

*Waíhí Beach
Christmas Lunch*

December 4, 2022

*Bowentown Ramble
Bay of Plenty*



Metrosideros excelsa Aurea or yellow pohutukawa tree
is not commonly seen.

Being a coastal evergreen tree, it displays yellow flowers with a
mass of golden stamens...can grow up to 20m in height.

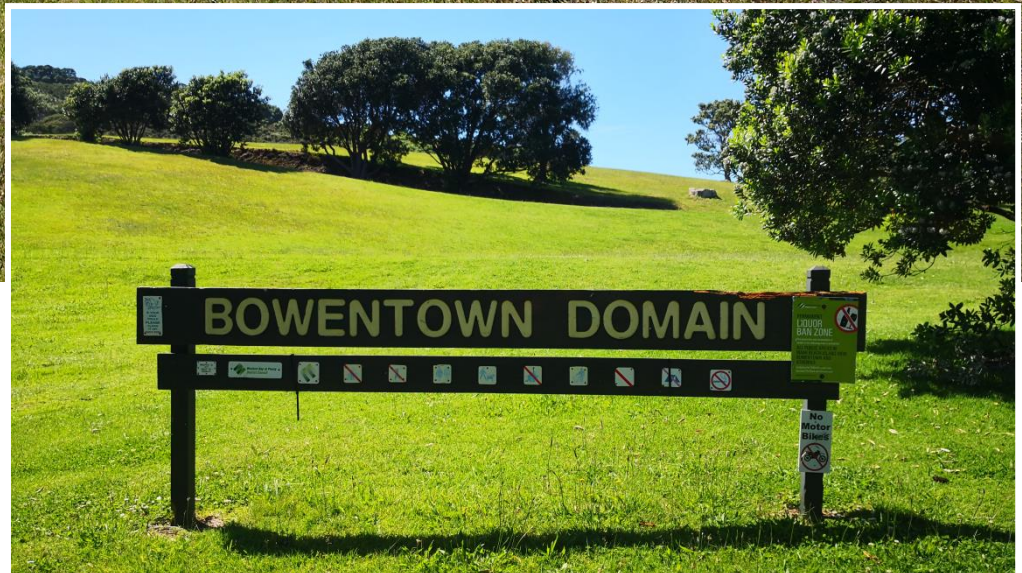
All such trees are descendants from a pair
discovered in 1940 on Mōtiti Island in Bay of Plenty.

The yellow species of pohutukawa is a taonga
to the Maori (a valued treasure).

Thanks Keith for taking us here to get to know more
on this rare yellow species.







*The stretch of Bay of Plenty, pounding onto the shore...
On the littoral zone, there comes the tombolo to Bowentown
Head at the southern end of Waihi Beach...*

*In the divide between Pacific Ocean and Anzac Bay,
there is a splendid panoramic view of the land-sea-sky interface...
Here we park at the Seaforth Road Carpark, adjacent to
Bowentown Beach Holiday Park.
Ready for our walk.*

*Morning tea in the morning sun...
What a wonderful day we have... Imbuing with warm and
welcoming breeze...
rolling waves coupling with roaring splashes...endless
In the midst of such physical surroundings, there is a desire to
look around, trying to find out what's in...further ahead.*

*Aspiring with the thought of physical naturalness, a mixing of
blue and green lights...a reflection of what can be for today.*



Summer walk on a December track...

*Today Bowentown is quite a touristic place, popular among Kiwi.
Years back, this was the place for early settlers...a surge of gold...
the route for communication...*

Volcanic in origin, connected with sandy "appendages"...

Surf of waves, uncountable sand...

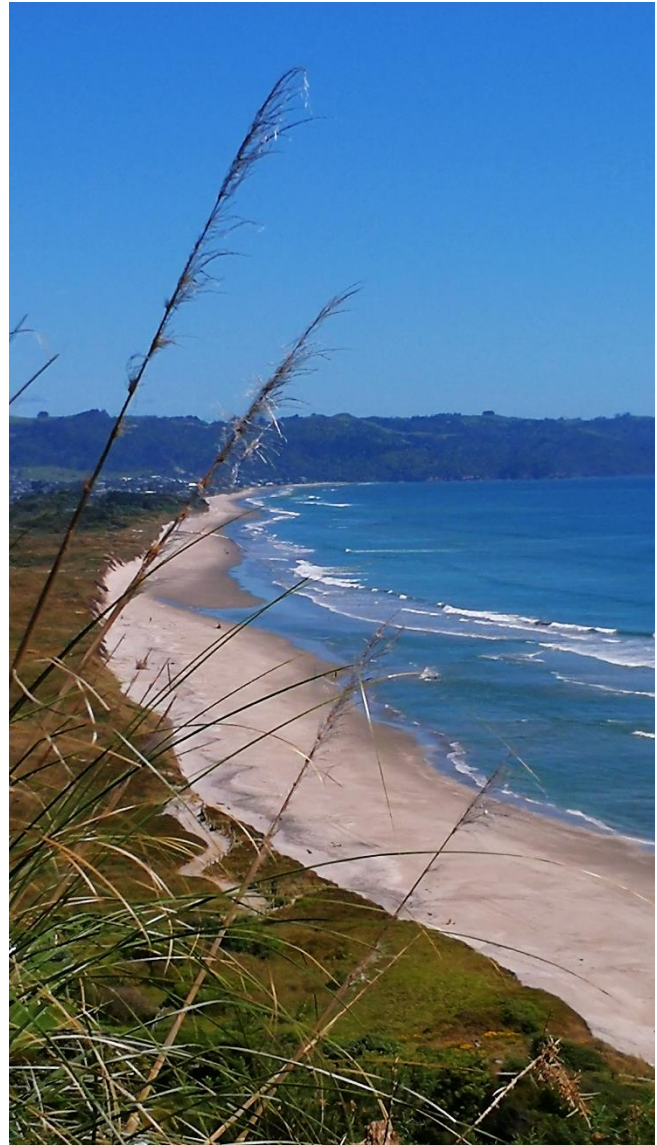
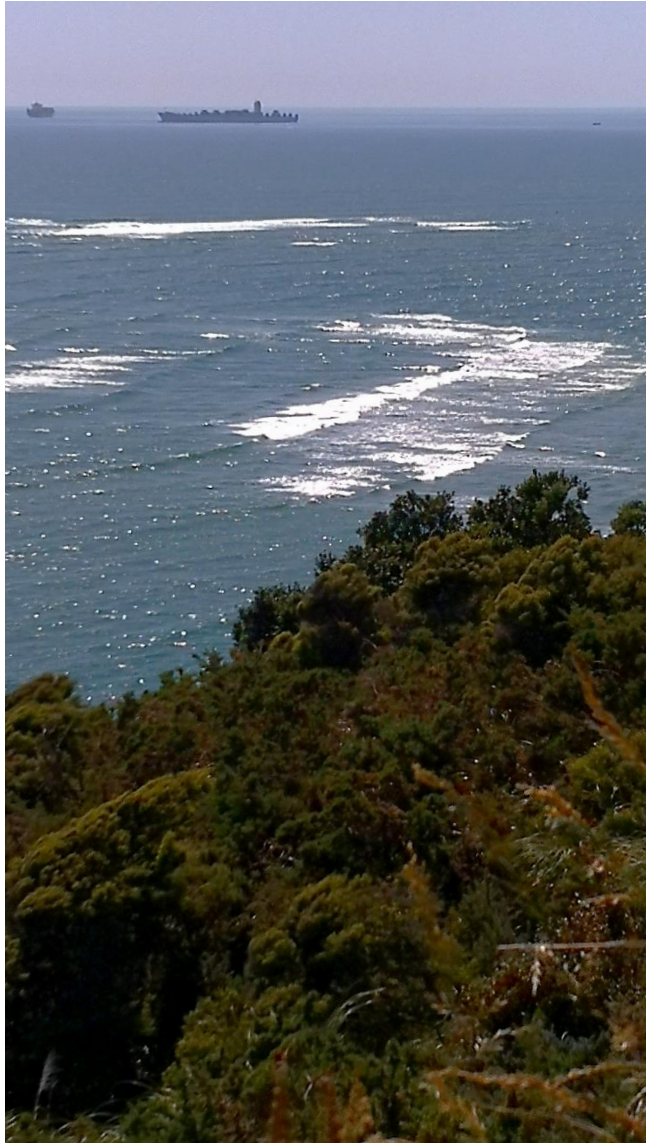
*Protective grass belt...with the sandy beach in front and the
housing belt behind...protecting residents and visitors.*

*Although with risk of tsunami, it is pretty safe
to explore what's in front.*

*Heading to Bowentown Domain along Seaforth Road, we start
with the Te Ho Pā Site Track.*

*It is an upslope walk, pretty green and shiny...a recall of the fresh
promising growth.*

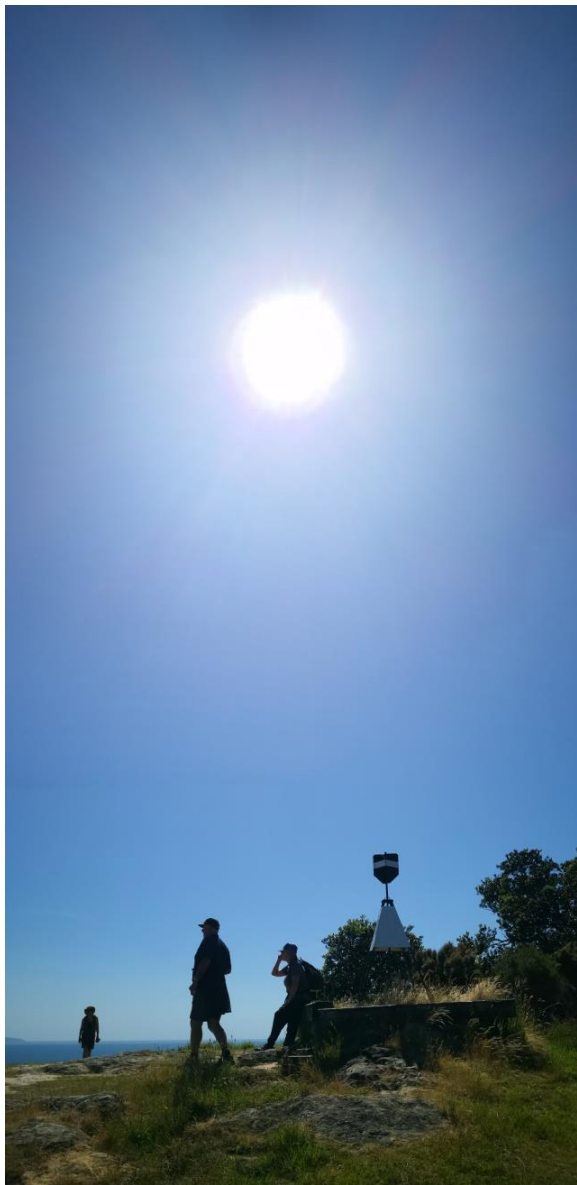
*What impressive is the sky blue sea and the surrounding
Bowentown area nested in sand-proofed grass belt with the
tranquil Tauranga Harbour.*





*Further on, the track goes uphill along the seafront...
unfolding expanding view of the surroundings...
Bowentown Beach, Bay of Plenty, Cave Bay,
Anzac Bay...Matakana sand-spit of Matakana Island...even
Coromandel Peninsula*

*A clear cloudless sky giving a clear spotless day...
Everyone of us is rather delight of what's around.
A leisure walk to the top...really a carefree stroll.
It's nice to hang around here for some time.*



*The boundless sun, a warmly glow...
Out there in the blue, comes the colour
blue with reflection...
dotted with sparkling flash...roaring
sound seen as whitish surfs...
catching glimpse of everlasting tidal
change...ah, the moon but is the sun now.
Ngg...nnn, wide-open eyes, keep turning
heads...up and down...to and for...
What a breathtaking...
Te Kura a Maia Pa, the terraces of
Training Ground for Young Warriors...
a bit “rough” on this flat hilltop ground
with battles in the past...
Comes the present-day trig station at the
top-most point of the headland
What’s in front is the breathtaking
view...open to everyone,
to us at this right moment in time.*

*Down the Pa, down the hill, back
tracking a little bit, keep left following
the grassy track downhill.*

*In a distant to our right, the Anzac
Bay is down there.*

*The old St. George's Bay name
was given a commemorative change to
its present name over a hundred years'
ago. Time has passed...the physical
landscape remains.*

*Blowing in the wind, who knows what
that be...Guarding the entrance to
Tauranga Harbour, the water here
stays peacefully calm.*

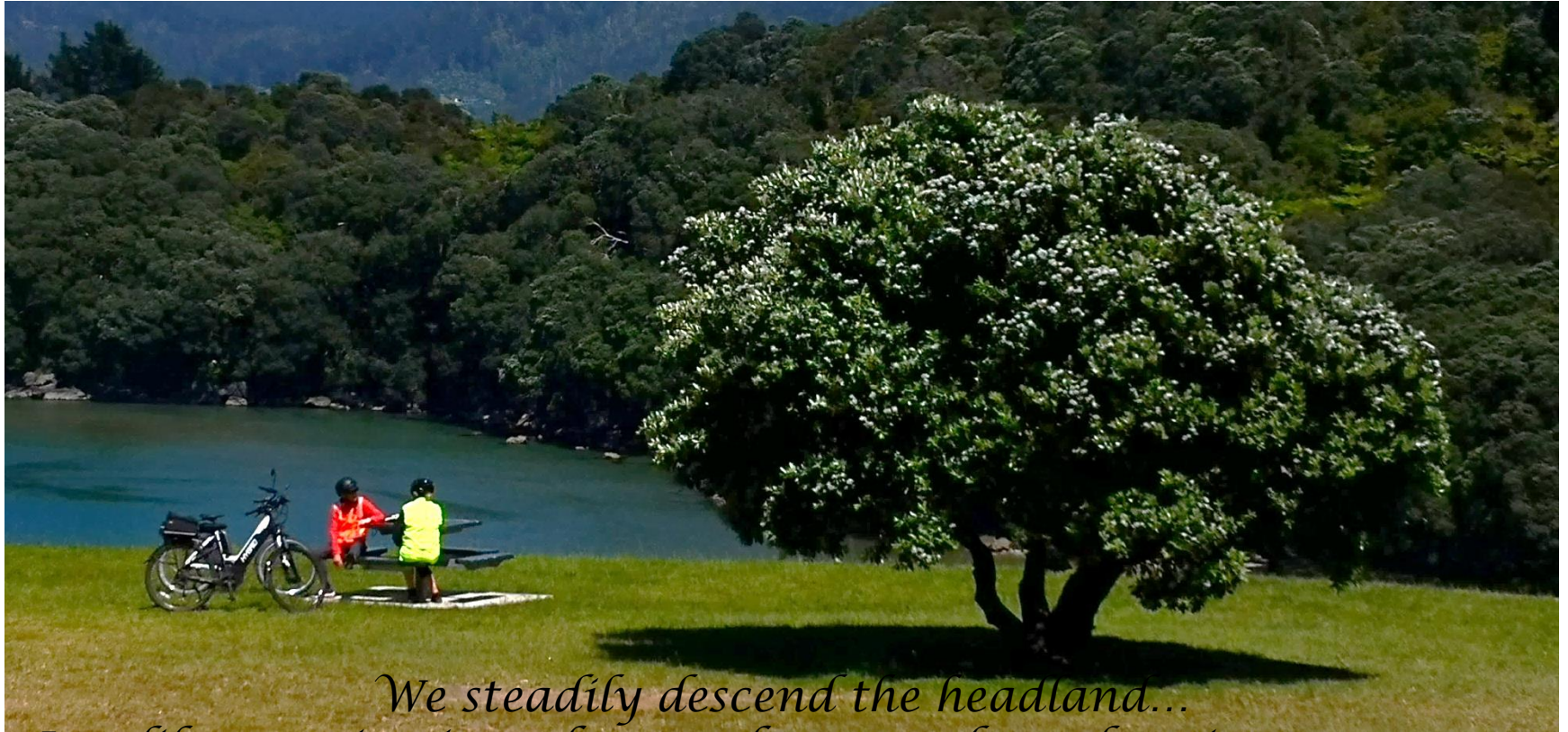
*Although with much siltation, the
water channel remains open.
It is popular spot for family picnicking
and sort of idling around.*



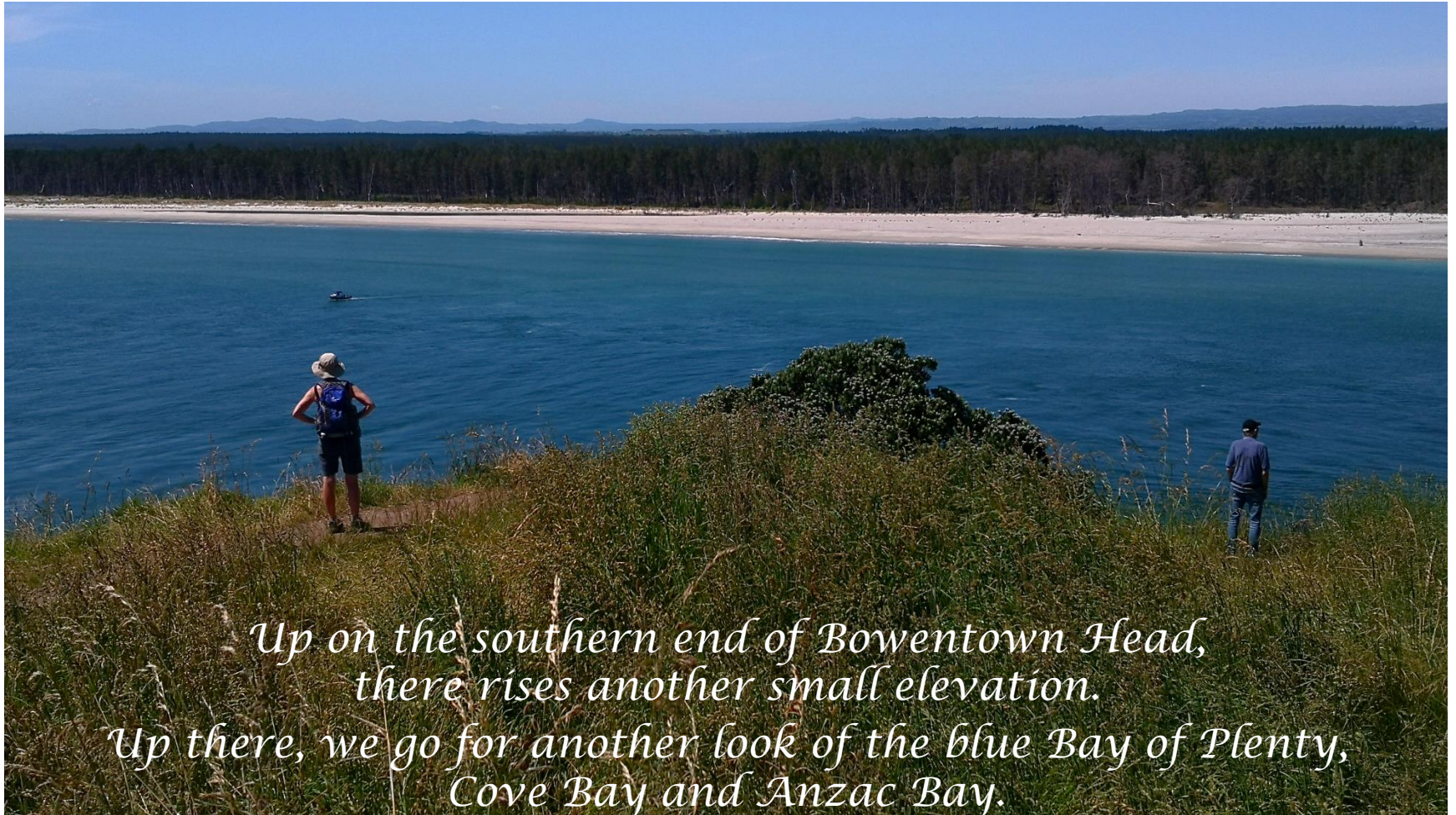




New Zealand Christmas Tree, in this December month...starts to bloom in the warmer North Island. Native to New Zealand, pohutukawa tree (metrosideros excelsa) loves the sea and usually thrives in the drier coastal region.



*We steadily descend the headland...
Just like running into the sea, the route downslope is pretty steep.
At the saddle, we meet with the other group (those not going up
to the Pa)...Here there are bikers around, resting at the picnic
tables...just have a break and have a chat...
What a picturesque scene with a number of Pohutukawa trees...
with Anzac Bay down below...would that be lovely!*



*Up on the southern end of Bowentown Head,
there rises another small elevation.*

*Up there, we go for another look of the blue Bay of Plenty,
Cove Bay and Anzac Bay.*

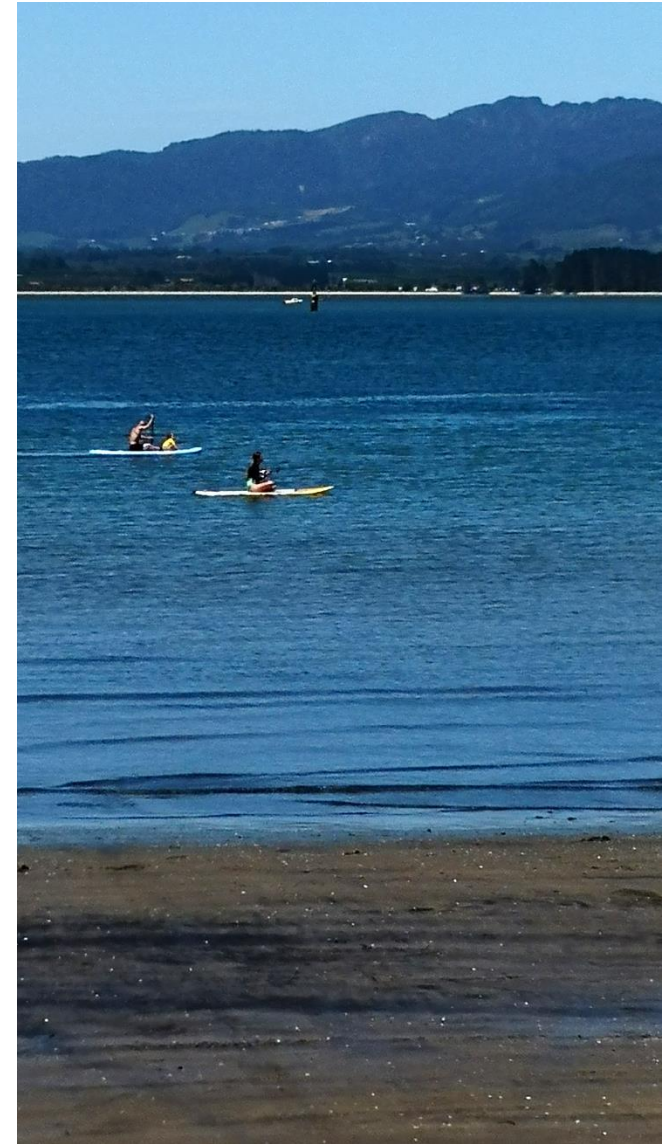
*In a near distant, there comes the bushy green of Matakana
Island with the whitish northern sandy rim.*

*Out in the blue in the
dynamism of celestial procession...
giving rise to tidal difference....
rippling all the way to the shore...
to the crescent Anzac Beach.*

*In the headland at the entrance to
Tauranga Harbour, we further go
down the slope, crossing Anzac Bay
Reserve Road...*

*Having a glimpse of passionate
kayaking fans on the blue sea, feeling
at ease and relaxing...*

*Not many people on the beach, only a
couple of them...wandering on the
water edge...a playful little kid with
her grandpa...*

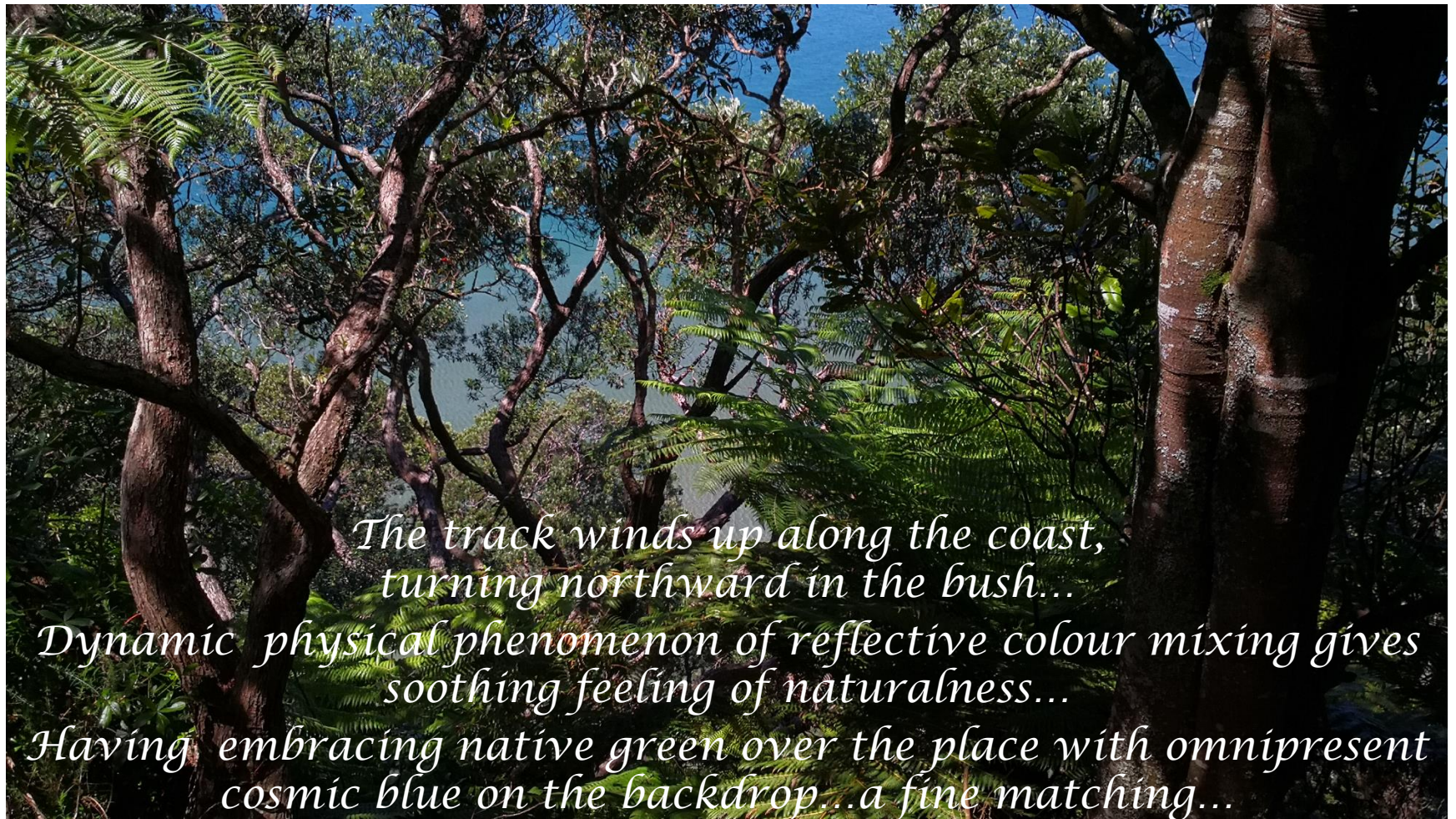


By the Pohutukawa tree, having a shade...



*here is the carpark area above Anzac Beach, an open area...
really open all around...*

*All gather together, wondering what should be? Where to go?
Dianne points to the track westward
into the bush, a bit of steep climb...*



*The track winds up along the coast,
turning northward in the bush...*

*Dynamic physical phenomenon of reflective colour mixing gives
soothing feeling of naturalness...*

*Having embracing native green over the place with omnipresent
cosmic blue on the backdrop...a fine matching...*

*Waiting at the junction point with several branching tracks,
some going up, some further down...*

Keith gives direction into the middle downward one...

Winds under the canopy and finally emerges to Shelly Bay.

*Flatness and stillness comes with somewhat rolling
smoothness...not that uneven,
somewhat irregular coming with regular moves...*



*Standing in the middle of this rhythmic water...people just stand
there, wandering around slowly in today's warm weather on this
much silted tidal estuary flowing Tauranga Harbour waterbody.*

*Westward facing stunning sheltered shallow bay
on the leeward side of Bowentown Headland...*

*Shelly Bay is well-thought-out as the backcountry
in Waihi Beach area...though popular but to a lesser extent...
not frequently visit.*

Crimson or yellow?

*Crimson as colour of love, warmth,
energy and affection, owes to its striking and vivid
inherent high visibility...*

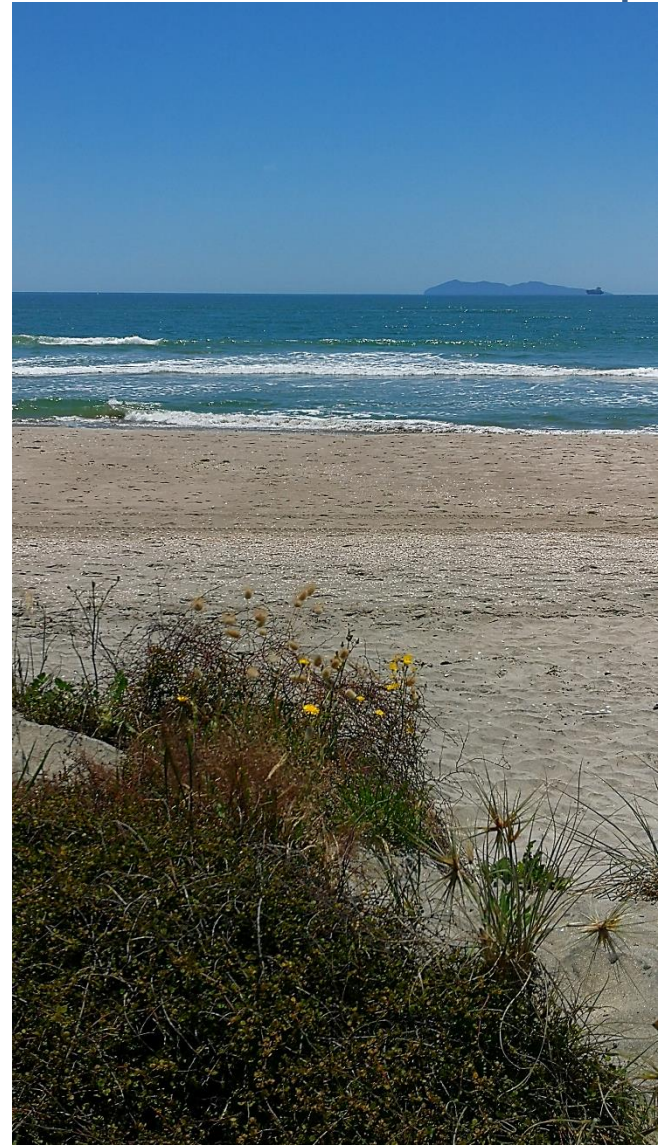
*Yellow as colour of cheerful, bright, playful and optimistic,
owes to being the most human perceivable color from a distance...*

*Pohutukawa is usually seen in crimson colour while yellow is a
rare one...can have apricot, salmon, white and pink...*

*Local New Zealand plant...Over 90% of the original pohutukawa
forest has already been ripped off. Projects have been setup to
preserve and revive...*

Crimson or yellow, which colour you like more?







Back to Bowentown Beach, back to the carpark, this's the time to get change to have a treat.

Have a nice grooming and enjoy today's Christmas Lunch Buffet.

A short drive to the hilltop on the northern end of Waihi Beach, Waihi Beach Memorial RSA. In Gunners View Restaurant, we have a deal with good food, just NZ\$17 (discount of NZ\$2).



