

From Auckland Anniversary weekend to Waitangi Day.

Kawau Rescues holiday week.

Kawau Rescue was fairly well occupied from the start of Auckland Anniversary weekend until the end of Waitangi Weekend a week later. Here are the highlights of our holiday week:

Saturday 30th January.

Early start today with an urgent callout at 0300 in the morning. We had 8 crew turn out and several registers as available if required. A sudden wind shift during the night put a couple of boats attending the Maharangi regatta up on the shore. Some tricky manoeuvring in very shallow water to get them off and then towed across to Scott's landing where it was more sheltered.

Sunday 31st January.

A quiet morning but after lunch we had 3 very similar jobs all in a row. Mansion House, Algies Bay and Moturekareka, all saw boats who were unable to start their engines. We managed to jump start two and the third we towed back to its home base.

Monday 1st February.

Holiday Monday was fairly quiet with just one job in Bon Accord Harbour. Another flat battery that just needed a jump start, this was a yacht with a very stubborn diesel engine.

Wednesday 3rd Feb.

After a peaceful Tuesday we had an urgent call out to a father and two small children. They couldn't get their engine started and were drifting onto rocks on the southern side of the entrance to the Mahurangi river. Their anchor was dragging so we managed to get a line aboard and transferred the two young children to our boat while we resolved the whole situation. Then they were able to make their way back up the river to Warkworth.

Thursday 4th Feb.

Today we had an early afternoon callout to a large steel hulled boat that was taking on water. It was at Kawau and we had asked Operations to also call on the Kawau Emergency Response Team. Gavin and Chris were already there and pumping so together we were able to stabilise the situation. On investigation we found a hole in the hull and used some copper, wood and wedges to put on a temporary patch. The aim was to then beach it at the next high tide. The owner and his friends did this.

Friday 5th Feb.

Today saw us paged again in the early afternoon for a 10m plus Aluminium Cat that was doing a fishing charter but ran out of fuel. This was a big heavy boat but we were able to tow it back to Gulf Harbour Marina where we safely deposited them back in their berth.

Saturday 6th Feb.

Early morning 0800 start saw us at a 10m plus, displacement launch, in the Mahurangi Harbour that had no sea water cooling and needing to go back to Auckland. We hooked up

and started to tow then down to Auckland. At the Tiri Channel we were able to hand over to an Auckland vessel Trillion Rescue that took it the rest of the way to Auckland. Off home for us in time for lunch.

While we had lunch, dinner was not on the agenda for most. At around 1730 we had a page for a boat off Beehive Island. They needed to get some diesel so we towed it to the yacht club on Kawau. Not as easy as it sounds as there was a party on and lots of boats and tenders coming and going. We managed to find a way through and left the boat being fuelled up. After such a busy week the duty crew agreed to forgo Sunday training as we had already done quite a bit.

Sunday 7th Feb.

Any idea of a peaceful day was shattered by 0730 with a page to a boat off Cape Rodney with a mechanical/ electrical engine problem. We went out in some fairly choppy seas (Easterly wind) and commences a tow. On the way back we had a Mayday from a boat drifting onto shore, near Leigh, but not sure of their location. We left our tow, no immediate danger, saying we would return later and went in search of the mayday. We did a shoreline search towards Omaha but then were updated that the drifting boat was off Goat Island. Went round to Goat Island, hooked them up on a tow and took them back so they could anchor safely in Leigh to work on their engine. Then we collected our original tow and returned them to Omaha.