

# Camping in the Beautiful Coromandel

By Darrell Adshead

In September, with 20 years playing around in canoes and inflatable kayaks behind me, I took a sea kayaking course with Manukau Canoe & Kayak to discover what bad habits I had acquired. In October, my brand new toy arrived for sea trials in November. In December I embarked on my first multi-day tour figuring that four days gliding round the secluded bays and beaches of the Coromandel Peninsular would be ideal.

Coromandel beaches range from shingle to beautiful white sand, from populated to natural. Several north of Coromandel town sport campgrounds ; privately-owned at Long Bay, Papa Aroha and Otautu Bay; DOC camps at Fantail Bay, Port Jackson, Fletcher Bay, Stony Bay and Waikawau. I reckoned I would always have somewhere to pull in for the night.

All my reading had warned that the current at the top of the Peninsular could be grim, as could the winds off the Moehau range, so I planned an outgoing tide from Long Bay campground in the morning,



Potiki Bay – coffee break with a view.



## Join Us For An Adventure - Family Tours





<p><b>Twilight Tours</b></p> <p>Departs from one of your local beautiful beaches. Enjoy the scenic trip with the sun setting as you paddle along the coastline.</p> <p>Phone Canoe &amp; Kayak on 0508 529 256 for details</p>	<p><b>Glow Worm Kayak Tour</b></p> <p>Join us for a picturesque paddle on Lake McLaren to view glow worms by night or beautiful waterfalls by day. This trip takes about 1.5-2hours and is suitable for paddlers with no experience. All gear, hot drinks and nibbles are supplied.</p> <p>Price \$75 per person.</p> <p>Phone Canoe &amp; Kayak BOP for bookings 07 574 7415</p>	<p><b>Paddle to the Pub</b></p> <p>Kayaking to a local pub is a unique way of spending an evening, bringing your group of friends together by completing a fun activity before dinner and making a memorable experience.</p> <p>Phone Canoe &amp; Kayak on 0508 529 256 for details</p>	<p><b>Sugar Loaf Island</b></p> <p>From Ngamutu Beach harbour we head out on the open sea to Sugar Loaf Island Marine Reserve. View the scenic &amp; rugged Taranaki coastline as we draw closer to the Islands. Enjoy the seal colony and experience the thrill of close up views of these fascinating marine mammals.</p> <p>Allow 3 hours subject to weather.</p> <p>\$70.00 per person. Phone 06 769 5506</p>
--	---	---	---



*New Zealand camping doesn't get better than this!*



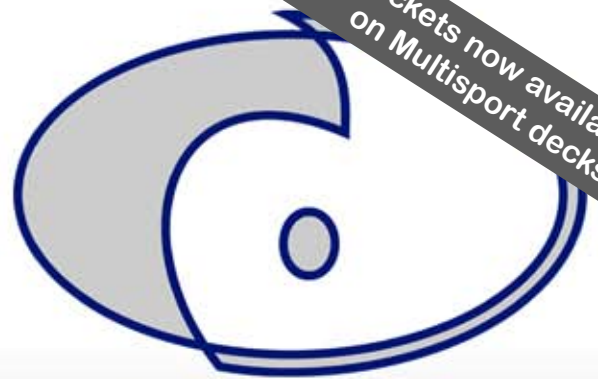
*Picturesque Coromandel town and its idyllic islands.*



*Heading out past the mussel barge at work.*



*A glorious sandy beach at Waitete Bay.*



**Pockets now available on Multisport decks**

# rasdex

The Rasdex Multisporter PFD has had another successful Speight's Coast to Coast, taking a win with Gordon Walker. A good number of the other top 10 finishers in all classes also chose it. Why? Because it is the most complete multisport PFD on the market: quick side entry, light weight, plenty of pockets, comes with bladder and routing for 3 tubes via our innovative block system. Why compromise your race? Use what the winners use!



RRP \$289.95

The new Hydra PFD has been tested to NZS 5823:2005. It is also approved for night time use. Available in high viz yellow (see Auckland harbour bylaws) and red, and in 2 sizes. Features large front pocket and key clip, plus hidden side pockets which allow extra foam to be fitted so it can be used for canoe polo.

RRP \$149.95



[info@rasdex.co.nz](mailto:info@rasdex.co.nz)  
[www.rasdex.co.nz](http://www.rasdex.co.nz)

*Pohutakawa trees in bloom, north of Colville.*



slack tide crossing the top and an incoming tide to one of my favourite camping sites, Stony Bay. The wind had picked up threatening a capsize on the wild run from Fantail to Stony Bay, but if it became necessary the skills learnt on my course had given me the confidence and training to get myself back in.

Moving slowly along the coast I enjoyed the magnificent flowering pohutakawa trees north of Colville, the rugged bush near Poley Bay and there was always somewhere out of the wind for one of my rituals when I “go bush”, a coffee and a sticky bun. The solitude was marvellous. As a contrast from earning my living amongst small, screaming children it was wonderful to hear the waves, the birds and the wind, and to ignore or talk to people in the campgrounds. North of Tuatēawa on my last night I camped, with permission, on private land in total seclusion. I arrived early, set up my tent on a flat patch under a pohutakawa tree with nikau palms and punga dominating the bushline, swam, relaxed in the shade, dried my gear, watched the bird life and thought camping with a sea kayak doesn't get better than this.

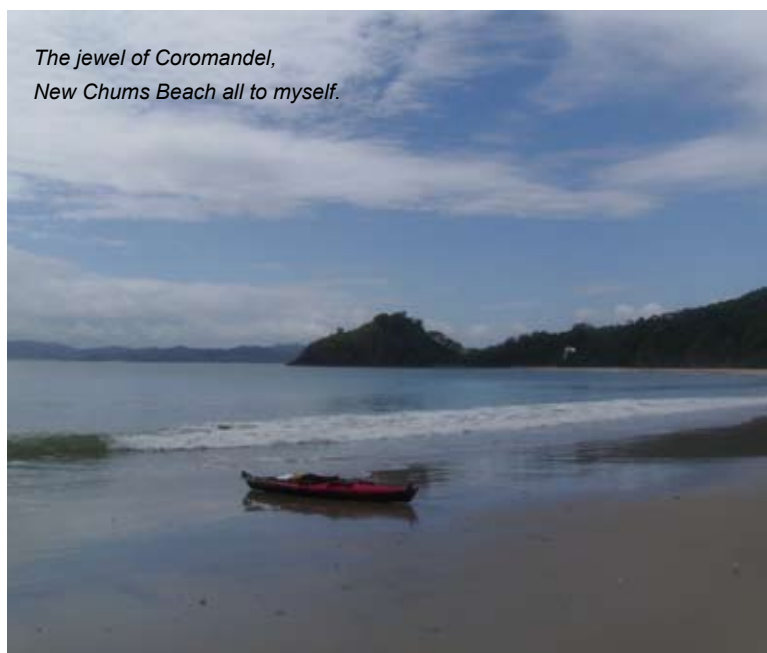
The next morning, paddling in the lee of the hills approaching Kennedy Bay, the northwester caused a severe squall. One side of the bay disappeared and I was fumbling for a compass to check the bearing. I wasn't worried about my boat, only my direction!

There is a local saying, “If you don't like the weather, wait 20 minutes”. Sure enough towards New Chums Beach the rain turned off and the sun shone weakly. Small waves licked the sandy beach and I had my morning coffee and cake. New Chums, more than a kilometre long, is a jewel of the Coromandel Peninsula, and one of the top ten beaches in the world. Apparently developers have their eyes on it. I made the most of being

the only soul there before rounding Motutu Point and reaching my home beach, Whangapoua.

I called my fiancée who agreed to come and get me ... in three hours, once she had finished work! So I had time for a final coffee and to dry my equipment. Now I just had to get my car...

*The jewel of Coromandel,  
New Chums Beach all to myself.*



Squall starting at Kennedy Bay. Moments later this view disappeared in the rain.



Discover the World with...

# THE WORLD'S QUIETEST ROOF RACK



Introducing Prorack's Whispbar™. The most innovative, technically advanced roof rack system that will radically reduce drag and fuel consumption. Now that's brilliant Kiwi ingenuity!

Now available from your local Canoe & Kayak store.



Visit [www.prorack.co.nz](http://www.prorack.co.nz) to see it on your car

**Prorack**<sup>™</sup>  
Loads of life