RNZYS 2015 ICOYC Post Forum Cruise

Saturday February 21st – Thursday February 26th

Brief Itinerary Outline

**Day One:** Sail from RNZYS to Islington Bay, Rangitoto Island (8.5NM)

**Day Two:** Sail to Man O War Bay, Waiheke Island (18NM)

**Day Three:** Sail to Onetangi via Garden Cove (10NM)

**Day Four:** Sail to Tiri Tiri Matangi Island (lunch on the Island), then continue to Sullivan’s Bay, Mahurangi.

**Day Five:** Sail to Mansion House Bay, Kawau Island then continue to Lidgard House. (4.5NM)

**Day Six:** Sail to Vivian Bay, Kawau Island for lunch then sail home to Auckland. (36 NM)
Day 1

8.5 NM

Departing from the marina mooring, sail to Rangitoto and depending on the wind strength and direction, moor in either sheltered Islington Bay located between Rangitoto and Motutapu Island, or Home Bay on the east side of Motutapu Island.

Rangitoto Island

A 800 year old volcanic island, part of the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park, with stunning panoramic views from the summit of the Hauraki Gulf and Auckland city and suburbs.

Islington Bay

Perhaps the most used anchorage because of its close proximity to Auckland and its strategic position for yachts making for Waiheke Island. Sheltered and good holding anchorage on a thick mud.

Home Bay

A popular picnic spot in the early 1900s when ferry services ran to the bay from Auckland. Sheltered in winds from SW through W to N, while even in NE winds some shelter can be found inside the North entrance point. Good holding anchorage on mud in depth of 1.8 to 3.6 metres close to the jetty.

Activities:

- Leisurely 2hr round trip walk to summit of Rangitoto from Islington Bay
- Visit to historic and restored Reid Homestead in Home Bay which is now a visitor centre and base for the Motutapu Restoration Trust, which is committed to restoring the cultural and natural landscape of the island. Picnic lunch in the bay.
**Day 2**

**18NM**

Sail to the eastern end of Waiheke Island to mooring at Man O War Bay, near the historic Stony Batter Reserve.

**Stony Batter:** Historic Reserve was a WWII Counter Bombardment Heavy Coast Defence Battery. The site is made up of three large gun pits and an extensive system of underground chambers linked by hundreds of metres of underground tunnels and stairs.

**Shore excursions and activities:**

Explore the Stony Batter Historic Reserve and tunnels either with a guided tour run by the Stony Batter Protection and Restoration Society (between 10 am and 3 pm), or by yourself with a reliable torch – allow 1 – 1.5hrs.

- Guided tours: $15 per person
- Self-guided tours: $8 per person

Walk from Opopo Bay to Stony Batter on a track starts at the eastern end of the beach at Hooks Bay by following the green DOC track sign. The track heads up to Stony Batter, crossing farmland, following the orange marker poles. Time: 1 hr 40 min return.

**Private Wine tour and Lunch:**

An exclusive tour of two especially selected premium boutique vineyards each with their own distinctive craftsmanship, including private wine tastings with a vintner of each estates premium wine selections. Waiheke Island’, described as the ‘Martha’s vineyard of the South Pacific’, Mediterranean-styled climate produces some exceptional trophy medal winning wines and award winning olive oil. Met by your host driver/guide at Man O War Bay and transported in premium vehicle.

Your first wine tasting will be at Man O’ War Vineyard, which boasts 150 acres of vines which are strategically placed to ensure that the distinct soil profile and microclimate of each block is used to best advantage. Meticulous design ensures that the distinct soil profile and microclimate of each block is used to best advantage with different rootstocks, clones and planting densities selected to match the specific terroir on offer. The vineyard has won international awards for their Flagship Black Label wines, which include Syrah and Chardonnay and a Bordeaux blend.

The next private wine tasting will be at Passage Rock with lunch to follow afterwards in their cafe set amongst the vineyard at Te Matuku Bay with stunning views out to the Hauraki Gulf. Specialising in producing Waiheke wines of distinction, Passage Rock’s award winning wines are fruit driven, backed by quality winemaking and the use of fine grained oak barrels. Since 2001 Passage Rock has become Waiheke Island’s most awarded winery in both New Zealand and International competitions, winning multiple gold medals and trophies for their Reserve Syrah.
Passage Rocks other highly successful wines include;

Viognier, made to retain the beautiful aromatics of the variety with structure to make it last 4 to 5 years; their Chardonnays are made with retention of fruit and with good use of Malolactic fermentation and oak and their Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon blends (Sisters, Reserve Merlot, and Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon) are made in full bodied styles are acclaimed as offering excellent representation of Waiheke wine. In 2007 they made their first Waiheke grown Pinot Gris with a ripe fleshy style with good aromatics and palate structure.
Day 3

10NM

Sail to Onetangi via Garden Cove (weather dependant)

Shore excursion:

Private visit to Rangihoua Estate and lunch at Stonebridge

You will be greeted by your personal host and guide at Onetangi Beach for an exclusive visit to Rangihoua Estate near Onetangi, where the first olive oil in the North Island was produced. Rangihoua’s award-winning olive oils have won many accolades since the first pressings. Here you will learn how the oil is produced and taste a range of different oils, including the peppery Greek-style Koreneiki, the Spanish-style Picual, or the Tuscan-style Frantoio, listed in 2013 by Flos Olei as one of the top 20 olive oils in the world.

After your olive oil tasting you will visit Stonyridge Vineyard for lunch. Founded in 1982, Stonyridge is a world-class producer of Cabernet blends and is the home of one of New Zealand’s cult wines, Larose. Here you can chill out in the Veranda café overlooking the rows of neatly trimmed vines while enjoying Pacific meets Mediterranean food and sample their premium estate wines before being delivered back to Onetangi Beach.
Day 4

26NM

Sail from Waiheke Island to Tiri Tiri Matangi Island

Tiritiri Matangi Island

The island has no overnight anchorage but there is a pier, sheltered by a drying reef, on the SW end of the island. This jetty is used for servicing the lighthouse on the E side of the island and yachts can find temporary anchorage N of the wharf and behind the reef. There is 3.6 metres of water off the wharf on a hard sand bottom. This bay has a clean sandy beach good for picnics. Temporary anchorage can also be found on the Nth side of Tiritiri in SW winds but the approach must be made with caution.

Much of the island has been replanted in native trees and several species of birds including the Kakapo have been re-established on the island and the local Ranger is pleased to show visitors around.

Activity:

Picnic on the island or a barbecue using a fireplace built in the woolshed bay ¼ mile NW of the jetty. Walk through the bush to see the native bird life and costal views.

After your visit sail onto the picturesque Sullivan’s Bay on the Mahurangi Peninsula for the nights mooring. Enjoy the lovely beach and scenic environs.
Day 4 Continued

Mahurangi Harbour

1 mile NE of the Puhoi River is Cudlip Pt, the high wooded point that forms the South side of the entrance to this fine natural harbour which was the site of large shipbuilding yards in the early days, the whole area being steeped in the history of early settlement in New Zealand when most of the transport was by sea. The entrance is protected by Saddle Island (Horora Is.), 1 mile offshore, and lies between Cudlip Pt and Sadler Pt. Within the entrance the harbour opens up and a number of attractive anchorages will be found, well sheltered from all winds.
Day 5

4.5NM

Sail to Kawau Island and Mansion Bay

Kawau Island

The island has had an interesting history, firstly as early manganese and copper mining operations, then in the late 1800’s the Governor, a Sir George Grey, made the island his retreat. His handsome but small home Mansion House later became a hotel and is now an Historic Home museum. The island is a very popular spot with many sheltered anchorages, all on the West side. Yachts must anchor further offshore in stronger runs of tide.

BON ACCORD HARBOUR – various bays and anchorages

Mansion House (Fontelaye) Bay & Two House Bay

Adjacent to each other immediately inside Momona Pt, these areas are both exposed to W and NW winds and as a consequence not much favoured for overnight anchorages. 3.2m depth will be found abreast the end of the wharf in Mansion House Bay, from which the ferries run to Sandpit in the Matakana River. The bottom is sandy-mud. Note: Water tanks may be filled at the jetty. No water available for washing down. Facilities include: Tearooms, phone and rubbish bins.

Shore excursions & activities:

- Visit to Mansion House and grounds. Walks on island to old copper mine.
- Private fishing charter – half day (or nominated hours) fishing option - great fishing area for snapper and kingfish

Vivian Bay

Sharp Pt, the site of an old Maori pa, is the Sth entrance point to this fine sandy bay with a 4.5 hectare reserve. The bay has a fine yellow sand beach and is sheltered from NE winds but very exposed to the W. The bottom is sand, fair holding anchorage. On the mainland shore of Kawau Bay a number of pleasant anchorages will be found.

Shore excursion options:

Private guided half day visit to Brick Bay and Warkworth

Catch the water taxi over from Waiheke over to Sandspit wharf be met on arrival for a visit to Brick Bay Sculpture trail and vineyard situated on the Mahurangi Penninsula, with its unique outdoor gallery where you can take a leisurely walk along a 2km trail of contemporary sculptures sensitively placed near wetlands, lakes and vineyards. At the gateway to the Brick Bay trail you will enjoy a seasonal platter of local fare and a taste of Brick Bay’s boutique wines in their contemporary glass house cafe.
On completion of your lunch, wine tasting and sculpture walk we will continue onto the town of Warkworth to see up close two magnificent 950 year old kauri trees set amongst a native bush reserve. Kauri timber was much sort after for ships masts and spars because of their straight grain and strength - there are very few kauri’s of this size now left standing....

Private guided half day sightseeing tour of Warkworth, Matakana and Puhoi:

The tour will encompass visiting Matakana farmers market, art galleries, Warkworth and the magnificent kauris, and a visit to the historic village of Puhoi with its quaint colonial buildings. Puhoi is one of only two truly ethnic settlements in New Zealand and was settled in 1863 by Bohemian migrants. The rustic Puhoi Hotel, one of the first Hotels in New Zealand to be granted a licence to serve and sell liquor, displays on its walls many memorabilia and photos donated by customers that are reminders of the history of the settlers and visitors. A visit to the Puhoi Valley Cheese & café where master cheese makers lovingly produce some of the finest quality specialty cheeses in the world, from creamy double cream brie, to the sophisticated goat feta, Puhoi Valley Cheese is a will delight you.

Activity: Sail to Vivian Bay for lunch at the Beach House restaurant

Day 6

36NM

Sail from Waiheke Island to Auckland