

# A Family that plays together stays together...



Three generations in the same boat!

By Diana Austin

Luke and Anita rafted up for a breather.



We have all heard the saying “A family that plays together stays together.” Is it true? I don’t know but I hope so. For the here and now though, there are heaps of benefits in getting the whole family out paddling on the water together.

- ◊ It creates a very large memory box of adventures that will keep us going no matter what the future holds.
- ◊ Action photos galore that make great screen savers, decorations for the wall, school brag photos...
- ◊ Transporting boats for more than yourself puts up a really good excuse for the bloke to buy the trailer he has always wanted – for the good of the family of course.
- ◊ No-one notices the lack of housework if we are all on the water
- ◊ We now have gift ideas for those hard to buy for relatives: a guided trip up the Matakana River: a paddle down the Puhoi River and Mum even got a voucher to do her skills course.
- ◊ And then there is nothing like washing four lots of gear to rub off a few rough edges and refine the ‘working together’ ethic. Yes, I know I am dreaming – we will always argue.

Hard core, roughing it camping/ kayaking trips are not everyone’s idea of fun, but kayaking is a sport that you can modify to suit **your** family. Auckland has plenty of sheltered waterways that are great for those who like a flat ride. We have paddles like the Panmure Basin that can involve playground hopping and even a train ride. It’s not necessary to go out rain or shine: My kids will be finding it hard to believe I just said that.



Anita getting the billy on at Urupukapuka.

Pick the distance, location and weather to suit the least confident (or most reluctant). Bribe them with some chocolate in their buoyancy aid, take some photos for morning talk at school and if Mum or Dad really need it there are plenty of cafes by the water. Before you know it you will have children Eskimo rolling better than you and asking to go whitewater kayaking down the Mohaka!



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