

6 September 2012

Labour Weekend Boating Excursion Motuihe Island

This invite is to Groups from Northland, Auckland and the Waikato for an exploration of part of the Waitemata Harbour over Labour Weekend.

For the past 10 years or more, Labour Weekend has seen us meander down the Waikato River between Taupiri and Tuakau. It is now time for a change of scenery for a bit of variety.

The plan this year is to explore part of the Waitemata Harbour based around Motuihe Island. We will get to and from the island by canoe and cutter (either under oars or under sail).

Should the weather leading up to the weekend look like it is not going to be suitable for being out on the Harbour, we will revert back to the usual trip down the Waikato River. The planning for the Harbour trip will cover you for the Waikato River.

Hence following are the details for both the intended trip on the Harbour, followed by the details of the river trip should we need to head inland away from bad weather.

Date: Saturday 20 – Monday 22 October

Activity: An exploration of the Waitemata Harbour camping on Motuihe Island

Meeting Place: The Parade, Bucklands Beach by the boat ramp (see attached map)

Meeting Time: 0930 hrs for an 1115hrs start on the Water

Return Time: 1300 hrs at the Boat Ramp along the Parade.

What to Bring: Food, boats, canoes, tents and a desire to have some fun.

Costs: We have not charged anything in previous years but need to this year. Please allow \$3 per person towards patrol boat fuel costs and \$6 for those under 18 years and \$12 for those 18 years and over for camp fees (2 nights camping in DOC campground). As usual you need to budget for your own group transport and food costs.

Trip Plan:

Day 1: To launch from The Parade and sail, canoe or row to Motuihe Island and set up camp.

Day 2: Weather dependant, a day trip to Home Bay on Motutapu Island, Rangitoto or Waiheke, or simply explore and fish from the island.

Day 3: Pack up camp and return to the boat ramp along The Parade, Bucklands Beach.

Preparation: I strongly recommend that participants have undertaken the following training and are capable of at least the following for their intend mode:

Canoeing: Can paddle a canoe in the sea at least 2km with relative ease and minimal stops (it is not a high speed race – rather steady as she goes) and have demonstrated that they can get out of a capsized canoe while wearing a spray skirt and get back into a canoe from the water with assistance of other canoes (T or H pattern type rescue).

Rowing: Can row a cutter and make headway as part of a 4 person crew against a head wind (say 10 – 15 knots) for at least 2 km without a break.

Sailing: Can sail and right a capsized cutter unassisted. Can right a capsized cutter that is laden with camping equipment. Can row as per rowing above but without the aid of a coxswain (assumes a crew of 4).

General: Each group will be responsible for their own water transport, food and tents. You will require your own cooking gear. There are public toilets and fresh water supplies at the campsite.

Vehicles and trailers can be left on the road adjacent to, or on the grounds of the Bucklands Beach Scout Group.

It would be appreciated if some groups could volunteer to supply a patrol boat and crew. Without patrol boats the trip will revert to the Waikato River (where risks can be better managed without support of power boats). If you provide a Patrol Boat for this event, the Auckland Sea Scout account will contribute towards the fuel used.



The departure and return times and camp site are based on traveling with the tides (I still have not mastered controlling the wind direction but I will keep working on it).

You will need to take out all the rubbish that you bring in with you.

With water based expeditions, weight of equipment is not critical, as you do not need to physically carry it. However, it needs to be stored securely, and weight distributed low and preferably in water proof containers so that in the event of a capsized it does not hold water.

All canoes must be equipped with a spray deck and ideally all paddles with a strip of reflective tape on the blades.

All sailing boats must have an alternative means of propulsion (oars – 5 minimum). Crew size for the cutter is recommended as 5 with a minimum crew of 4.

Tides:	Sat 20	0522 - 0.2m	1152 - 3.4m	1752 - 0.4m
	Sun 21	0614 - 0.3m	1247 - 3.3m	1848 - 0.5m
	Mon 22	0710 - 0.5m	1344 - 3.2m	1942 - 0.6m

Clothing: You will need 3 changes of clothes, one set for daytime boating activity, one set of staying dry in on land once off the water and whatever it is that you sleep in. You will wear the same set each day.

You should come prepared with warm clothes, wind proof jacket, the assumption that you will fall out of the canoe or boat and get wet. Remember, several thin layers of clothing are better than one thick jumper. Pack your gear in a similar fashion as you would if going tramping, windproof jacket and water bottle easily assessable, a warm top assessable for when you stop. Put all your gear in plastic or dry bags so it won't get wet. When you think it is waterproof, use one more plastic bag just to make sure (wet sleeping bags are no fun).

Activity Permit: Each Group will be responsible for submitting their own activity permit, a copy of which must be sent to the RWAA – John Heaton. A draft permit will be sent to you with the basic details filled in.

Permission to use the campsite on Motuihe will be sought on your behalf by myself.

Registration: Can you please register your interest and best guess at numbers, boats and canoes, adult and youth by September 30. This will help assist with planning. Final numbers are required by 14 October.

Alternative Plans: If the forecast is not looking suitable for being out on the harbour, a call will be made on Wednesday Evening 17 October to advise that the alternative plan of using the River will apply.

Andrew Stevens
Water Activities Advisor, MoanaRua Zone

Phone: 827 2569 (hm)
Phone: 539 9118(wk)
Email: a_stevens@clear.net.nz
Mobile: 027 6939 756

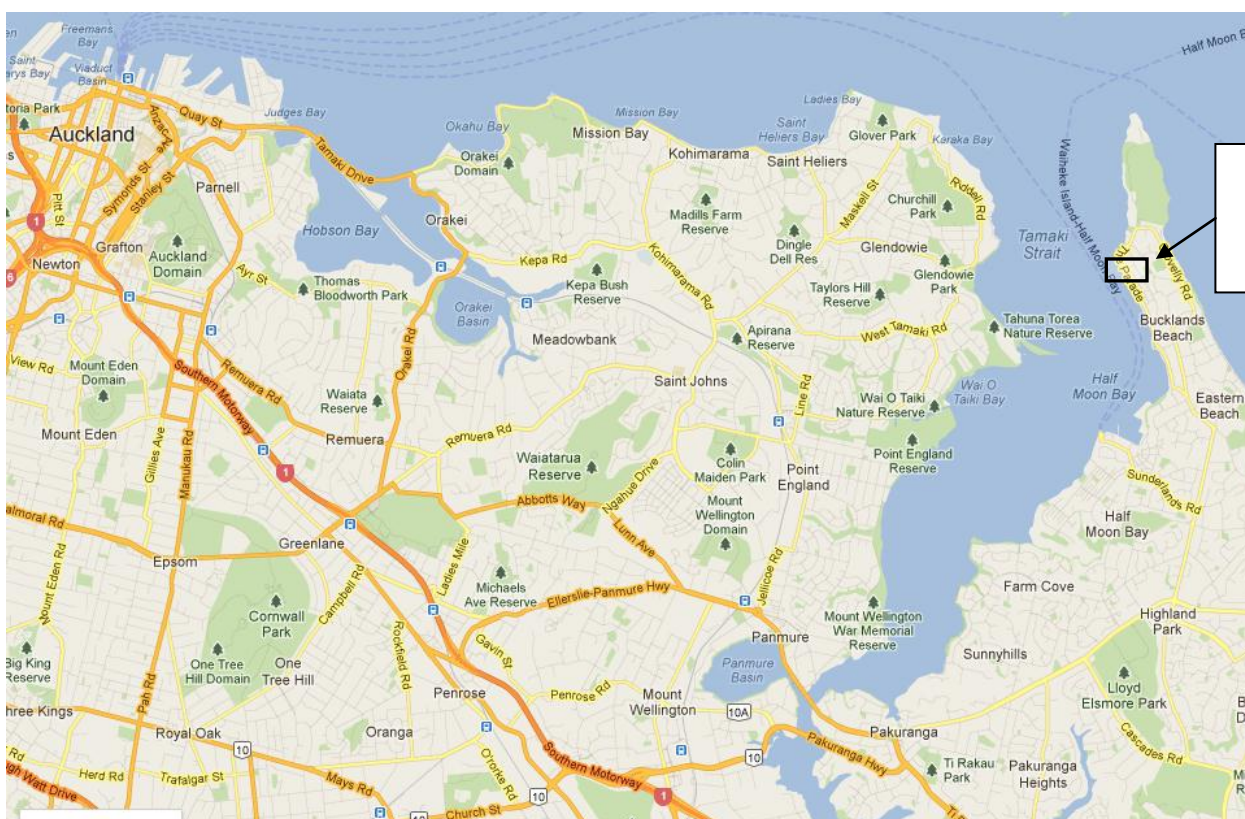


Maps for your reference

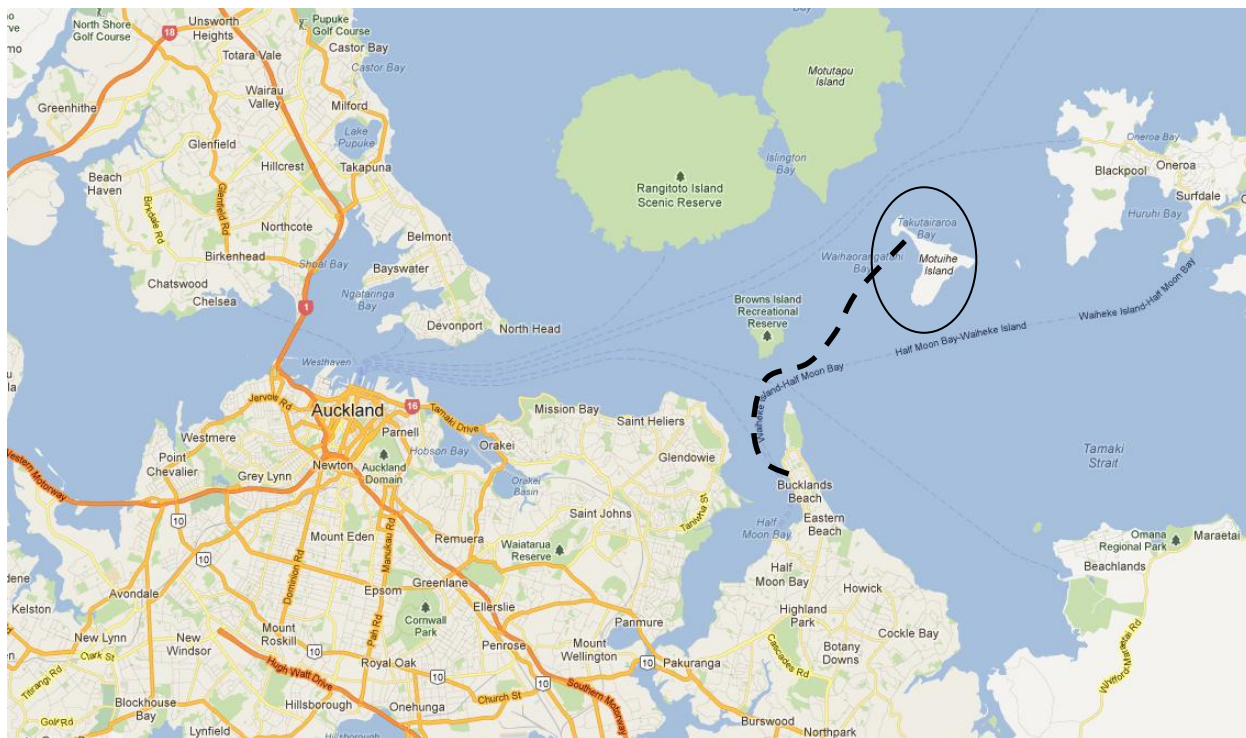


Bucks Beach Scout Den

Boat Ramp



See Aerial Picture above



Return to: Andrew Stevens
Email: a_stevens@clear.net.nz
By: 30 September

Labour Weekend Waitemata Harbour excursion Registration of Interest

Group Name						
Group Contact	Name:					
	Phone:					
	Email:					
Supply Patrol Boat:	Y/ N					
Crew Names:						
Boat details:	type		length		HP	
Anticipated attendance (number of):	Adults					
	Scouts					
	Venturers					
	Canoes:					
	Cutters under sail					
	Cutter under oars					

Labour Weekend Alternative Trip in event of unsuitable weather for the harbour excursion**Waikato River Trip
Labour Weekend**

- Date:** Saturday 20 – Monday 22 October
- Meeting Place:** The Boat Ramp on SH1 at Taupiri
- Meeting Time:** 0930 hrs for an 1030hrs start on the Water
- Return Time:** 1300 hrs at the Boat Ramp at Tuakau.
- What to Bring:** Food, boats, canoes, tents and a desire to have some fun.
- Cost:** There is no event fee. Costs are purely your own group transport and food costs. If you provide a Patrol Boat for this event, the Auckland Sea Scout account will pay for the fuel used.
- Trip Plan:**
- Day 1: To launch at Taupiri and camp overnight on the river bank at Ohiniwai (eastern bank).
- Day 2: To paddle, float or row down the river until we get to Mercer where we will camp overnight on the river bank (western bank).
- Day 3: To paddle and float down the river until we get to Tuakau where we will get off the river and go home to a nice hot shower and soft bed.
- Preparation:** I strongly recommend that all participants, whether they intend to canoe or not, will have undertaken the following training prior to the event. Will have paddled a canoe at least 2km and have demonstrated that they can get out of a capsized canoe while wearing a spray skirt.
- General:** Each group will be responsible for their own water transport, food and tentage. You will require your own cooking gear. You should bring a small spade for the purposes of digging a long drop at the evening camp sites. There are public toilets along the route and near the camping areas, but access cannot be guaranteed.
- There is no where for you to leave your vehicles or trailers at either end of the trip. These are public areas and any vehicles are left will be at your own risk. You will need to arrange transport to take trailers and vehicle back to Auckland or any other location you choose.
- It would be appreciated if a group could volunteer to supply a patrol boat.
- We are paddling the same direction as the river flows, hence it is not an overly difficult trip. In order to keep tabs on everybody we will set off in groups, not necessarily in Scout Groups, the choice is yours. It is important that your group does not get too spread out as it takes along time to paddle upstream against the current if someone gets into trouble.
- We can light small fires on the river banks at night for camp fires.
- You will need to take out all the rubbish that you bring in with you.
- There are places to top up water supplies along the way, however it is recommended that you bring enough fresh water to be self sufficient.
- When canoeing or rowing, the weight of equipment is not critical, as you do not need to physically carry it.
- Clothing:** You should come prepared as if you are going boating, plenty of warm clothes, wind proof jacket, the assumption that you will fall out of the canoe and get wet (or eaten by the Taniwha). We are camping on the rivers edge, this can be quite cold in the nights. Remember, several thin layers of clothing is better than one thick jumper. Pack your gear in a similar fashion as you would if going tramping, windproof jacket and water bottle easily assessable, a warm top assessable for when you stop. Put all you gear in plastic or dry bags so it won't get wet. When you think it is waterproof, use one more plastic bag (wet sleeping bags are no fun).
- Activity Permit:** Each Group will be responsible for submitting their own activity permit, a copy of which must be sent to the Auckland AWAA.
- Permission to use the River will be sought on your behalf by myself.

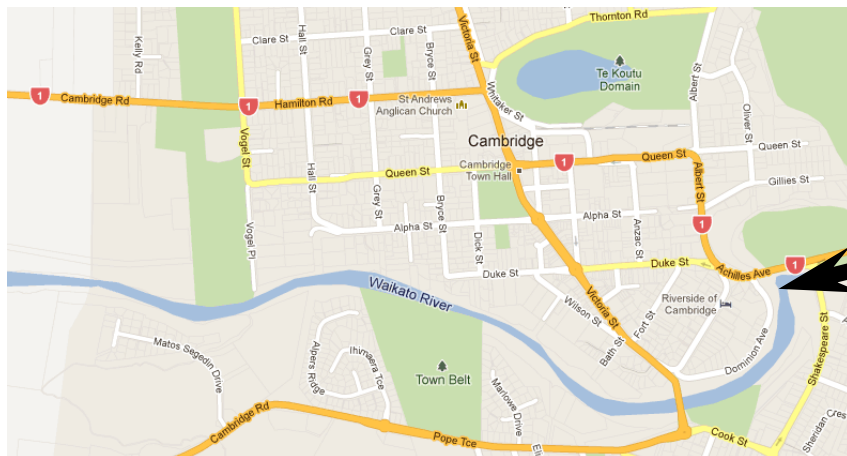
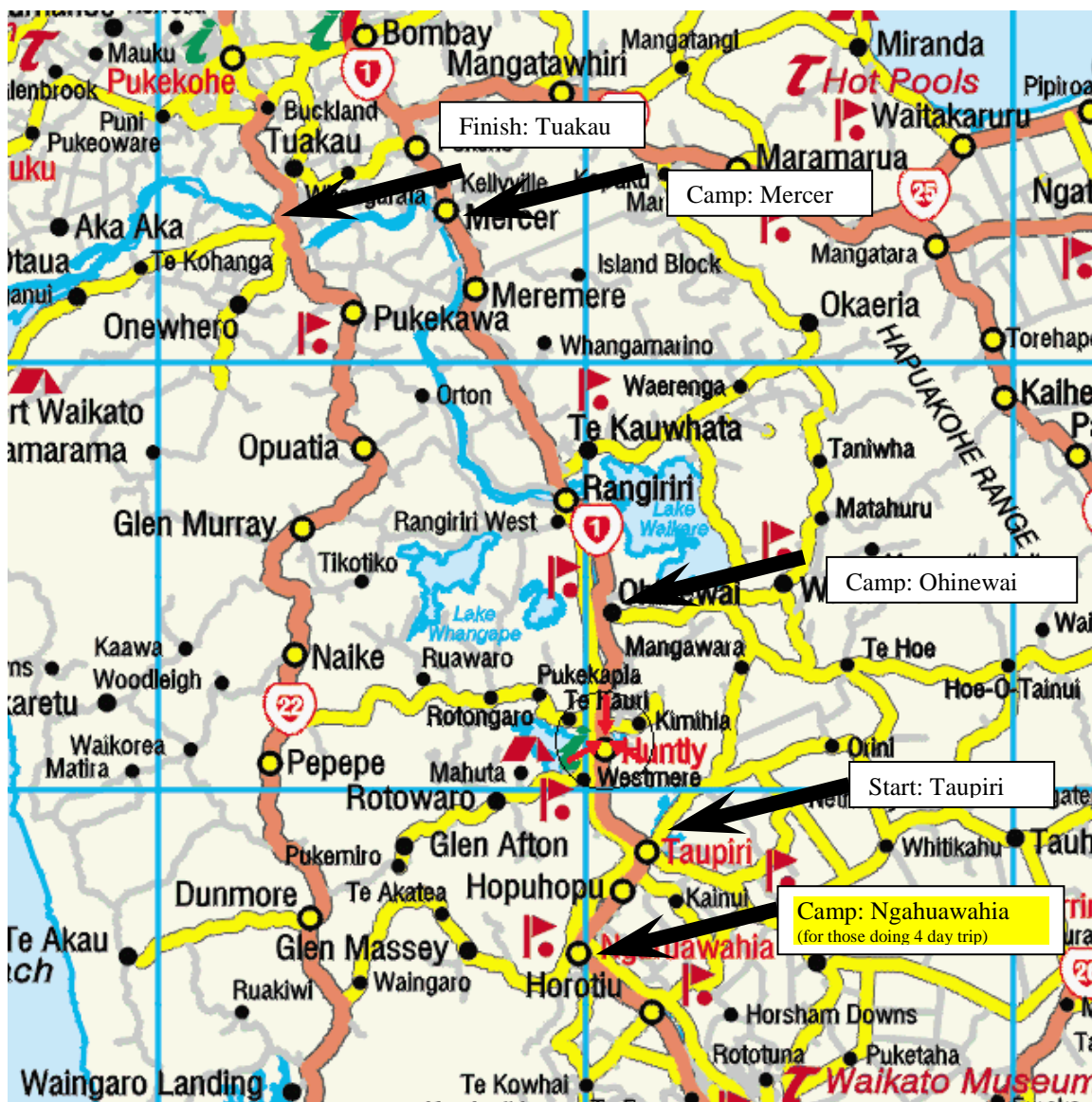
Registration: Can you please register your interest and best guess at numbers, boats and canoes, adult and youth by September 30. This will help assist with planning. Final numbers are required by 14 October.

Alternative Plans: If there is heavy rain in the days prior to Labour Weekend, we may not be able to go down the river as it can flood very quickly. You will be advised of cancellation of the Trip on Wednesday evening, 17 October, if applicable.

Questions: If you have any questions, please contact Andrew.

Andrew Stevens
Water Activities Advisor, MoanaRua Zone
Phone: 827 2569 (hm)
Phone: 539 9118(wk)
Email: a_stevens@clear.net.nz
Mobile: 027 6939 756





Start: Cambridge
(For those doing 4 day trip)