guide but if you have a will to go, the rewards could be great.....

**Returning south again.....**



## Piercy Island

Marks the Eastern extremity of the Bay of Islands and is world famous for its great 'hole' through which some of the fast tourist launches and jet boats run from Paihia. There is good fishing around the rock and you can get some interesting pictures however the tide can run strongly and there are usually a few Lobster Pots around to catch the unwary.



## South to The Hauraki Gulf

This is New Zealand's second great Cruising Ground and is only two 'half day' sails down the coast from the Bay of Islands; a coast that has lots of enticing anchorages along the way to break the journey.

Going South, the best and most secure of these are:

## Whangamumu Harbour



Whilst this very scenic harbour is well tucked in, you can see in the photo that the NEly swell does run into the anchorage (which is why the boats are all tucked up in the NW section).

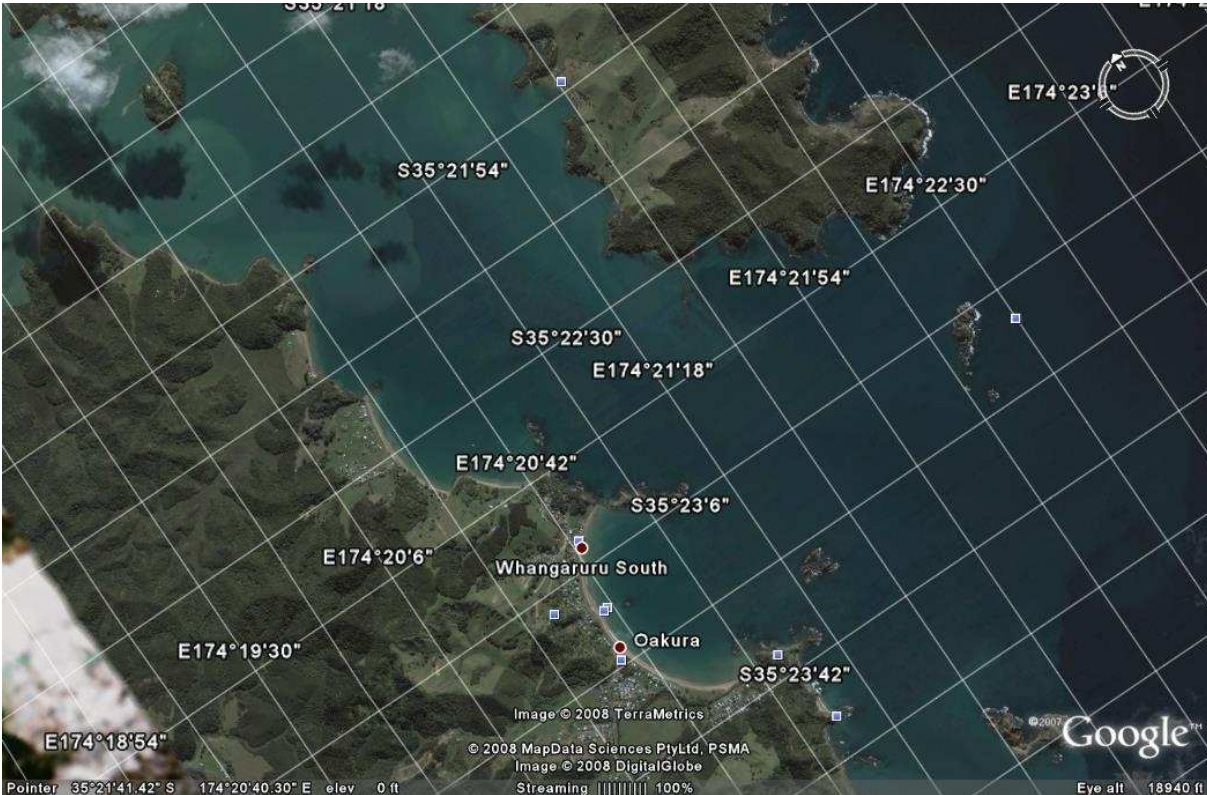
There are some walks ashore and the water is crystal clear for swimming and snorkelling. There used to be a Whaling Station here and some of the ruins remain.



**Whangamumu  
Harbour  
after a frontal  
passage**



## Whangaruru Harbour



Much of the area around this harbour is Recreational Reserve and there are many good walks ashore (shown on map available from the DOC).

A larger vessel would not find this as entertaining or secure as a small one which can 'Gunk Hole' right up the bay. Fishing however, can be very rewarding.



## Tutukaka Harbour



This is the most logical 'half way spot' to spend a night on the way up or down the coast. It is protected from most directions and the swell rarely gets in however there can be some disturbance from the wakes of sport fishing boats coming and going from the Marina.

Anchorage can be taken at posn: 35 37.028S 174 32.057E, the bottom shelves slowly so you can move in as far as you feel comfortable. The Marina has a safe dinghy dock and a couple of Restaurants; it's a nice spot to get ashore for a while. Transportation into Whangarei can be arranged and this is considerably easier than taking the boat up there. Whangarei is a small city with a very pleasant shopping centre. This would be a good place to send the girls shopping for the day whilst the guys go fishing or such like!

## Urquharts Bay (at the entrance to Whangarei)



This is a surprisingly good anchorage and it is not far to nip around the point and find shelter in here. There can be quite a crowd in here at weekends and many boats wait here for the tide to take then up river to Whangarei. Ashore the whole promontory has become a Park and wildlife reserve with well marked walking trails. There is a good map at the entrance to the park which is being fenced off to protect from predators; one of the trails leads across to a fantastic sandy beach on the southern shores.

Anchor Posn: 35 50.893S 174 31.872E

This can be a bad lee shore with the passage of an 'active' frontal trough; in this case it is just a short distance to Marsden Point Marina which now has restaurants and some retail outlets.



## Whangarei

The big city up the long river..... Well, that's the perception but far from the truth. We do Whangarei entrance to the Town Basin in an hour and a half and two hours going the other way (due to leaving the basin whilst the tide is still flooding); bear in mind that there are several nice anchorages (and a Marina) along the way. The Channel is well marked and generally you can sail the most part of it, the water starts to get shallow and the channel more intricate right after 'Docklands 5', which is the second haul out yard you will come to. With a large cruising boat and over six feet of draft you should only be moving in this area within two hours of high water and on a rising tide. Berths can be hard to get, especially if you want a 'finger pier' and power; best to book early and phone before making the trip up the river. Brian or Sharon will take care of you Tel. (09)4382033 from a mobile, (Fax 64 9 4382036) or e-mail [whangarei.marina@xtra.co.nz](mailto:whangarei.marina@xtra.co.nz) They monitor ch 64 VHF.

There is an arrival dock outside the Marina Office and you can park here to check in and be given berthing instructions. We like Whangarei but appreciate that not everybody does.... for us we have a great berth just about always available to us (due size and draft), great showers and laundry close at hand, a large town (small city) within walking distance, nice walks and lots of interesting things to see close at hand. There are three chandleries and a ton of small manufacturing shops so you can get almost anything made that is not available to buy. Whilst its 'city life' it goes quiet at night, we have always felt safe ashore and the people go out of their way to be both helpful and friendly.

Some people spend their whole visit in Whangarei...as some do in Opuia...Please don't do that, the area between North Cape and East Cape is one of the best cruising grounds in the world....don't miss it!!!!





## Whangarei

Town Basin with  
'Mr John VI' in  
berth No 10 on the  
piles.

Our preferred spot  
as we don't like  
going alongside, even  
in Marinas

Quite a  
modern town  
with a nice  
lay out and  
very  
convenient to  
the Marina



**From here south** you are in the Hauraki Gulf, Continuous weather forecasting on VHF moves from Ch.20 (for the Bay of Islands area) to Ch.21 and FM radio stations really improve.....  
Just a few of the places on offer here are as follows:

## Leigh

A small fishing harbour that can offer protection from NE through North to WSW; there isn't an awful lot here and the harbour can be congested with fishing boats however, there is a small grocery store and quite a



good Fish & Chip shop / restaurant.

Anchor Posn: 36 17.320S 174 48.661E

## Kawau Island... Bon Accord Harbour

This is a beautiful Island with numerous tracks for walking. Our first anchorage was 36 25.345S 174 50.395E and this was quite close to the Kawau Yacht Club which has a nice jetty for dinghies and is welcoming to foreign yachts. They have a kitchen which produces 'Pub Grub' and the beer is reasonably priced. They also have a few basic provisions but you'd have to be desperate.....

Just east of the YC is a large waterfront property belonging to the RNZYC and this also has a jetty with a secure dinghy dock... there is an area clearly marked for dinghies to tie to. The property gets rented out so they don't like you going up on their veranda however, you can transit through the grounds if going off on a walk. One of the trails starts at the head of this bay just beyond the old ruins....



The wind went westerly on us here and to get a good nights sleep we shifted south to lay behind a small spit of land that juts out from the southern shore Posn: 36 25.588S 174 50.212E; the bottom here is mud and shelves gently so you can work your way



in as far as tide and draft permits.

\*Down the far end of Bon Accord Harbour there is a cable strung across the Bay..... this could be a problem for a boat with a tall mast.



## Mansion House Bay....Kawau Island

A very popular summer anchorage but plenty of room if you anchor 'out' a little way; leave room for ferries coming and going.

This is a 'must place' to visit; the old Mansion House (\$4) (former home of the governor) has great character and has been tastefully refurbished by the DOC.



The grounds have also been restored and this is a great place to bring a picnic ashore and spread a blanket on the lawn; failing this, there is a Café / Restaurant.....

You can walk out to the old Copper Mine and see the workings (take a flashlight) Not much left now but the DOC has provided plenty of information on the subject. It's a nice walk.....



We anchored at Posn: 36 25.666S 174 49.254E and this was sheltered from southwest to northeast through southeast.

## Scandretts Bay

On the mainland and in the southern part of Kawau Bay, this is the site of one of the DOC's latest parks and they were still working on it when we arrived; I think they are going to build a jetty (they had the timber for it) and the old Scandretts farmstead will be a central feature. There are some nice walks with great views, however the anchorage isn't that great; it's quite shallow and protection is limited to southerly winds.

We anchored at: 36 26.289S 174 46.274E in about 7 feet MLWS

## Goldsworthy Bay

Just a few cables WNW of **Scandretts Bay**, this offered much better protection from the west right round to SSE. There is a high bluff, which you can get quite close to and this gave us good shelter from a strong SW blow whilst we were here; the bottom is mud and shelves slowly so you can move into the skinny stuff. It can be a long dinghy carry in both these bays but we managed to get ashore under the bluff on a rocky ledge leaving the dinghy afloat at anchor with a long line to the shore.

Anchor Posn: 36 26.068S 174 45.684 in about 6 feet at MLWS.



**Scandretts Bay** in the foreground and **Goldsworthy** beyond with a handful of boats sheltering beneath the bluff

## **Tiritiri Matangi Island** known as Tiri Tiri

Lying just East of the Whangaparaoa Peninsular and just five miles from Gulf Harbour Marina this island belongs to the DOC and is a nature reserve. This is one of NZ's success stories, they have managed to eradicate all the pests, rodents and predators that had been introduced by previous occupants and visitors; re-generated the native bush and trees..... and re-introduced many of the species of birds, insects and plants that once populated the island.

I'm not a bird watcher by any stretch of the imagination; however I was most impressed with the amount and variety of birds that I was able to get close to in this location. This is really worth a visit!



'Greg', one of the more cheeky locals, walks around the tables at the visitors centre. Looking for Hand-outs





### **The anchorage at Tiritiri Matangi Island.**

There is more room in the anchorage than there looks, our anchor posn: 36 36.178S 174 53.043E with an approach on 090 True.

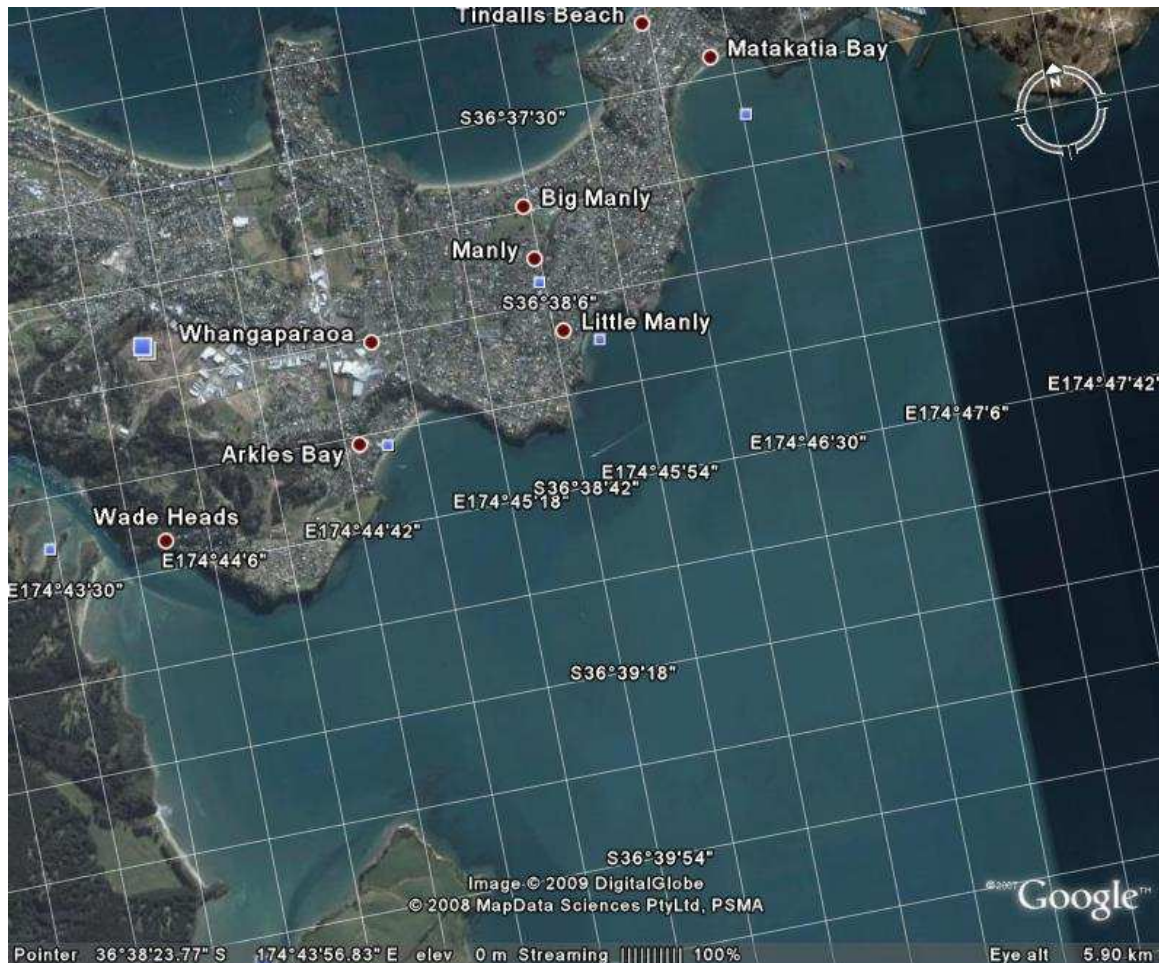
**(Do not get confused with degrees minutes and seconds above!!)**

At about 1130 in the evening we saw dozens of Blue Penguins headed for the beach and at 0430hrs we heard them coming offshore again.....

The Visitor Center (up near the lighthouse) supplies Free Coffee (however a donation is expected). They also have a small shop with Bird Books etc... just in case you feel you need one. There are tables and it seems that you are expected to bring your own picnic here..... and a jolly good place for one it is!

## THE WHANGAPARAOA PENINSULAR

This peninsular lies about half way between Kawau Island and Auckland; it is a very convenient place to break the journey.



There are bays both north and south and between them shelter can be found from almost any direction of wind. The main feature on the South side is GULF HARBOUR MARINA; a full service marina with haul out facility, a small shopping centre and a good amount of restaurants. Right at the end of the peninsular is the Shakespear Regional Park, which is best visited from Te Haruhi Bay (on the south side). We did not find much of interest here, however the walking is good and there are some nice views.

THE TOWN OF WHANGAPARAOA has quite a good shopping centre and it is one of the few places that you can do a good 'storing' in the Gulf without going to a Marina and/or having to use transportation; there is a small Mall, a Post Office, a 'Warehouse' and a 'Food Town' as well as good hardware stores and a few machine shops.

On the first visit we anchored off Arkles Bay and this is the best place to be, you can leave your dinghy on the beach and it's just a very short walk up the hill to the shops.

We also anchored in Matakatia Bay Posn: 36 37.718S 174 46.582E in about 7 feet (mud & sand) MLWS. This is a nice beach on the south side but a long dinghy carry at low water.

We also tried anchoring right off Gulf Harbour Marina but couldn't find good holding for our anchor.....

On the north coast, we anchored off Tindalls Beach which had a shorter dinghy carry and a lovely beach with a small 'reserve', where we went ashore leaving the dinghy tied to the leg of a picnic table mounted down at the HW mark.

Anchor Posn: 36 37.167S 174 46.004E in about 8 feet (mud & Sand).

Both these bays give access to the main road and a very efficient bus service which runs every half hour and takes you either to the Whangaparaoa Shopping Centre or to Silverdale with onward travel to Auckland.



## Waiheke Island

### Owhanake Bay

Up on the NW corner, we found this to be a very acceptable anchorage for seeing the island. Whilst there are plenty of bays around the shores here, the Northern ones are best for swimming and water sports; they have some really good beaches.

Unfortunately getting ashore can be a problem, especially with the spring tides when it's a long haul to get the dinghy back in the water after its been stranded at the top of the beach.

Note: In a strong NE blow the swell bounces back into the bay off the southern shore making it uncomfortable but not unsafe.....

**Owhanake** seemed to have the least 'carrying' distance and there are good possibilities of leaving the dinghy 'always afloat' by using an anchor and long line to the rocks on the southern shore.

From Owhanake it takes about twenty minutes to walk into Oneroa, the main town of the island; take the camera as there are usually a few good things to see along the road (Ducks and Alpaca's). There is also a great coastal walk around to Matiatia Bay (see also Oneroa below).



#### One problem

We are the blue boat, foreground, right of centre.

Don't anchor there as we picked up the old power cable!

Best favour the NE part of the bay.....

## Oneroa Bay

A very popular anchorage, which gets busy at weekends during the summer; it has a slowly shelving, sandy beach which is a bit hit with the swimmers and is protected from anything but northerly. The town is mainly geared to tourists but there is a supermarket, a green grocer, internet etc; there are also a couple of Restaurants, Café's, Bars and a Cinema.

There is a ton of room here but our anchorage position was :  
36 46.708S 175 00.758E

You can see most of the island from here by Bus (\$4 each journey), it has quite a good service. There is a tourist office in Oneroa where you can get information on walks and other points of interest. We found little problem in walking from Owhanake Bay, half way across the northern part of the island to Onetangi, where we caught the bus back. Don't miss the nudist beach (western part of Palm Beach) on route and take in the beautiful vista's, not only seaward but inland across fertile valley's and Vineyards.



**Oneroa Bay** looking west

You could also hire a car and tour the Vinyards (lots of wine tasting) here, On the way round you could stop off at the **Woolworths** and stock up on any items that are running short.

Note: 'Woolworths' and a big hardware store next door are on the local bus route.... The prices here are almost reasonable!

## **The beautiful sandy beaches of the north coast Waiheke Island**

**Palm Beach**

**Mawhitipana Bay**



**Onetangi Bay**



## Rocky Bay

On the south of Waiheke Island there are numerous other anchorages, some better than others depending on what you want to do. We found **Rocky Bay** the most entertaining.

The entrance is much wider and easier than it looks on the chart and we use a **safe entry waypoint** of 36 49.465S 175 03.293E to get us through the gap.

Our anchorage posn: 36 49.390S 175 03.580E there is however, plenty of room in the bay, even on a crowded weekend. Ashore there is a DOC park and a section of the beach is cordoned off for breeding birds.....as long as you stay your side of the fence they will let you get quite close, they know they are protected!

There are some walks available and these are all displayed on a notice board in the car park at the back of the beach.



On the eastern side of Waiheke Island are several more bays offering good protection from westerly winds, our favourite is:

### **Man o'war Bay**

This is a good anchorage from which to visit the more rural, eastern part of Waiheke; it is also a convenient stopover on the way to and from the Coromandel Peninsular. There is a jetty in the bay but it's fenced off and private so you have to use the beach which is mainly pebbles and very little sand.

From here we did the walk to **Stony Batter** from where you can get an excellent view out into the Hauraki Gulf; there are also a number of WWII relics and gun emplacements to visit. There are bays closer to make this walk but we were quite content to do it from here..... this would make another great 'picnic excursion'. If visiting the gun emplacements you'll need money and a flashlight.

From **Stony Batter** looking north into **Hooks Bay**  
(There is a walk up to Stony Batter from this bay as well.... and it's shorter)



From **Stony Batter**  
Looking south into  
**Man o'war Bay**

## Coromandel Peninsular

You have to make at least, a short visit, to the Coromandel Peninsular to get the full flavour of this cruising ground. It's only three hours east of Stony Batter and Waiheke; how can you fail to make the jump?

Te Kouma Harbour, a beautiful and secluded spot but with limited access to the shore.

Anchor Posn:

36 49.662S 175 26.909E

In line with the dock.....



## Coromandel Hr.

We had a great visit here; it's like an old Wild West town that's had a make over.

The harbour however is shallow and you can't get too close in (even with our 4 feet draft).



There are a couple of nice local walks and **The Driving Creek Railway** is a short walk out of town and really worth a visit.

Just be careful leaving your dinghy.... This harbour dries out!!!





## Rangitoto Island

No visit to this area would be complete without a quick visit to Rangitoto and a walk up to the extinct volcano's summit for views across the Hauraki Gulf and across to Auckland which is only a few miles away. **Islington Bay** is the best place to leave the boat for this venture but there is ferry traffic during the day taking all the tourists across from Auckland so wake can be a problem for smaller boats; the walk however only takes a couple of hours so there is no need to remain here a whole day.

If you don't fancy going into Auckland with the boat, you can get a ferry from here for \$10 per person; those that don't fancy the summit track may like that idea!

However, for those that like to walk there are many other trails to follow, especially if you venture across the bridge to the neighbouring island of **Motutapu** which you can see making up the eastern shore of Islington Bay in the photo below.

Anchor position: 36 46.920S 174 53.902E for Northerly conditions and 36 47.082S 174 53.663E for a South-easterly.



Note: This anchorage is little over an hour from down town Auckland and the main Marinas, it gets very busy over the weekends and on Public Holidays.



## Auckland

No visit to New Zealand would be complete without a visit to Auckland, the City of Sails; this is a vibrant, cosmopolitan city that hums with activity. However, if you have not already figured it out by the time you arrive, the first thought that hits you is that in New Zealand, and especially in Auckland, every man and his dog owns a boat! More interesting still, as you'll discover if you're there at the weekend, they all try to use them as much as they can.

Thus...I have to let you in on a secret that I learned, on my first visit, from Jim Ashby (who's reputation is second to none down here); at weekend and on public holidays... head for the Westhaven Marina, it will be the quietest place around whilst every anchorage in the Hauraki Gulf will be full. The rest of the time, the Gulf is yours for the taking!

Why Westhaven?

Well, if you are going to come to the big city you may as well be there..... If you go to Bayswater or Half Moon Bay it's a major event to get into town, from Westhaven you can walk. Even if it cost double and it doesn't, it would still be worth it.

The Westhaven Marina staff are absolute gems.... If there is something available they will get you there however...you should call them on the Mobile (**which you will get as soon as you arrive in NZ**) as they have to give you a code to get off the dock when you get berthed and they can't do it on VHF.

There is a New World Supermarket ten minutes away at Victoria Park, three big chandleries are also close at hand. Head for the Sky Tower and there is an 'info' centre right at the base where you can get maps and all the information you require to see the city.....

BUT..... well, you see how you make out but we found getting information was like pulling teeth and we usually found out about

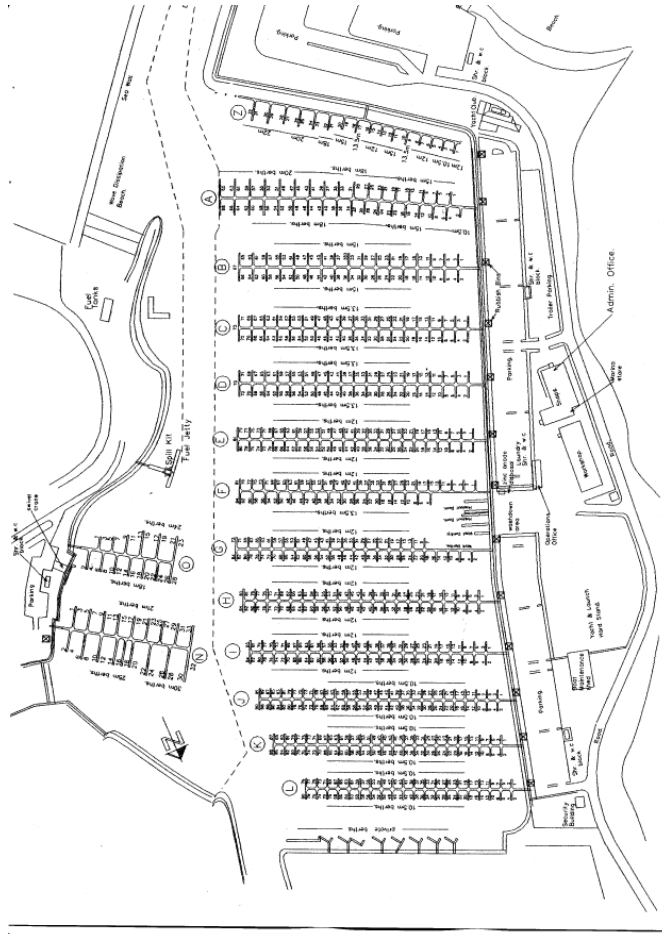


what we wanted to see after the event had occurred! Maybe it's just that there is too much going on..... If you are a speed reader and take The Herald every day you may do better than us.....

The layout is simple, A to L as you head south. Odd numbers are on the side towards you and even numbers are on the far side. They start nearest the shore and work outwards.

It is normally a well sheltered Marina and even when blowing we have found it easy to manoeuvre. The office is right down at the "L" end and the laundry is the other end.

Take this plan to 500%



## Barrier Island

I cannot begin to describe Barrier in this short essay, suffice to say, it is in a class of its own as far as outdoor pursuits are concerned. There are miles of walking trails, fantastic views and little bits of history, great anchorages, great fishing and snorkelling. This is another of those 'not to be missed' places, twenty years after my first visit I still had great memories and yearned for a return; now I'm back it seems even better than it was first time around!

**There is not much here in the way of services so you have to be prepared and bring everything along.**

Dust off those walking boots and get going!!!!

## Port Fitzroy (the 'town')

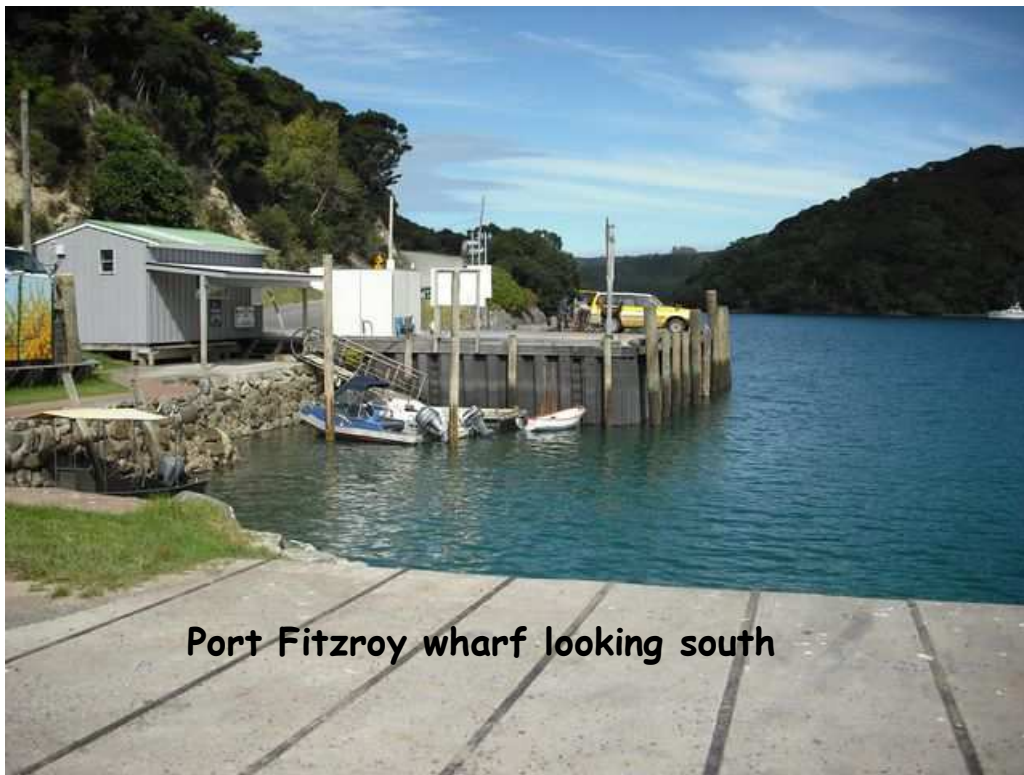
In the NE corner of Port Fitzroy, an almost land-locked sound on the inside of Kaikoura Island, lies the small hamlet of Port Fitzroy. It is quite a good anchorage however if the wind has any southerly component to it, there seems to be a funnel effect into the bay. Still, its soft mud and it is difficult to drag on the uphill slope!

Ashore there is a shop / post office where basic staples are available.

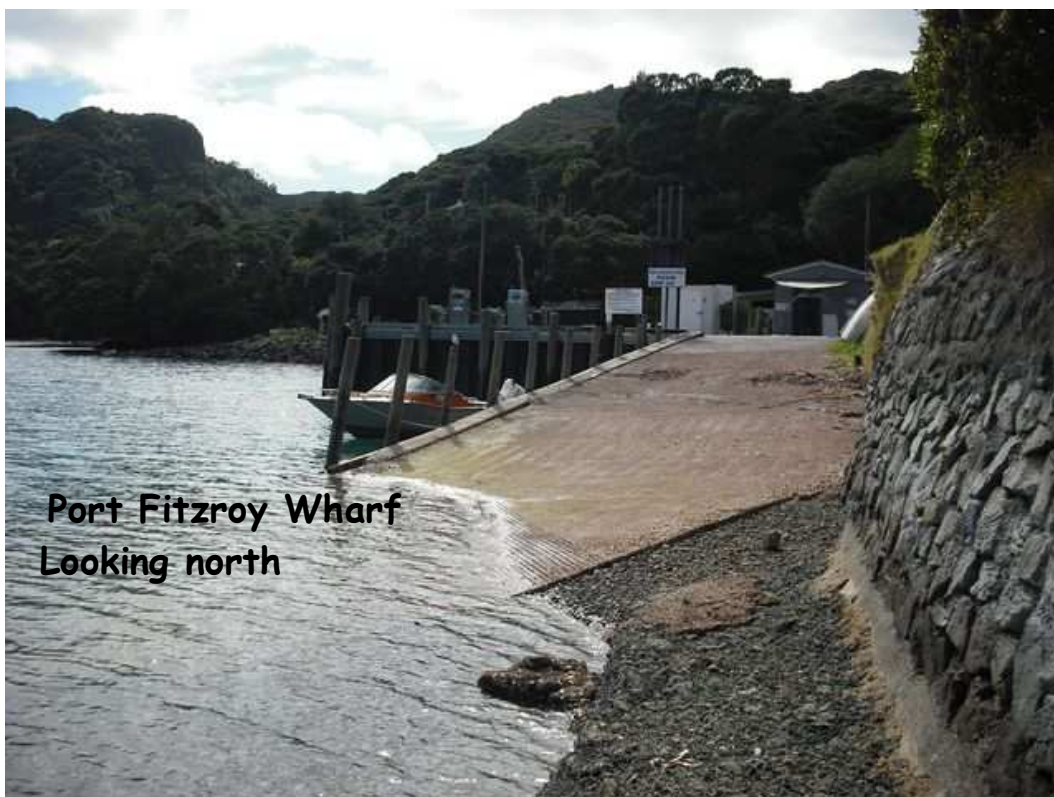
There is fuel on the dock and 'Stream Water' is available (donation box).



Anchor between the moorings, we found a spot in about 20 feet of water in Posn: 36 09.861S 175 21.661E



**Port Fitzroy wharf looking south**



**Port Fitzroy Wharf  
Looking north**



Just south of Fitzroy and certainly within an easy dinghy ride is **Quion Island** and to the east of it is another anchorage off the DOC campground. Just be a little careful as the bottom comes up quickly from 26 feet to 4 feet. We anchored in about 28 feet in Posn: 36 10.349S 175 21.622E and those boats that thought they could squeeze inside us usually failed...we draw 4 feet! The DOC campground has a rubbish bin and the Rangers Office has all the guides and information about the state of all the trails; this is a good place to visit on arrival.



**Quoin Island** is just off the photo to the left....

This is the best anchorage for doing some of the Northern tracks. From where you take your dinghy ashore there is the **Bridle Track** over to Port Fitzroy and just a hundred yards up this track you can branch off onto **Warrens Track** which has a lovely waterfall and deep pool (very suitable for a dip). We also did the **Coopers Castle Track** from here; it was a great day out and we enjoyed a picnic up at the Coopers Castle lookout.

## Kaiarara Bay

We moved down here to do the Mount Hobson walk; it has the best access to the **Kairaara Trail** and the Kauri Dams. There is access to the shore both in the NE and SE corners of the Bay however, the NE one dries out some way at LW so we advise using the Bush's Beach Landing on the Kiwiriki Trail; it has a nice beach and the dinghy carry distance is minimal. It only took us twenty minuets to reach the Kairaara Trail from the dinghy and it was mostly on the flat.

We are told that the best way to do Mount Hobson is going up via South Fork and the Peach Tree Track then coming down via the Kairaara Track. Unfortunately the contractors were in and building steps on the South Fork Trail so we were forced to do it all on the Kairaara Trail. From the dinghy it was three hours up and two hours down, we had a picnic at the top and had an enjoyable day. The DOC have put in something like seven hundred steps and wooden boardwalk and before you get to complain about "all those steps" let me tell you, it's a dream compared to what it was twenty years ago when I last struggled up here using guide lines and ropes. The DOC has made this fantastic trail available to anyone of reasonable fitness but really.....you should not try it in Flip-Flops!!!!



You'll see this sign in the SE corner of the bay.

Anchor Posn: 36 11.067S 175 21.647E

## **Kiwiriki Bay**

In the southeast part of Port Fitzroy Sound this is a really great anchorage, a place to relax surrounded by the scenic beauty of Barrier; there is a landing place up in the NE corner of the bay with a short link to the Kiwiriki Trail.

Anchor Posn: 36 12.297S 175 21.237E in 20 feet of water.

From this anchorage we walked the Kiwiriki Trail and explored by dinghy all the southern part of Port Fitzroy Sound. We had beautiful sunsets and the 'morning chorus' always enchanted us; I was still swimming here in late March and the water was warm. This would be a great retreat, somewhere to sit and catch up on all those things that you wouldn't otherwise get around to.....

## **Bradshaw Cove**

On the North coast of Kaikoura Island in Port Abercrombie, you can move well into this cove and out of the swell; it was good for swimming and there seemed to be a walk ashore although we didn't try it.

Anchor Posn: 36 10.210S 175 19.306E in 18 feet of water.

There are another hundred or so nice anchorages around Barrier Island, tons of swimming, snorkelling and diving, this are has to be experienced to be believed.

It can get busy during holidays but even then you can get an anchorage to yourself without trying too hard. Offshore there is great fishing, dolphins abound and whales (even Orcas) are not uncommon.

There follows some information from the DOC:



Great Barrier Island may be easily accessible from Auckland but it's no suburban destination. The natural world takes precedence on The Barrier and some aspects of modern life that most take for granted are simply absent. For example, the island runs entirely on self-generated power. There is no street lighting so packing a torch makes sense.

Mobile phone coverage is limited. A trip to the island is a wilderness adventure, so you need to plan and pack accordingly to get the most out of it. There's plenty to see and do, ranging from nature experiences to historical sites. Native bush and the wildlife it contains is a proud feature of the island. You'll find birdlife here that is rarely, if ever, seen on the main islands.

As its name implies, the island acts as a barrier between the Hauraki Gulf and the Pacific Ocean to the east. The weather can be changeable and conditions can be rough on the east coast in strong easterlies.

For details of everything you can enjoy on Great Barrier Island, visit [www.greatbarriernz.com](http://www.greatbarriernz.com)

### ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Airfields: Claris and Okiwi. Call Richard La Ville, (09) 307 7626.  
Anchorage and Wharves: Whangaparapara, Tryphena Harbour, Shoal Bay, Okupu and Port Fitzroy. Wharf fees may apply. Call Richard La Ville, (09) 307 7626, or the Auckland City Council harbour warden for Port Fitzroy.

Camping: Prohibited outside designated areas. No wastewater/sewage pump out facilities.

Domestic animals: It is inadvisable to bring cats onto the island. Any cats must be spayed or neutered. Dogs are prohibited from DOC land and most beaches. Dogs must be under control at all times and owners must carry proof of registration.

Driving: Most roads are unsealed and can become impassable after severe weather. Refrain from driving on beaches and dunes, to protect nesting birds. Do not drink and drive.

Emergencies: For Fire and Police call 111. In medical emergencies call

(09) 429 0356. There is no ambulance on the island.

Fire: Permits are required for fire reworks and all outdoor fires except gas barbecues. Use fires only in an emergency. Dispose of cigarette butts carefully.

Police: Claris. Call (09) 429 0343.

Petrol and Diesel: Port Fitzroy wharf, Whangaparapara wharf, Tryphena and Claris. No CNG or LPG vehicle fuel available.

Medical facilities: Resident medical team at Claris, (09) 429 0356.

Pharmacy at Claris but prescription medicines should be brought with you. Public health nurses at Port Fitzroy and Tryphena. Dentist by appointment (or after-hours emergency): (09) 429 0599.

Money: Most commercial outlets take EFTPOS and credit card but it is advisable to carry cash. There are no banks on the island except Westforce Credit Union.

Rubbish/recycling: There is a rubbish barge in Port Fitzroy harbour, from 20 December to Easter. Transfer points around the island are at roadside locations.

Telephone: Card or coin phones at Shoal Bay, Mulberry Grove, Pa Beach, Medlands Beach, Claris, Port Fitzroy, Awana, and Okiwi Airfield. Cell coverage is limited.

General stores: Port Fitzroy, Whangaparapara, Claris, Pa Beach, Mulberry Grove.

Stock availability dependent on deliveries to the island.

Water: No public reticulated supply.

Private supplies from rain or bore

water. Fresh water available (for a donation) at Port Fitzroy and Whangaparapara wharves. Boiling or treatment recommended.

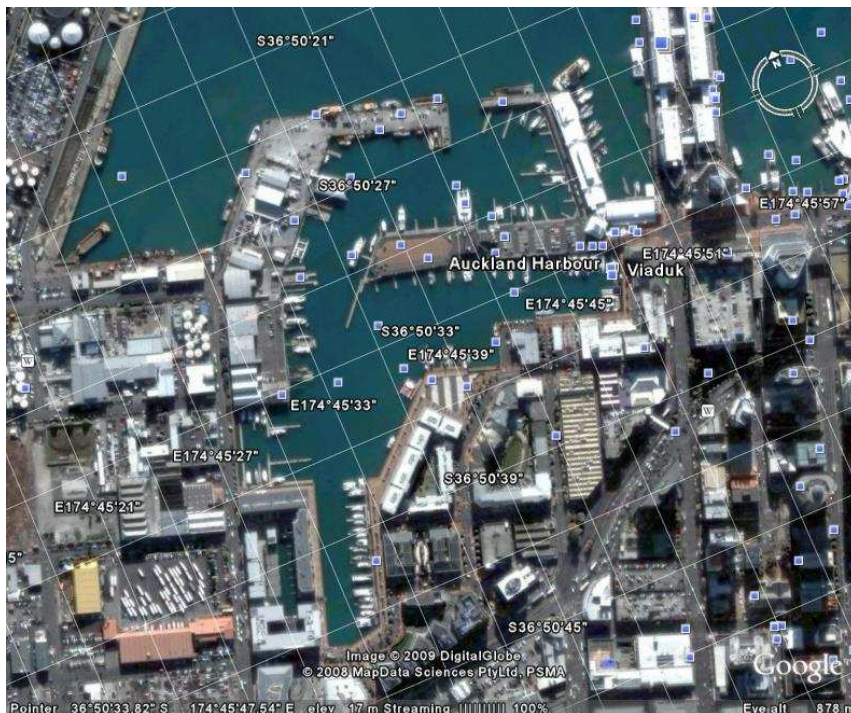




## EXTRA INFO: Westhaven Marina Auckland



## The Viaduk Harbour Auckland



## Useful Info

- \*NZ has continuous VHF weather in this area Ch 20 or 21
- \*BBC is retransmitted on AM 812 in the Hauraki Gulf area
- \*Opua area has a VHF net at 0800(Local), announced on Ch 16 before it starts.
- \* NZ is quite hot on VHF chit chat.... They say you should only use 6 & 8

That's about it.....

Of course there are hundreds more places to see and this guide only covers a little of North Island, this is not a Pilot Book; this guide is just a sample to get you out and about. The area between North Cape and East Cape is one of the finest cruising grounds in the world; if you are visiting New Zealand, you should really get out there and take a look. I promise you won't be disappointed.

Enjoy the sailing

John and Paula Wolstenholme

Yacht "Mr John VI"

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