

Schedule of cruising boat destinations  
In Northland –Version 2 with council amendments



© Prepared by Richard Brown on behalf of Auckland Yacht and Boating Association – September 2014  
Amendments by Michael Payne –Policy Analyst, Ross Waters – Maritime Officer and Peter Thomas - Marine Officer

Auckland Yacht and Boating Association would like to acknowledge the following sources of information

Royal Akarana Yacht Club Coastal Cruising handbook

Hauraki Gulf Boaties Atlas

Lynn and Graeme Brown (Adamite)

Pickmere Atlas of Northland's East Coast

Google Earth

Doug Smeale

Derry Godbert

Port Opua – A Cruisers guide

## Notes for database of Northlands East Coast Bays

Because of the very high number of bays on this coastline we have included only those which are potential anchorages. Consequently there are relatively few graded 1. Many bays are exposed to the Ocean and are thus generally unsuitable as overnight anchorages. They may however still be popular daytime anchorages with boats returning to more sheltered waters over night.

Several bays have more than one name. Where we have identified them the extra names have been included but there are probably several bays whose alternative names have not been included.

Every bay has been given a grading 1-3. These classifications are as follows:-

1 = Infrequently used as an anchorage either because of poor shelter, overcrowding moorings or better anchorages nearby.

2 = Popular anchorage – this could vary from a few boats in a small bay to many boats in a larger one.

3 = Strategic anchorage in that it is heavily relied on during bad weather – usually also popular in times of lighter winds of appropriate direction

3\* = Strategic anchorage in that it is heavily relied on during bad weather but particularly popular as an anchorage.

It is important to realise that the characteristics of the bays changes with the changes in the weather and tide. An anchorage which may be heavily crowded on one day may be empty on another.

The relatively high number of bays graded 3 or 3\* reflects the relatively exposed nature of the coast where refuge may only be available in a bay behind a headland beyond which seas may be very rough and where shelter behind an island may not be available. The term “heavily relied on” refers more to the convenience to the sailor rather than the numbers of boats that would use it.

Under the features of the bays we have included several items which are defined as:-

**Swells** – Frequently whether or not a bay is swelly depends on wind and tide conditions. Because we say a bay is subject to swells does not necessarily mean there are always swells.

**Rolls** – These are similar in effect to swells but are generated not by Ocean swells but by wind generated waves.

**Shallow** – this refers to the depth of the water not the width of the bay.

**Good / Excellent** – This refers to the quality of the anchorage as a whole and includes protection from the wind, holding, water depth, and lack of swells.

**Walks** – this refers to walking tracks on public land.

**Moorings** – It is rare for moorings to be available to cruising boats. Most moorings are dedicated to an individual's boat and therefore detract from an anchorage.

**Daytime anchorage** – Some anchorages are adequate during daytime when sailors are not trying to sleep. A higher standard is required overnight.

*The comments section of this survey are a “work in progress” It is not complete and is subject to change. AYBA requests that this database is used as a guide in the first place and that AYBA is consulted more fully.*

Bays are individually numbered and are arranged in sequence in groups. The groups are:-

101 - 116 Tawharanui to Whangarei

201 - 223 Ngunguru to Cape Brett

301 - 322 Cape Brett to Russell

401 - 423 Russell to Matauri Bay

501 – 517 Cavallis to Frear

601 – 611 Whangaroa harbour

701 – 717 Tupou to Whatawhiwhi

801 – 817 Brodies Bay to Spirits Bay

No	Name(s) of bay	Holding	Yacht club		Shelter from NSEW	Facility	Grade
	<b>Tawharanui to Whangarei</b>						
101	Whangateau		No			Little used, shallow bar, too exposed outside	1
102	Mathesons	Fair	No		W-N	Little used, too exposed to swell	1
103	Omaha Cove (Leigh)	Good/ Mud	No		SW-NW	Several moorings restrict use by visitors. Possible refuge in storm	3
104	Mangawai River		No		-	Too shallow to enter	1
105	Marsden Bay	Good			SW	Only good anchorage in SW in area. Narrow channel littered with moorings. Entrance to Marsden Cove Marina off this bay.	1
106	Urquarts Bay	Sand			All winds except –WSW-WNW	Popular anchorage especially for boats travelling N-S. Moorings scattered throughout the bay. Woolshed Bay at S end good for SE- E winds. Channel to W off N of bay has 4.0m and good anchorage in NE.  Good shelter in S and DE winds. Subject to gusts and downdrafts in NE conditions.	2
107	Taurikura Bay	Sand	No		W-N-E	Good in fresh N Moorings scattered throughout bay. Still sheltered anchorages beyond moorings.	2
108	Darch Point	Good / Mud	No		NE	Good shelter in NE gale otherwise not particularly popular due to tides	3
109	McLeods Bay	Sand	No		E	Moorings scattered throughout bay	1
110	Munro Bay	Sandy Mud	No		NW-NE	Hard to access, shallow. 3.5m close to W shore. Better options in Parua Bay Shallow with limited space	1
111	The Nook				E-SE	Excellent bay although a handful of moorings compromise it slightly. Also reasonable in SW and therefore popular because of general shelter	3*
112	Parua Bay	Mud	WCC		Most directions	Almost enclosed this is a great anchorage. Many moorings in the N are an issue but leave plenty of room elsewhere	3*
113	Limestone Island	Mud			SW	Old anchorage seldom used – maybe as waiting area for bridge?	1
114	Onerahi Jetty	Mud	OYC		N	Old anchorage seldom used – maybe as waiting area for bridge?	1
115	Smugglers Bay	Indifferent	No		N	Daytime anchorage only subject to swells	1
116	Peach Cove		No		N	Daytime anchorage only subject to swells and squalls	
	<b>Ngunguru to Cape Brett</b>						
201	Ngunguru River	Sand	No		All but E	Dangerous entrance makes this almost useless	1
202	Whangaumu Bay	Sand	No		N	Some shelter but only in calm conditions	1
203	Tutukaka	Mud			All	Tricky entrance but a haven once inside. Marina is often full but anchorage S of Philip Is cluttered with moorings, many unused. Swelly in E.	3*

						Anchorage extends beyond the 2m contour which is generally observed as the inner limit for anchorages zones. This is to provide for shallow draft vessels and to make the most of the shelter within Kowharewa Bay. Anchoring within Tutukaka harbour is otherwise limited by existing mooring fields.	
204	Matapouri Bay	Sand	No		SW-NW	Subject to swells. Mostly a daytime anchorage especially NW corner	2
205	Wooleys Bay (Whale	Sand	No		S	Lovely bay but exposed to N. Excellent and popular anchorage	2
206	Sandy Bay	Sand	No		SW	Not generally considered a good anchorage	1
207	Motutohe Island	Sand	No		S-SE	Good weather anchorage. Ideal in right conditions	1
208	Rockells Bay (Roimata)	Sand	No		W	Good weather anchorage. Ideal in right conditions but tricky approach	1
209	Kaituna Bay	Sand	No		W	Good weather anchorage. Ideal in right conditions	1
210	Boat Bay (Pongaheka)	Sand	No		N-SW	Magnificent bay. Very popular with boats travelling N-S	2
211	Mimiwhangata Bay	Sand	No		S	Beautiful bay but preferred anchorage is Boat Bay	1
212	Paparahi Bay	Sand	No		S-NW	Small but popular especially when Boat Bay is no good	3*
213	Taiwawe	Sand	No		SE-S-NNW	Small bay with some moorings Limited space to anchor but popular	2
214	Carpenters Bay	Sand	No		SE-SW	Subject to swells most of the time – day time anchorage only	1
215	Helena Bay	Sand			Various	This bay has several small coves only suitable as day anchorages	1
216	Oakura Bay	Sand	No		W	Popular day anchorage as close to shop.	2
217	Ohawini Bay	Sand	No		W	Good anchorage with a sprinkle of moorings but rarely used	1
218	Whangaruru Harbour	Sand / Mud	No		Most	The various bays and the upper reaches of this harbour make excellent anchorages with only a few moorings. This is a very popular area with plenty of space. Swelly in SE	3*
219	Bland Bay	Sand	No		S-W-N	A big bay with good shelter. Exposed to E and frequently swells. Reasonably popular as a passage anchorage	1
220	Taupiri Bay	Sand	No		W-S	Very small cove. Subject to swells	1
221	Karaka Cove	Sand	No		N	Nice day anchorage. Too many better anchorages close by	2
222	Whangamumu Harbour	Sand	No		All	Splendid anchorage in 2 halves. E winds produce uncomfortable roll	3*
223	Te Roa Bay	Sand	No		W	Several coves offer anchorage for a handful of boats in settled weather	2
	<b>Bay of Islands</b>						
301	Deep Water cove	Boulders	No		NE- S	First / Last anchorage in the Bay. Daytime anchorage. Deep water limits anchoring opportunities. Best in Maunganui Bay Squally and Swells	2
302	Oke Bay	Sand	No		NW-S-E	Popular anchorage for SW winds though squally Plenty of space. Few Moorings in close	2
303	Kaiangahoa bay	Mud	No		NE-S	Not particularly attractive bay but well sheltered and good holding	???

304	Urupukapuka Island	Sand	No		Various	Several Bays around this island make it very popular. Some moorings right in the middle of Entico bay	3*
305	Waewaetorea Bay	Sand	No		N-SE	Popular attractive bay but Okahu channel feeds strong currents at times	2
306	Rawhiti Bay	Poor	No		All but W	Shallow but sheltered	2
307	Whiorau Bay	Sand	No		NW-N-SE	Recognised Hurricane shelter	3*
308	Omakiwi Bay	Sand	No		All but W	Fine anchorage. Deep water close inshore.	3*
309	Parekura Bay	Sand	No		Various	Nice anchorage in most winds but many moorings on S side	3
310	Sunset Bay	Mud, rocks sand	No		N-E	W end of Motukiekie Is Rocks and shoals in approaches from both N and S but once inside a nice small anchorage.	2
311	Moturua Island	Sand	No		Various	Several small coves offering shelter in the right conditions	2
	Otiao Bay		No			Very popular bay, well sheltered from N -E	
	Paradise Bay		No			Very popular bay, well sheltered from N-E	
	Otehei Bay		No			Very popular bay, well sheltered from N -E	
312	Roberton island	Mud - Shingle	No		NW- NE	Very popular bay, well sheltered from N Reasonable holding Large vessel storm anchorage	3*.
313	Pipi Bay(Awa-awa-roa)	Sand	No		W-N-E	On Moturua Is popular but limited in fresh winds but good in N	2
314	Orokawa Peninsular	Sand	No		SW-SE	Several bays giving shelter in S winds Very popular in right conditions	3
315	Orokawa Bay	Sandy mud	No		W-N-E	Recognised hurricane anchorage. Best anchorage in Manawaora Bay but several moorings scattered across the bay	3*
316	Te Hue Bay(Tauri)	Sandy mud	No		All but SW	Recognised hurricane anchorage Fairly small with some moorings	2
317	Opunga cove	Sandy mud	No		All but W	Another small but attractive anchorage. Very popular	3*
318	Dicks bay		No		All but W	Too shallow to be of much use	1
319	Jacks Bay				All but NW	Crowded with anchored boats in summer but overnight anchorage	2
320	Clendon Cove		No		W-S-E	Rather shallow but anchorage available near headlands	1
321	Paroa Bay	Mud	No		Various	Several small bays with various shelter. Generally clear of moorings	2
322	Opito and Oneroa Bay		No		S	Both exposed to swells. Suitable only as day anchorages	2
	<b>Russell to Matauri Bay</b>						
401	Russell	Poor to average			N-SE	Full of moorings and always busy.	2
402	Matauwhi Bay	Average mud			N-SE	Excellent anchorage almost completely ruined by moorings but less wash than Russel	1
	Outside Matauwhi Bay						3*
403	Pomare Bay				All but NW	Too shallow to be any good in head but good elsewhere.	1



404	Wahapu Bay				E	Too shallow to be any good	1
405	Waikare Inlet	Poor slimy mud	OYC		Various	It seems every conceivable anchorage has a mooring in it. Boats anchor in the channel or E of Waikare Is	2
406	Paihia	Mud Poor close in	No		S-W	Overnight anchorage if anchored offshore a little in better holding	2
	Motumaire Island						2
407	Waitangi River		BOISC		N-SW	Excellent pile moorings occupy most of the space. Bridge restricts access	1
408	Onewhero Bay	Sand	No		W	Rather too open to be great. Subject to swells	1
409	Moturoa Island	Mud	No		Various	Few if any of the bays on the island offer any sort of anchorage except bay at W end.	1
410	Kerikeri inlet	Mud	KCC		General	Narrow winding channel offering a few anchorages	1
411	Doves Bay		KCC		N	Full of marina and moorings. Previously a hurricane anchorage	1
412	Opito Bay		No		N	Full of moorings. No longer an anchorage	1
413	Crowles Bay	Mud	No		All but NE	Great anchorage though no public road access	2
414	Napua	Mud	No		NW-S-SE	Almost as good as Crowles,	2
415	Poukoura inlet	Mud	No		NW-E	Shallow except mid channel. Good alternative to Crowles and Napua when wind changes to E	3
416	Wharengaere Bay	Mud	No		All but SW	Small almost enclosed bay	3
417	Wairoa Bay	Sand	No		N	Tricky approach but difficult exit limits use as overnight anchorage. Popular with those who know the way.	2
418	Rangihouia Bay	Sand	No		N	Popular for historical reasons. Holding not great in E half. Swells and squalls	2
419	Whale Bay(Hauai)	Sand and Shingle	No		W-N-E	Good in fresh N but subject to swells. Better than Rangiihoua	2
420	Waiau Bay	Hard sand	No		NW	Not a good anchorage as it is some distance to a better anchorage if the wind changes, however sometimes sheltered from swells.	1
421	Otea Bay	Hard sand	No		NW	Not a good anchorage	1
422	Orokaraka Bay	Sand	No		S-W	Safe little anchorage	1
423	Matauri Bay	Sand	No		NW-W	Constant roll but better offshore a little	1
	<b>Cavallis to Frear</b>						
501	Waiiti Cavalli	Sand and shingle	No		N-E	Overnight anchorage but subject to wind change Emergency bad weather	3
502	Papatara Cavalli (Horseshoe)	Sand and Shingle	No		N-E	Overnight anchorage but subject to wind change Emergency bad weather	3
503	Kikipaku	Sand and rocks	No		W	NE Cavalli Totally exposed to E swells Overnight anchorage Emergency bad weather	1



504	Patatau Bay					Emergency bad weather only	1
505	Waiheke Bay					Not an anchorage	-
504	Parua Bay	Sand and rock			S-W	Emergency bad weather only	1
505	Whau Bay					Daytime anchorage	2
506	Paihia Bay(Te Ngaire)	Sand			SW	Daytime anchorage, swelly Emergency bad weather	2
507	Piapia Bay	Sand			SW	Overnight anchorage but swelly Emergency bad weather	2
508	Wainui Bay	Sand			S-W	Overnight anchorage small and tricky entrance	2
509	Mahinepua Bay	Good, Hard sand			SW-NW	No good in E or S but otherwise a great overnight anchorage. Good spot to wait out W winds Emergency bad weather.	2
510	East Bay	Sand			SW-SE	Overnight anchorage though compromised by rock	1
511	Whangaihe Bay	Sand			All but N	Very small, swelly but interesting anchoring options	2
512	Marble Bay	Sand			SE	Relatively shallow and rocky but overnight anchorage	1
513	Tauranga Bay	Sand			S	Preference would be to overnight inside Whangaroa Harbour	1
514	Taupo Bay	Sand			S-W	Overnight anchorage	2
515	Camp Bay	Sand			W-SE	Overnight anchorage. Very small	1
516	Frear	Sand			W-SW	Overnight and emergency bad weather anchorage but preference would be to go back to Whangaroa	2
517	Stephenson Is	Foul			NE	Despite foul ground considered to be overnight and emergency bad weather anchorage	2
	<b>Whangaroa Harbour</b>						
601	Ranfurly				N	Overnight anchorage but swelly in fresh N winds	2
602	Waitepipi	Mud			All but SE	Popular and Emergency bad weather anchorage	3*
603	Rere	Mud			All but E	Spectacularly popular and Emergency bad weather anchorage	3*
604	Pekapeka(Kauou)	Mud			All but E	Popular and Emergency bad weather anchorage	3*
605	Waihi	Sandy Mud			W	Small overnight anchorage.	2
606	Okura	Mud			NW	Small overnight anchorage. Full of moorings	1
607	Kawaru Bay	Mud			NW	Small bay full of moorings	1
608	Waitapu	Mud			All but NW	Large sheltered overnight bay close to shore. Shallow at head	3*
609	Touwai (Kopumiti)	Mud			All but W	Shallow at head Overnight anchorage close to shore	3*
610	Owanga Bay	Mud			All but NW	Very popular and Emergency bad weather anchorage	3*

611	Peach Is	Mud			Various	Daytime anchorage	1
	<b>Tupou to Whatuwhiwhi</b>						
701	Tupou Bay	Sand				Lovely overnight anchorage but dangerous if N springs up so not widely used.	1
702	Motukahakah(Ngaiaroa)	Sand				Overnight anchorage but dangerous if N springs up	1
703	Wekarua Is					Yacht racing rounding mark. No anchorage	1
704	Waimahana Bay	Sand			All but NE	Tiny encircled bay Dangerous if NE springs up	2
705	Whangarino Bay	Sand			S	Small bay Overnight anchorage	1
706	Taemaro bay	Sand			W-S-E	Overnight anchorage	2
707	Okaituna Bay	Sand			W	Daytime anchorage but Taemaru is better	1
708	Takerau bay				SE	Overnight and Emergency bad weather anchorage	2
709	Te Reinga Bay	Rubble			S-SE	Small bay. Overnight anchorage	?
710	Hihi Bay	Shingle not good			NE-SE	Overnight anchorage.	2
711	Manganui Harbour	Mud	MYC		All but NW	Holding is poor, tides are strong, swelly in NW and full of moorings. Useful only for shopping but Emergency bad weather anchorage. Good moorings sometimes available through Harbour Master	2
712	Coopers Beach	Sand			S	Daytime anchorage	1
713	Cable	Sand			S	Daytime anchorage	1
714	Taipa Bay	Sand	TYC		S	Overnight anchorage. Additional all weather shelter inside creek for shallow draft boats Some moorings.	1
715	Oteingi	Sand			S	Small bay overnight anchorage in right conditions but not widely used	1
716	Tokerau	Sand			SW	Daytime anchorage	1
717	Whatuwhiwhi	Sand			NE	Overnight anchorage but subject to swells	2
	Matai Bay						2
	<b>Brodie to Spirits</b>						
801	Brodies Bay	Sand			NW	Good overnight anchorage	2
802	Florence Bay	Sand			SW	Tiny bay but general area daytime anchorage	1
803	Whangatupere(Oruru)	Sand			N-SW	Overnight anchorage	1

804	Matai Bay	Sand			W-SE	Lots of rocks Overnight anchorage	2
805	Whataru Bay	Sand			SE	Overnight and Emergency bad weather anchorage	1
806	Moturoa Is	Sand			Various	Island well offshore. Overnight anchorage only in settled weather. Usually used by game fishing launches which can get out quickly if wind changes	1
807	Karikari Beach	Sand			SE	Long beach. Overnight anchorage only in settled weather	1
809	Rangaanu(Awanui)	Sand			All but NW	Tricky entrance and narrow winding channel Good shelter but choppy when wind against tide.	1
810	Houhora Harbour	Sand			All	Dangerous entry in E but sheltered inside. Popular and Emergency bad weather anchorage. Many moorings in the best anchorages. Shop and Fuel Very limited space due to existing mootings. No safe place to set aside for an anchorage zone.	3*
811	Houhora Bay	sand			W	Daytime anchorage with the harbour preferred overnight. Shelter from NE under headland and behind mussel farm.	1
812	Kowai Beach	Sand			W	Daytime anchorage with the harbour preferred overnight.	1
813	Henderson Bay	Sand			W	Daytime anchorage with the harbour preferred overnight	1
814	Parengarenga	Sand			Most	Dangerous entry but sheltered once inside. Launches only	1
815	Wakuku	Sand			W	Overnight and Emergency bd weather anchorage but never settled	1
	North Cape	Sand			NW	Overnight and Emergency bd weather anchorage but never settled	1
816	Tom Bowling	Sand			S	Overnight and Emergency bd weather anchorage but never settled	1
817	Spirits	Sand			SE	Overnight and Emergency bd weather anchorage but never settled	1