EXPLORE
The Shore

Volume One
Albany & Greenhithe Area Walks
These walks have been compiled by Margaret Scrymgeour who has been involved in walking activities on the North Shore for the last 30 years.

In 1995 she compiled two small booklets of walks for family and friends. These were very well received and the Visitor Information Centre continued to print them for many years. Later the walks were put on the website of Harbour Sport.

In late 2010 the decision was made to reprint the walks in booklet form. Just as this project was about to get underway Margaret met the organisers of the newly established Albany Newcomers Network, which helps new residents engage in activities and form new friendships.

Margaret offered to provide some suitable walks for their new walking group. The group’s organisers, Albany CoCo Inc, undertook the layout aspect of the booklets – a win/win situation for all.

All of the directions have been extensively ‘road tested’ and were accurate at time of printing. We thank the many family and friends who have helped out with this task.

Special thanks to Margaret’s husband, Dave, for his years of support and the many hours and kilometres of walking required to research the walks.

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Albany & Greenhithe Walks

In recent years there has been an explosion of development in the Albany/Greenhithe area. New suburbs have sprung up everywhere bringing with them new reserves and walkways ideal for walkers of all capabilities. Massive development is still taking place and many more desirable walking locations should be available in the not too distant future.

The walks in this booklet provide an introduction to a variety of areas and include as many walkways and small reserves as possible many of which will be a surprise to visitors and locals alike.

An added bonus for locals is that many walkways provide pleasant and useful shortcuts to local facilities such as school and retail areas and can readily be incorporated into everyday life.

Newcomers to an area might be surprised at how many destinations can be reached without using a car.

Happy walking.

Margaret Scrymgeour
April 2011
The walks in this booklet are safe walking locations. However for those new to walking a few points to keep in mind are:

- Choose comfortable shoes. Blisters and shin splints are not fun.
- Take plenty of water and sip regularly throughout the walk.
- Sunscreen — even on cloudy days. Don’t forget the back of your neck and tips of your ears.
- Build up slowly. Start with the easy grades until you complete these within the allotted time. Take rest stops if you need them — it is not a competition and the views are too good to miss.
- Try and walk with a companion, especially with any walks which veer off the main route. Walking clubs provide an excellent way for newcomers to both socialise and get to know their local areas at the same time.
ABOUT THE WALKS

Most walks are circular in nature so can be started at any point or walked in reverse – wherever possible the selected starting point has ample parking and public toilets available.

Many locations are accessible by Public Transport. For information contact MAXX (09) 3666400 or www.maxx.co.nz

The walks take roughly an hour and are designed for a morning or afternoon’s outing. However they can easily be extended for those wanting a longer walk.

Times given are a rough guide only and are appropriate for a walker of average speed and fitness, stopping now and then to admire the views. Distances and number of steps are also a very rough guide and for the average walker usually equate to about 1 hour/5km/6000 steps.

Some of the walks include bush tracks, the coastline, flights of steps and walkways which may have been altered by weather, vandalism etc.

While every effort has been made to ensure that all details are correct no responsibility can be taken if changes have occurred, and you should report any dangers or difficulties you might encounter to:

Auckland Council Actionline (09) 3010101

GRADING OF WALKS

EASY

Generally level footpaths or graded bush tracks close to civilisation.

BROOKFIELDS
CLEMOWS TO ROSEDALE PARK

EASY to MODERATE

Generally good footing but may include some hilly areas, steps or bush tracks.

LUCAS CREEK
GREENHITHE
ALBANY VILLAGE
CENTRAL ALBANY
ROSEDALE TO UNSWORTH

MODERATE to STRENuous

Includes long and/or steep hills or more challenging terrain.

THE OAKS
CHESTER PARK
FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS
GREENHITHE & WAINONI PARK
9000 STEPS / 7 km / 1 – 1.5 Hour

For peace and tranquillity the Greenhithe area is hard to beat. The streets, pathways and reserves outlined in this route are easily negotiable.

MODERATE. There is ample parking at the Greenhithe shopping centre. Toilets are available.

START: Facing the Store, veer right along Greenhithe Rd, cross Roland Rd and continue on Greenhithe Rd past the school.

Turn left into Churchouse Rd. Continue past Faith Grove then, just past no.50 turn right through the gates into Wainoni Park.

Keep to the right of the driveway then exit at 48 and 52 Te Wharau Dr. Walk left.

Opposite no.70 take the walkway through to a pond and then out to Te Wharau Dr by houses 93 and 97.

Almost directly opposite houses 110 and 114 enter another walkway to a graded track which exits into Orwell Rd. Turn right back into Te Wharau Dr and at houses 110 and 114 turn left and retrace your steps back to Wainoni Park.

When level with the Soccer Pavilion (concrete block building on right where toilets are available but not always unlocked) turn right off the walkway, cross the parking area and continue diagonally to the right past the playground to Churchouse Rd.

Walk left up the road and cross over into the walkway between houses 53 and 51. This leads to the pumping station, continues to the right, across the stream, through a paddock and out to Roland Rd.

Turn right down to Kingfisher Grove. Keep right around the grove back to Roland Rd and continue up to turn right into Waipuia Pl and right again into the walkway between houses 65 and 67 and follow the track into Oratau Reserve. Cross the bridge and take the second upwards exit where the track forks. Take the upper track and exit into Oratau Place.

Walk up to Rame Rd, turn left into Almond Pl and at the grassy reserve at the end turn right to link up with the track back to the start.
CHESTER PARK
9000 STEPS / 8 km / 1–1.5 Hour

Chester Park lies between Greenhithe and The Oaks. A steep walk which goes down, down, down and then back up, up, up – don’t go if you can’t stand hills! However there are some spectacular views and at the bottom is a long, flat walkway delightfully landscaped and constructed for maximum enjoyment – well worth a visit.

STRENUOUS. Park at corner of Schnapper Rock Rd and Albany Highway (motorway end). No toilets available.

START: Walk down Schnapper Rock Rd to the first roundabout. Continue ahead into Oakway Dr.

Walk all the way down Oakway Dr to the second roundabout. Turn left into Pin Oak Dr.

If you prefer take the path through the playground on the left to exit slightly further down Pin Oak Dr.

Opposite Oak Bark Dr turn left in to the walkway and down to a bridge.

Go up to exit in to Aberley Rd opposite no. 26. Walk left up Aberley Rd then veer left up Schnapper Rock Rd to Kitewake Dr.

Turn right down Kitewake Dr and walk down to the bottom — take the right hand option where Kittiwake forms a circle.

Carry on down to Schopolo Pl and at the end enter the combined cycle/walkway through to Upper Harbour Primary School.

Walk up Miromako then left into Kyle Rd.

Walk up to Wicklam Lane, turn right and then return all the way back up Wicklam Lane into Chester Ave.

At the top take the walkway through to the Albany Highway and back to the start.
This walk covers quite a hilly area which makes for a more challenging route. The Lakes Reserve is an oasis of tranquility with ponds and a pavilion over the water. It is well worth a visit on its own.

MODERATE TO STRENUOUS. Park at the end of Appleby Rd near the Golf Course. No public toilets.

START: Cross the Albany Junior High School car park. Exit right into the ‘NO ENTRY’ road English Oak Dr.

Immediately turn left into The Lakes Reserve – after about 100m turn right to the delightful ponds and pavilion. Enjoy the scenery then return to the main path and exit into Oakway Dr. Exit the reserve and veer right along Oakway Dr.

At the second roundabout turn right into Pin Oak Dr almost to the end.

Opposite Oak Bark Dr turn left and follow the walkway down over the bridge and up again to exit into Aberley Rd opposite no. 26. Turn right then left into Newbury Pl.

Turn left into the walkway between houses 30 and 32 Newbury Pl and exit into Schnapper Rock Rd.

Cross over and explore the cemetery then return via the same walkway back down to Newbury Pl. Cross the road into Wilton Pl then turn right up Aberley Rd and left back to the walkway opposite no. 26 previously walked to return to Pin Oak Dr.

For a longer walk head down through the cemetery. At the bottom exit into Schnapper Rock Rd. Cross into Aberley Rd and then into the walkway opposite no. 26 then trace your steps back to Pin Oak Dr.

Back in Pin Oak Dr walk left and at the end enter the walkway between houses 40 and 35.

Cross Laurel Oak Dr and continue on the walkway to exit into English Oak Dr. Veer left, walk back through the school to the start.
KELL PARK & LUCAS CREEK
6000 STEPS / 5 km / 1 Hour

Walk through one of Albany’s newest suburbs and along one of the oldest waterways. The Lucas Creek Walkway offers an easy riverside option.

EASY to MODERATE . Park at Kell Park where there are toilet facilities.

Start: From Kell Park take any path down to Lucas Creek . Follow the left hand path across the bridge to The Landing subdivision.

Before the houses, turn right into the Nature Reserve. There is no path but it is possible to walk along a few metres from the houses to eventually exit into Wharf Rd.

If it is wet underfoot enter Whareopa Pl, turn right into Landing Dr then exit into Wharf Rd. Turn right to pick up the route.

At the signpost into Wharf Reserve turn left and veer left across the lower grass for 200m to a bridge. Cross the bridge, turn right onto a well formed path which becomes the Lucas Creek Walkway.

Continue alongside the creek until an exit between houses 40 and 38 Kinleith Way. Cross diagonally veer left to the walkway between houses 39 and 41.

Exit between houses 38 and 36 Mahoney Drive, cross into the walkway between houses 41 and 43A and exit again between 36 and 38 Vinewood Dr.

Continue up Vinewood Dr then at the playground turn left into Roanoke Way. Take the walkway between 30 and 31 then turn left and back across to the bridge and head across the grass to Wharf Rd.

Turn right up Wharf Rd then left into the entrance of The Landing.

Turn right into Landing Dr. Near the entrance of Widdison Way cross over to the walkway slightly on your right to return to the Nature Reserve.

Continue to the left along the pathway which soon merges with the main walkway back to Kell Park.
ALBANY VILLAGE & LANDING
6000 STEPS / 5 km / 1 Hour

This walk takes in the quaint Albany Village and includes an interesting hill walkway as well as a distinctive underpass under a major highway and a riverside walk to return to Kell Park.
Maybe leave yourself enough time to enjoy a coffee at one of the local cafes.

EASY to MODERATE. Park at Albany Hall (off Library Lane). Toilets available if the hall is open. There are public toilets in Kell Park and in Albany Village Library.

Start: From the footpath at Albany Hall cross the Albany Highway to Albany Domain.

Next follow the gently sloping concrete path up through the Domain and alongside the Albany Expressway to Vineyard Rd (Gate 2).

Turn right and follow the footpath down the hill.

At the bottom turn right into a walkway which climbs up the hill (numerous steps here) and comes down again near the old Albany Highway.

Immediately before the bridge turn right and follow this quirky underpass under the road and alongside the stream to exit at Albany Senior College.

Walk south a few metres then turn right into the walkway on the southern side of the stream and continue on this path through the reserve to meet the main path back to the bridge to Kell Park.

Walk back up the hill to Kell Park then make your way back through the village to Albany Hall.

Note: Albany Hall is also known as Coronation Hall.
An interesting urban walk past some of the major civic buildings in the area including the delightful Civic Lakes Reserve. Extensive development is still taking place. An easy walk with concrete paths and gradual slopes.

**EASY TO MODERATE.** Park in Munroe Lane or at Westfield Mall where toilets are also available.

**START:** From Albany Mall cross Civic Cres into The Civic Lakes Reserve. Cross the bridge to exit in to Munroe Lane.

Walk to Don McKinnon Dr, turn right and follow Don McKinnon Dr past the roundabout and up past the Courthouse to Corinthian Dr.

Turn left into Corinthian Drive and just past the shops turn right into the shared cycle and walkway (path with white painted line down the centre). This is a slight hill which provides panoramic views of the surrounding suburbs.

Continue along the top of the hill and behind the buildings. Just before the path meets street level take the shared pathway to the left which exits into Corinthian Dr near the main highway.

Continue straight across Corinthian Dr into a further shared pathway to exit at the intersection of Mercari Way and the Albany Expressway.

Cross over to the Massey University side of the Albany Expressway and keeping Massey University on your left follow the footpath beside the Expressway right down to the Albany Highway. At the lights cross back across the Albany Expressway to Oteha Valley Rd.

Walk along Oteha Valley Rd and turn right at the second concrete path up to the North Harbour Stadium. Continue to the left around the Stadium and if desired climb the steps nearer the entrance for a view of the playing grounds.

Keep walking to the left through the parking area to exit once more in to Don McKinnon Dr. Keep left on Don McKinnon then right into Munroe Lane and enter The Civic Lakes Reserve once more.
BROOKFIELD
6000 STEPS / 5km / 1 Hour

Walk through a tranquil suburb which is unique on the Shore for its easy terrain. Brookfield Reserve is an extensive area of level parkland and the streets are a maze of cul-de-sacs and linking walkways – well worth a visit just to know it’s there! Careful — grassy areas could be boggy after heavy rain.

EASY TO MODERATE. Park at the retail area on the corner of William Pickering and Rosedale Rds. No public toilets available.

START: William Pickering Dr, then turn right into Lovell Ct.

After about 100m turn right then keep left of the ponds to exit in to Rosedale Rd opposite Brookfield Stream Reserve.

Cross to the reserve and keep to the grassy area to the left of the stream. After 50m take a concrete path to a bridge.

Over the bridge turn left along the sloping grassy area beside the houses. Keep the houses on your right and follow the grassy area at the bottom of Brookfield Reserve until you get to the first car park area at the end of Vanderbilt Pde.

Continue on the long path through Brookfield Reserve and on through the grassy area to reach Bush Rd. Note that this area is very muddy after rain and if impassable turn back and follow blue route to pick up the walk again.

For the cul-de-sacs and walkways option see opposite

Turn right onto Bush, right onto Carolina. At the end go through the car park and a walkway onto Brigham Young. Turn left then between houses 50 and 31 onto Rutgers Pde.

Head straight across Northwood onto Columbia.

Head straight to a walkway between houses 24 and 19 and cross the bridge onto Amherst Place.

Turn left into Vanderbilt and at the roundabout with Rosedale Rd cross over and return to the start.

Follow Vanderbilt Pde, turn left into Bryn Maur Pl then left between houses 8 and 5 through to Princeton Pde, then the pathway between houses 32 and 34.

Follow path across Obelin then between houses 6 and 18. Continue over a bridge, turn right and exit first left through a small reserve onto Syracuse.

Cross Syracuse and continue straight crossing Northwood onto Brigham.

Take the path between houses 12 and 14 Brigham and continue on the path crossing over Marguette and on into Brookfield Reserve to join the main walk once more.

Take the main path straight ahead towards the bush and continue until you are at the back of sawmill. Follow the line of bush, fence and power lines until you reach Bush Rd.
CLEMOWS
6000 STEPS / 5km / 1 Hour

An excellent easy Springtime walk when the remaining fruit trees of Clemows Orchard are in blossom. Note that the grassy reserve will be very muddy after rain. This walk can easily be cut short if desired.

EASY TO MODERATE. Park in Kristin Lane. No toilets available.

START: From Kristin Lane walk on the grass to the left of the pumping station.

Turn left and follow the grassy reserve to the last house.

Turn left and follow the grassy reserve to exit into Clemows Lane.

Cross over and continue behind the houses to exit into Samuels Lane. Turn left into Samuels, continue into Red Shed Lane and out to Clemows Lane.

Turn right up Clemows Lane.

Cross Rosedale Rd at the roundabout and enter the Stonedge Subdivision.

Follow Bluestone Rise past the next roundabout and veer left when you reach the reserve.

Turn right into Stonedge Lane, and left between houses 14 and 16 into a walkway through to the Rosedale Park playing fields

*Explore the area further if desired*  Return to the walkway.

Retrace your steps to Stonedge Lane. Just past no. 20 take the path to the left down through the bush to exit into Emerald Lane.

Walk left then turn right between houses 13 and 11 to exit into Burnside Court just before no. 15. Walk right to exit in to Bluestone Rise once more.

Walk down to Rosedale Rd, cross over then continue to the right along Rosedale Rd.

Just before the shops turn left in to a wide walkway which will return you to Kristin Lane and the start.
ROSEDALE PARK TO UNSWORTH RESERVE
6000 STEPS / 5km / 1 Hour

This walk takes in two very different reserves linked by a shared walkway/cycleway under a major highway. While one is home to three major sporting codes, the other has quiet paths and a stretch of bush to explore.

EASY TO MODERATE. Enter Rosedale Park from the Paul Matthews entrance. Ample parking and toilets available.

START: Walk back towards the Paul Matthews entrance but a few metres south of the parking area turn right into a well-signposted walking/cycling track.

Follow this well defined pathway all the way to Upper Harbour Highway. Continue through the tunnel under Upper Harbour Highway to the left and exit into Rook Place.

Turn right down Barbados Dr and cross over into the northern entrance to Unsworth Reserve.

Inside the reserve there is a well graded bush track, which includes a boardwalk and a couple of bridges. These lead you through the bush to exit at a concrete path leading up through an extensive grassy area.

Continue on this path until you meet a significant cross path.

* Explore the reserve further if desired *

From this intersection take the track through the trees to exit into Caribbean Dr.

A few metres to your left turn left again and enter another well-graded bush track.

Continue down this track, turning left again at a track intersection, and eventually exit back at the concrete pathway up the middle of the reserve.

Take the path to your right to again enter the bush and retrace your steps back to Barbados Dr and all the way back to the start.
FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS
6000 STEPS / 5km / 1 Hour

This walk in one of the most recently developed areas of Albany takes in some of the newer walkways and gives you a glimpse of further development planned for the future.

STRENUOUS. Park at the shops opposite the entrance to Rising Parade. No public toilets available.

START: From the shops, cross Oteha Valley Rd and Rising Parade and walk along Oteha Valley Rd for about 100m.

Turn right into the walkway up to Caitlins Pl to exit between houses 17 and 19.

Turn left and walk down to Springvale Dr roundabout.

Cross over and veer left to pick up the walkway next to no. 25.

Follow the concrete path up to the first house *Note: you will return to this point later* and continue up beside the houses to exit into Hornbill Drive.

Turn left, walk up to Fairview Ave., cross over to the level footpath and continue to your right up to no. 109.

Cross over into the walkway down to Borneo Dr and continue all the way to the roundabout at Hornbill Dr. Turn left up Hornbill Dr and continue round to Rising Parade.

At this intersection cross to your right and continue on the right side of Rising Parade to a clearly signposted walkway just before no. 38.

Turn right into a well graded path, down through the bush to exit at the point * noted above.

Retrace your steps by turning left onto the concrete path out to Springvale Dr.

Cross into Caitlins Pl and turn right between houses 17 and 19 to exit into Oteha Valley Rd.

Turn left and walk back to the start.
EASY LEVEL WALKS

WAINONI PARK AND SOME SURROUNDING STREETS

Level, wheelchair friendly pathways through pleasant open surroundings. Park at Wainoni Park, Churchouse Rd, Greenhithe.

Toilets not always open.

SCHOPOLO PL TO UPPER HARBOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wide, well graded, wheelchair friendly walkway alongside mangroves – very tranquil. Park at end of Schopolo Pl, Cuthill.

No toilets available.

THE LAKES RESERVE

Main features are delightful ponds and pavilion – an oasis of tranquillity. Level to gently sloping pathways. Park near northern entrance of The Lakes Reserve, Oakway Dr, The Oaks.

No toilets available.

KELL PARK

Very accessible park area with level concrete paths and interesting playground. Connects to lower level and creek area by a long, sweeping wheelchair friendly path, but effort needed to get back up the hill. Easy access to The Landing. Ample parking around park at Albany Village.

Toilets available.

HOOTEN RESERVE

A long grassy reserve on the northern side of Oteha Valley Rd – currently undergoing development into a large family friendly parkland. Some pathways and facilities are already in place. Ample parking.

Toilets available at Carpark Number 3.

BROOKFIELD RESERVE AND SURROUNDING STREETS

Extensive wheelchair friendly, concrete pathways throughout the reserve. The streets are an intricate maze of cul-de-sacs and linking walkways – all mainly level. Park at end of Northwood Dr.

No toilets available.
BUSH WALKS

An excellent resource for bush walks in the Albany area is SUPERB WALKS by Hugh Willis available for $5 from Public Libraries. Full directions are included for the walks below.

THREE STREAMS

A very interesting reserve developed (and still developing) through the effort and energy of John Hogan. A network of tracks, boardwalks and interesting trees – well worth a visit.

GILLS RESERVE

This reserve has something for everyone. An easy path wanders alongside the creek and has points of historical interest noted along the way. More rugged bush tracks climb up to a Trig Point and provide spectacular views.

UPPER REACH OF LUCAS CREEK

An easy introductory bush walk which can be extended.

ALBANY SCENIC RESERVE

A good walk to test the knee joints but worth it for the sight of possibly the largest kauri tree remaining on the Shore.

TOTARA FOREST WALK

This bush walk runs roughly parallel to Brookfield Reserve and provides a unique bush and river walk.

OTHER RESOURCES

FOR THOSE WANTING TO EXTEND THEIR WALKING INTERESTS

JOIN OR START A WALKING GROUP

There are many walking groups on the Shore which cater for a wide variety of interests and levels of fitness. The contact details for most of them can be found on the website of North Harbour Sport.

www.harboursport.co.nz

For Albany Newcomers Network Walking Group details email albany@newcomers.co.nz

Other good contacts are the local Community Houses which usually have information on local groups and often encourage the establishment of new groups if nothing suitable is available. The walks in these booklets have proved ideal for new groups trying to get underway.

See your Local Directory for contact details of Community Houses and Coordinators.

RECEIVE GUIDANCE ON HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR WALKING FITNESS

North Harbour Sport supports a free exercise programme called Green Prescription (GRX) which provides assistance for inactive adults to get active again. Walking provides a major component of such a programme and a support person will help you set your goals and monitor your progress. A Green Prescription referral can be obtained from your local doctor and your details will be faxed to the GRX Team at Harbour Sport who will contact you and discuss you options to begin a healthier lifestyle.

Alternatively contact GRX Manager North Harbour Sport 09 415 4610

FOR THOSE WITH AN INTEREST IN IMPROVEMENT TO WALKING FACILITIES, ACCESS ETC.

Living Streets Aotearoa is an organisation with an overall interest in all matters to do with walking such as improved access and signage to reserves. It also has input into Local Plans and developments as well as assisting with initiatives such as Walk2Work Days.

For further details contact www.livingstreets.org.nz
EXPLORE THE SHORE
is a collection of walks located on Auckland’s North Shore.

Compiled by an experienced local, Margaret Scrymgeour, the walks in this free booklet are an excellent way to experience your neighbourhood and your community.

COLLECT THE ‘EXPLORE THE SHORE’ SERIES

VOL 1 — ALBANY AND GREENHITHE AREA WALKS
VOL 2 — BAYS TO DEVONPORT AREA WALKS
VOL 3 — KAIPATAKI AREA WALKS

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