




Imagining Takapuna

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INTRODUCTION

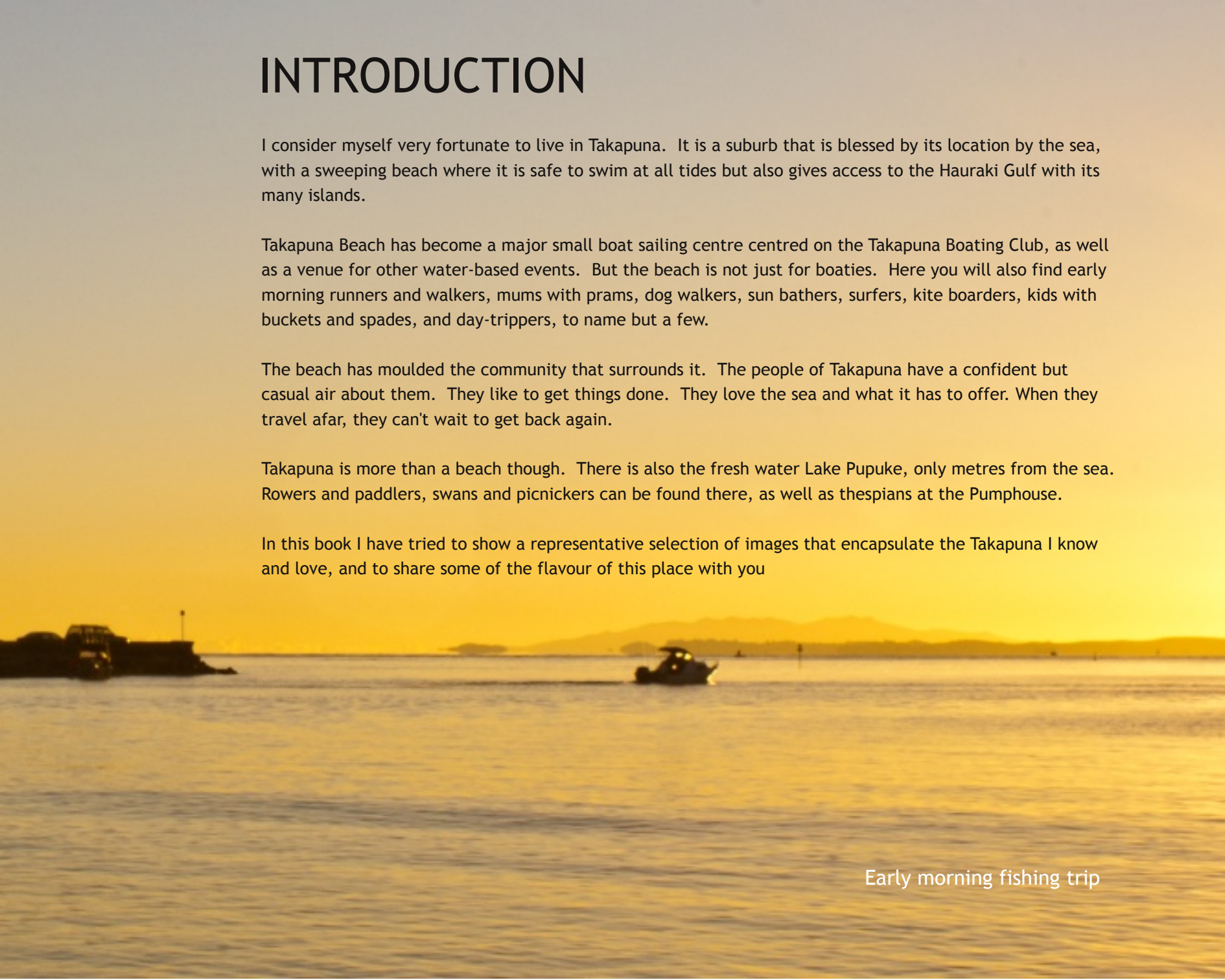
I consider myself very fortunate to live in Takapuna. It is a suburb that is blessed by its location by the sea, with a sweeping beach where it is safe to swim at all tides but also gives access to the Hauraki Gulf with its many islands.

Takapuna Beach has become a major small boat sailing centre centred on the Takapuna Boating Club, as well as a venue for other water-based events. But the beach is not just for boaties. Here you will also find early morning runners and walkers, mums with prams, dog walkers, sun bathers, surfers, kite boarders, kids with buckets and spades, and day-trippers, to name but a few.

The beach has moulded the community that surrounds it. The people of Takapuna have a confident but casual air about them. They like to get things done. They love the sea and what it has to offer. When they travel afar, they can't wait to get back again.

Takapuna is more than a beach though. There is also the fresh water Lake Pupuke, only metres from the sea. Rowers and paddlers, swans and picnickers can be found there, as well as thespians at the Pumphouse.

In this book I have tried to show a representative selection of images that encapsulate the Takapuna I know and love, and to share some of the flavour of this place with you

A photograph of a fishing boat on the water at sunrise or sunset, with a coastline in the background. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting an early morning or late evening setting. The boat is in the middle ground, moving across the water. In the background, there are silhouettes of land and hills under a bright, hazy sky.

Early morning fishing trip



BOAT RAMP

There was an urban myth when I was a child that Auckland had more boats per head of population than most other cities in the world. I don't know how they arrived at that statement, but the claim included every size of boat from the largest "gin palaces" to the smallest tin canoes paddled by kids in the estuaries around the harbour.

On any fine weekend day you can witness something of this myth. You will see crowds of "boaties" arrive at the boat ramp at the northern end of Takapuna Beach before sunrise to be first in line for a nearby parking place for their trailers. Parking spaces are at a premium and the trailer bays on the hard area behind the ramp fill quickly. Late-comers are forced to park their cars and trailers further away in the side streets. This, in turn, reduces parking availability for other visitors to the beach.

The early arrivers are the fishing crowd with boats festooned with all manner of gear designed to beat their wily prey out in the Hauraki Gulf. People who fish come from all walks in life, and although their boats vary in size and sophistication, all have a common passion for getting out on the water to hunt down schnapper and other fish species at their favourite fishing spots.

From mid-afternoon they return from their day's expeditions, full of joy or woe depending on the success of the trip. The one thing all will have enjoyed is a day out on the water.



Trailer Park at Boat Ramp



Camping Ground by Takapuna Reef and Boat Ramp



An early morning paddler prepares to launch his kayak from the boat ramp at Takapuna Beach





A volcanic reef lies off the northern end of Takapuna Beach and stretches as far north as Milford Beach. A walkway connects the two beaches.

REEF AND ROCKS



SUNRISE

Sunrise is one of the most spectacular times to be on Takapuna Beach. This image was taken at dawn on Good Friday 2009, as was the image on the cover. It was a crisp clear morning without a cloud in the sky. A perfect morning for watching the sun rise over Rangitoto Island. The Coromandel Range is in the distant left above the end of Rangitoto, and the Hunua Range in the distant right. Browns Island is silhouetted on the horizon in front of the Hunuas.





MAGIC MOMENTS



MORNING GLOW





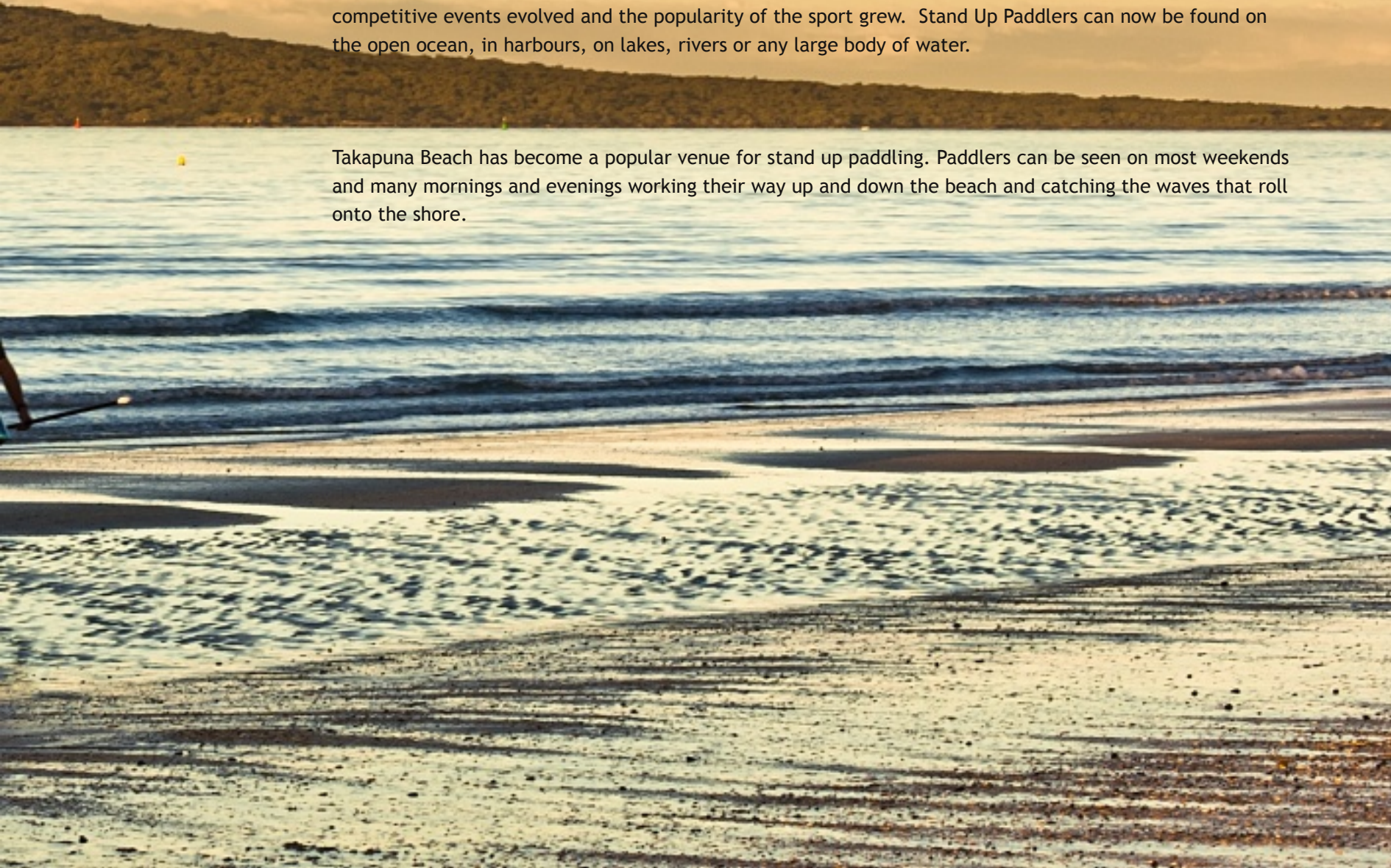
Early Morning Dip



STAND UP PADDLERS

Many people use Takapuna Beach for recreational activities. A recent arrival has been Stand Up Paddlers. The modern sport of Stand Up Paddling has its origination in the Hawaiian Islands where the beach boys of Waikiki would stand on their long boards and paddle out with outrigger paddles to take pictures of tourists learning to surf. Soon it became an alternative way to train while the surf was down. It wasn't long before competitive events evolved and the popularity of the sport grew. Stand Up Paddlers can now be found on the open ocean, in harbours, on lakes, rivers or any large body of water.

Takapuna Beach has become a popular venue for stand up paddling. Paddlers can be seen on most weekends and many mornings and evenings working their way up and down the beach and catching the waves that roll onto the shore.





Boating and Swimming

A PLACE FOR EVERYBODY

Relaxing and Contemplating





Exploring Rock Pools



Digging Holes and Hunting Pipis



Hunting Treasure

CLIFFS

Not only is Takapuna blessed with a long sandy beach, it also has a volcanic reef at the northern end and sandstone cliffs at the southern extremity.

At high tide one has to scramble over rocks to reach the beaches below the cliffs. When the tide is out these beaches can be easily reached by walking on the exposed sand and rocky outcrops. The most notable of these is St Leonards Beach, which can also be accessed by pathway from the end of St Leonards Road.











PAPA ROCK

Every so often, especially after a easterly or north-easterly storm, patches of papa rock are exposed along the foreshore at the southern end of Takapuna Beach. During the storm sand is washed towards the boat ramp. Over the following weeks an equilibrium position re-establishes itself and the muddy rock becomes covered again.



LOUIS VUITTON CUP RACING

The Louis Vuitton Cup is a trophy raced for by America's Cup class yachts on Auckland's Waitemata Harbour. The course is usually set between Orakei Wharf and Rangitoto Island so that racing can be seen from the high viewing points around the harbour. However, when the winds don't suit that course the yachts can be seen from Takapuna Beach, where an alternative course is set between Rangitoto Lighthouse and North Head.







When a storm blows up the word gets around and the surfers descend on the beach. The photograph on the left was taken on the eve of the storm and waves suitable for riding had already begun to form. The following day the sea was wild and the surfers turned out in force.

SURF'S UP



Looking for the right place to surf

STORM DAY

When the storm arrives, so does the surfing crowd. As soon as school finishes the girls and boys come out to play.

Phone calls and text messages spread the word about where the beat surf is running and everyone converges onto the beach.

Kite boarders and wind surfers love these conditions. They speed along the beach and launch themselves off waves for the ultimate thrill.



Setting up for the jump



STORM
DAY

TAKAPUNA CRITERIUM

An annual event supported by the North Shore City Council is a cycling street race known as a criterium.

Cyclists race laps over a short circuit from the old Takapuna North Post Office to Halls Corner and The Strand, returning via the Anzac Street corner. This popular event, which can be watched from the bars and restaurants in Hurstmere Road, brings the sport of cycle racing to people who would not normally experience it.







gluten free

sugar free
raspberry & raspberry
leaves
great for toast
quiche
sausage rolls

egg free
apple & banana
cakes & muffins
& scones

prese



Asparagus Quiche \$7

Apple pie \$4.50

Apple pie \$4.50

Apple pie \$4.50

Apple pie \$4.50



TAKAPUNA
SUNDAY
MARKET



The Sunday Market has become an institution in Takapuna. It operates every week, rain or shine.

Locals gather to purchase their fresh produce for the week ahead and seek out bargains amongst the numerous clothing, craft, bric-a-brac and flower stalls.

Here you will find cheap clothing manufactured in China, fresh bread and fish, strawberries in season, batteries for your watch and paint for your house.

You will probably bump into your friends and neighbours as well sampling Turkish olives and sipping a cup of freshly brewed coffee.









TAKAPUNA CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL AND MARKET

Takapuna has a diverse and active community comprising of a growing number of ethnicities and cultures.

In December 2009 a street festival and market was organised by North Shore City Council and Takapuna Beach Business Association to celebrate the Christmas season.

Music and cultural performances were held on a stage and in the street in front of the Visitors' Information Centre at Takapuna Green.

Hurstmere Road was closed for the morning to allow street stalls to be assembled and performances to take place. Families came to enjoy the festive occasion. Local retailers were able to set up trading tables along the footpaths and join the festivities.





Face Painting - Takapuna
Christmas Festival & Market

Fairy Dresses -
Takapuna Christmas
Festival & Market



Waiting in line to perform -
Takapuna Christmas Festival &
Market



DUSK

Orange and purple hues are a feature in the sky at the end of many days at the beach. In this image, taken after a storm had passed, the sky is reflected on the wet sands amongst seaweed washed up on the beach the day before.

This is a peaceful time to be on Takapuna Beach. It's a time when people come out for a stroll before dinner and freshen their minds after a hard day's work. What a way to end the day!





I have been taking photographs on and off for years. For the last 30 years I have lived in Takapuna with my wife Valerie and our three sons. The beach and township are part of our every-day lives.

The idea of a photo e-book has grown on me over the past year. A growing selection of images of Takapuna Beach and Sunday market lead me to attempt a book about Takapuna. I have tried to organise the images around some themes, but this is by no means an comprehensive representation of everything that our town has to offer.

This book shows a collection of photographs of Takapuna taken during the past two years. It attempts to give a sense of what the township and its wonderful environment of beach, cliffs, township and people is about; of the place that I call home.