

A Short Paddle For Some but it seemed a long way at the time

- Oliver 18/5/10

This is a paste and copy of the first overnight trip I did in my new poly Tasman a few years ago, originally posted in another non-kayak forum.

I remember it mainly because I was solo and my recall is always stronger when I'm alone.

Rangitoto-Motutapu Circumnavigation.

Just got back from this; hooked up my camera to the comp. "Bastard #\$\$%^&" all my photos gone!

Day 1.

Anyway, I departed Takapuna beach 8.00 a.m. Sunday. Weather perfect, light south easterly, slight swell, oily calm. Crossed to Rangitoto lighthouse in about 45 minutes, turned right and started tracking round the stark volcanic coastline. Every boat in Auckland was out, and so was every little blue penguin, [one every 100 metres, true].

Stopped for a break at the ferry wharf. There is a small boat basin there carved out of the volcanic rock, one of only about three or four places you can land on the whole of Rangitoto. Left, and crossed Islington Bay (Also called Drunkard's bay - a sobering up spot for sailing ships crew departing Auckland) and started pushing into the incoming tide in Tamaki strait. (Tide is a killer in these kayaks. When you only cruise at 3-4 knots, 2 knots on the nose is hard to take.) Perseverance and another hour and a half see me into Home Bay, Motutapu.

Distance 10 nm.



Home Bay is a beautiful DoC run campground accessible only on foot or by boat, and when the boaties went home later in the afternoon, I had it to myself.

Day 2.

Perfect morning, departed 8.30 a.m., with a slight tailwind, 2 nm north to Billy Goat point, then turned the corner, and can see the North Shore and Takapuna far, far, off in the distance. Stopped for a swim at Administration Bay, then angled across to pick up the shoreline of Rangitoto. Started to pick up an annoying little headwind which, as I was already tired, seemed stronger than it really was. This part of the coast of Rangi is inhospitable in the extreme as it is all lava flows, and battered by north-easterly swells most of the time.

Landed at little beach by the light house for a stretch and something to eat, before crossing the shipping lane back to Takapuna. Really tired now as the previous days paddling starts to catch up with me. Hard to believe that the pro's can do 20-30 miles a day. Stopped for drink at A buoy, then 30 minutes more and I swoop on to the boat ramp at Takapuna. Buggered.

12 nm

Pleased to discover that no one has stolen my car, and so home to wash everything in fresh water. Generally a bit further than I like to paddle, but it's a trip I have wanted to do for a while, so there's a certain sense of achievement.