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\$40 per Person
Subs due July each year

Sunraysia Bushwalkers

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Affiliated with:



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To view the complete calendar, please follow the link:
<http://www.sunbushwalk.net.au/calendarofactivities.html>

The Lost Trip to the Bay of Islands 7th – 18th February 2015

“The greatest invention on a yacht is the double sink”



*Wayne & Roger (back row)
Verna, Barb, Paula & Michael*

The brave souls who self-selected to sail the high seas for this particular trip were Verna, Wayne, Michael, Paula, Barb & Roger, and what a trip it proved to be.

When all necessary arrangements were being made there was just too much going on in Roger's household. Prior to the sailing Roger had also organized for 6 Bushwalkers to walk the wonderful Milford Track and he was then joining up with those who were in for the sailing leg. Talk about having your cake and eating it to, sort of comes to mind!

After the Milford walk things started to unwind, as Roge had left his 2 mobile phones in some luggage on the Milford Sound boat. He had bought a new phone whilst in New Zealand specifically for communicating with the yachting company.

The arrangement initially was to be the hiring of a yacht from Auckland with 2 days hard sailing up the east coast of New Zealand to get to The Bay of Islands.

We all congregated at the YHA in Auckland for all those final plans and decisions that have to be made when organizing such a trip.

I recommend a get fit programme for anyone who might also be contemplating staying at the YHA in Auckland. The final hill to the establishment (whilst wearing a large back-pack and carrying a small day-pack) is extremely steep and required a rest stop half-way up!

The next morning Roger caught the early ferry across Auckland Harbour to the marina to begin the organizing of the hiring of the yacht, a 36 foot Bavaria, the rest of us were to follow him across later in the morning. But on his arrival no-one from the company was there and of course not having a phone he had no means of communication, even to let the rest of us know not to come across. So we all had a most pleasant but unproductive trip, staying on the ferry and having an impromptu tour of Auckland harbour.



Auckland Harbour



*Michael & Verna in front of crater on
Mt Eliza*

So to fill in the day, Verna suggested we take the bus to Mt Eden botanical gardens on the outskirts of Auckland to see its volcanic crater plus the great views of the city and harbour.

Monday morning we rose early to catch the 7.00am ferry to begin preparations for sailing. Paula & Verna elected to borrow the small vehicle offered by the charter company to go and purchase all the necessary food supplies for our intended 9 day trip. Their directions to the Supermarket were that it was at the base of a hill!! Being such seasoned bushwalkers they duly located said supermarket **and** found their way back to the

marina. They did a mammoth and sterling job of purchasing all our food and drinks.

Whilst Verna & Paula were shopping, Roger, Barb, Michael & Wayne went through the necessary briefing by the charter operator on managing the yacht and its internal systems. Though I don't think we ever got the hang of the correct pumping of the heads (toilet). After stowing all the food etc. we departed the marina at 12.30pm.

The weather was quite balmy and so winds were light and we motored our way to Tiritiri Matangi Island just off the coast, mooring close to Shag Rock for our first night aboard.

In the group's previous discussions at the YHA it had been decided that we would not attempt the sail up the coast to the Bay of Islands and to concentrate our sailing time investigating the many islands just out of Auckland harbour.

Our decision next day was to sail to Great Barrier Island, 50 klms off the coast. It turned out to be quite an arduous trip. The wind picked up giving us a very choppy and roly sea. As the wind was not coming from an easy quarter for comfortable sailing and our speed had slowed considerably it was decided to motor again and try and make for Tryphena Bay on Barrier Island. By this time Verna & Roger were beginning to feel rather unwell. From the sea looking towards the land it was very difficult to distinguish what was Island and what was mainland. Roger had not totally mastered the GPS on board and was not au fait with our exact position. So seeing vessels entering an inlet we decided to follow them and moor up for the night. As soon as we moored Roger disappeared into our cocoon of a cabin and we did not see him until almost mid-morning the next day. That night we experienced 45-50 knot winds and with Roger out to it, we had a very anxious night hoping that the anchor would hold, thankfully it did. At lunch time Roger decided that we shift around to a more sheltered bay. The change in sea conditions as we came out from the inlet were truly scary so we high tailed it back to the harbor and a more sheltered bay. Lunch was finally consumed at 3.00pm.



I remained on board while the others went for a walk ashore. Whilst there they learnt that we were still on the mainland and moored at Port Jackson harbour, we hadn't managed to get to Barrier Island at all. I think this is probably the first time that Roger has ever been so totally geographically displaced. Our second anchorage was more sheltered than the first and we had a much calmer night and steadier boat even though the wind continued its gusty habits. It was suggested that we burn page 17 of our map booklet!

Wayne & I had been taking quells and had managed not to get ill. Though prior to the trip his 'tea leaves' had forecast that she felt that he was rather insane to even attempt such a journey as he has fed the fishes in every sea so far sailed! As if there wasn't enough tension on the high seas there was plenty to be had over the game of Sequence. Particularly if the 'eternal shuffler' got hold of the cards!



Instead of 'Gourmet Farmer Afloat' we were blest with 'Gourmet Bushwalker Afloat'. Michael proved to be a very capable chef and we were treated to some wonderful meals. Wayne turned out to be a great cooker of toast. He did a fine job mastering the funny little tin tee pee arrangement that sat over a gas jet. It was agreed that as Paula did not have cheese grating qualifications and that Wayne had certificate 2 and was working towards certificate 3, all was in order.

The next morning Roger woke feeling fairly okay, but after a while he started to deteriorate. Nevertheless we were up and away by 9.20am. The weather forecast was

not brilliant, gusty winds & showers. After the terrible sea conditions the day before we were quite apprehensive about what we would find when we left the shelter of the harbour. Fortunately the sea wasn't quite as bad as previously and we were running before the wind, which makes for much easier sailing conditions.

Roger raised a double reefed main which gave us pulling power, but as the wind direction kept changing the sail was taken down and we motored the 20 -25 klms to Colville Harbour, the other side of the headland. We spent the afternoon playing Sequence and snoozing. As tea was being prepared a discussion started about whether we had enough depth of water under our keel. We were moored off a very shallow and sandy beach. So Roge got out the lead line to measure the depth and decided that we would be fine, and so it proved. When anchoring it is essential to take into account the water depth at low tide so one is not left high and dry!



Taking in the sail



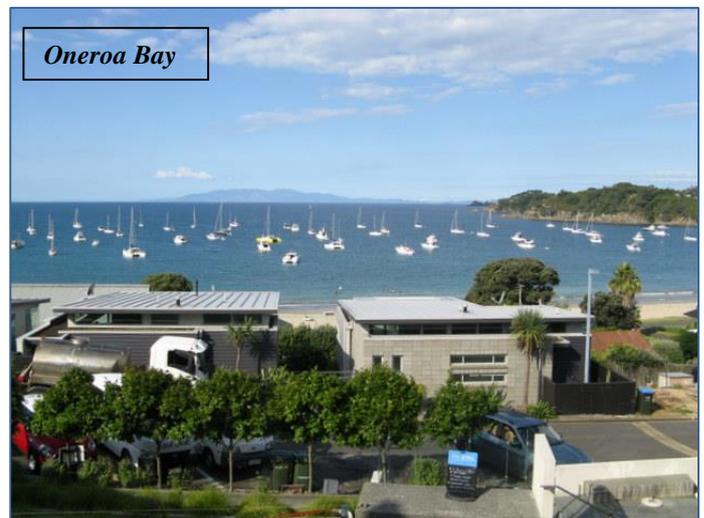
Woolshed Bay

We rose to a beautifully calm sea and no wind, so once again we motored down the coast to Coromandel Harbour, which proved to be quite large but extremely shallow at low tide and we were aiming to top up our water tanks at the jetty. We moored and had lunch while waiting for high tide. Unfortunately Roge decided conditions were just not favourable enough to allow us to reach the jetty so we up-anchored and moored in Woolshed Bay on Whanganui Island east of Coromandel Harbour. We went ashore to stretch our legs. The whole beach area consisted of layers of shells.

The following day we headed back towards Auckland, mooring in Oneroa Bay on Waiheke Island.

Here it was possible for us to get off the yacht and have a leisurely look at the small village of Oneroa and to see if there were any public showers and clothes washing facilities – sadly there weren't any to be found located close to the beach.

We all decided to have fish and chips for tea before returning to the yacht. By this time the wind had sprung up a bit and there were smallish waves now breaking on the beach. It was rather hairy getting into the dinghy without being dumped in the water. Roge had to make the trip twice as our dinghy was not big enough to take us all at one time. I am glad we did the return trip to the yacht in day-light. It would have been quite a hairy trip in the dark, let alone trying to locate ones yacht from all the others. As it was we all ended up wet in the trouser department negotiating the choppy water back to the boat.



Oneroa Bay



Auckland ferry with a jetty full of passengers waiting to board

Our anchorage that night was once again horrific with rough seas and on-shore wind. Nobody really had a good sleep. Roge had not slept as he was concerned that the anchor might drag and that we would then crash into other yachts moored close by. We up-anchored before breakfast and motored around to Matiatia Bay. Michael then proceeded to cook us a magnificent breakfast of fried eggs, bacon and tomatoes which helped considerably to fray jangled nerves after the previous horrendous night.



After breakfast Michael & Paula left the yacht so that they could continue on a bike ride that Michael had planned. The jetty proved very accessible to be able to let them off easily and for us to be able to top up our water tanks. Once we achieved all this we moored over to one side of the harbour out of the way of the large ferry that regularly commuted back and forth to Auckland.

We learnt that it was the final day of a large sculpture exhibition called 'Sculpture on the Gulf' on Waiheke Island. So we joined in with the hundreds who had come across for the day and walked approx. for 5 klms admiring the various large sculptures placed

along the trail amongst the trees, fields and headland. There were about 40 different pieces to be viewed.

The day was quite warm, so we then caught a bus to Onetangi Beach, just to see a different part of the Island and to have lunch.

After returning to Matiatia Bay we sat on the beach watching the long queues of people waiting to get on the ferry to return to Auckland.

The next morning Wayne deliciously replicated Michael's egg, bacon & tomato breakfast before we sailed off to Islington Bay between Rangitoto & Motutapu Islands. It proved to be a lovely long calm bay for mooring. Just after we arrived we saw 2 ferries disgorging school children ashore. After lunch we went ashore to climb to the top of Rangitoto, an extinct volcano (259 mtrs).



Wayne cooking us a wonderful breakfast



Old war relics.....not Barb!

We ended up high fiving just about all the 350 children on their way back down Mt. Rangitoto. It was a very hot 10 klm walk there and back but well worth the effort as we were treated to wonderful views of the coastline & Auckland city. That evening the yacht next door lit up with a string of Christmas lights as his riding lights – highly amusing.

The next morning Verna also displayed her culinary talents cooking us delicious pancakes for breakfast. Hopping in the dinghy we motored over to the beach at the end of the bay

and took the trail which led us to some old war relics in the form of dugouts in the side of the hill that had stored armaments during the war. As once again the day was rather warm, we only went a quarter of the way round the track before re-tracing our steps and returning to the yacht. After a settled night we motored back to Auckland.

There was a certain amount of tension on board as locating where we had actually collected the yacht from in the marina proved rather awkward and difficult as we had not taken enough notice on departure. Room for manoeuvring was rather tight and as there was quite a breeze it proved difficult to steady the yacht and stop it from being blown onto objects in the marina – such as other yachts! We all breathed deep sighs of relief once we were safely moored.



Paula, Verna & Michael



Federation Walks Weekend 2015

will be held in the Victorian Goldfields and Spa Country around

Daylesford and Hepburn Springs

on the weekend of **24th and 25th October 2015**

The event will be hosted by the **Bayside Bushwalking Club**

and the **Great Dividing Trail Association**

The venue for registration, afternoon tea and Saturday evening meal will be

Hepburn Primary School

156 Main Road, Hepburn (corner of Fourteenth Street)

Due to the diversity of accommodation in the area and the proximity to Melbourne which permits day trips, the hosting clubs will not be organising accommodation. Instead we will provide information about suitable group and budget accommodation.

The Daylesford area is very popular and accommodation can book out quickly, sometimes a year in advance, so if you would like to participate in some of the great walks we are planning and stay overnight, book soon.

<http://fedwalks.org.au/>



CALENDAR

2015		
April 1	Meeting 8.00pm Club Room	
April 11	Hattah - Revisit Chalka Creek area to check regrowth	Contact Roger 0488121648
April 25 - 26	Elphicks Island – near Lake Victoria Non pack walk	Contact Roger 0488121648
April 23 – 1 May	Mundabiddi Track, WA Collie to Albany	Contact Michael 0400549988
May 6	Meeting 8.00pm Club Room AGM	
May 10	Millewa Walk	Contact Roger 0488121648
May 20	Day Walk	Contact Roger 0488121648
May 23 - 24	Scotia Sanctuary – non pack	Contact Roger 0488121648
Oct 24 -25	Federation Walks Weekend Daylesford & Hepburn Springs	Contact Roger 0488121648
Nov 16th	Overseas Walk – Patagonia South America	23 day walk, early indication of interest required. Contact the Club at: enquiries@sunbushwalk.net.au

Next Meeting
Wednesday 1st April at 8.00 pm
at Drysdale's
2164 Fifteenth Street,
Irymple