

## ULAIETERA'S CRUISE

BESET BY AN INHERENT NEED TO EXPLORE NEW HORIZONS AND A DESIRE TO APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED IN PHYLLIS' NAVIGATION CLASS, ULAETERA + HER NOVICE CAPTAIN SET SAIL NORTH IN JUNE. LIGHT WINDS CARRIED US ACROSS GEORGIA STRAIT TO DEEP BAY ON PICTURESQUE 245 HECTARE JEDEDIAH ISLAND.

A STRONG INFLOW WIND PICKED UP OVERNIGHT LEAVING THE SEVEN CAPTAINS IN THE COVE ON ANCHOR WATCH.



ONWARD WE SAILED WITH A STRONG HEADWIND UP MALASPINA STRAIT TO ROSCOE BAY. A SHORT PORTAGE WITH THE DINGHY INTO BLACK LAKE, A PADDLE TO THE NORTHWEST END OF THE LAKE, A WALK UP AN OLD THEN A NEW LOGGING ROAD, LED ME PAST REFUGE LAGOON (WHERE A PAIR OF LOONS PROUDLY GUARDED THEIR SINGLE CHICK), + ON TO TEAKERNE ARM. THE LOGGERS WORKING OUT OF THIS FLOATING CAMP TOLD ME THE PRIME TIMBER EXTRACTED FROM WEST REDONDA ISLAND IS GOING FOR PULP! FURTHER LOGGING IS TO CONTINUE ALONG THE SHORE OF ROSCOE BAY AND BLACK LAKE WITH SURVEY RIBBONS ALREADY IN SITU. A LETTER IN THE SEPTEMBER 1999 ISSUE OF 'PACIFIC YACHTING' EXPRESSES CONCERN FOR



THIS FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN. PANORAMIC VIEWS OF THIS UNIQUE AREA CAN BE BEHELD FROM ATOP MOUNT LANOVER.

ULAIETEA CRUISED ONWARD PAST THE MIST ENSHROUDED MOUTH OF BUTE INLET, THROUGH YUCULTA RAPIDS + INTO BIG BAY ON STUART ISLAND WHERE ONE CAN FOLLOW A TRAIL TO OBSERVE AARAN RAPIDS FROM TERRA FIRMA. BALD EAGLES, WOODPECKERS + SONGBIRDS SHARE THE WOODS WITH WANDERING SAILORS.

ONCE THROUGH GILLARD PASSAGE + DENT RAPIDS ONE IS STRUCK BY THE MYSTICAL BEAUTY OF FOG ENSHROUDED FREDERICK + PHILLIPS ARMS, BICKLEY BAY, WITH ITS FISH FARM + ACTIVE LOGGING BOOM AREA, PROVIDED ANCHORAGE WHERE DOLPHINS SPLASH + PLAY. EXPLORATION OF EAST THURLOW ISLAND REVEALED FRESH COUGAR SCAT ON A BUSH TRAIL + FRESH "HORSE MANURE" THAT I SOON REALIZED WAS GRIZZLY SCAT!

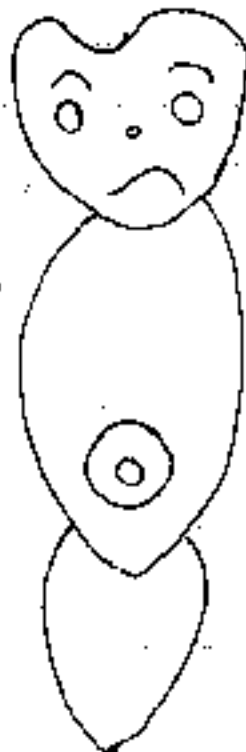
ULAIETEA CONTINUED THROUGH GREEN POINT RAPIDS, UP LOUGHBOROUGH INLET AS FAR AS BEAVER INLET WHERE A DESERTED FLOATHOUSE SHARED WITH A RESIDENT OTTER IN HELEN COVE PROVIDES IDEAL MOORAGE IN A STORM, KAYAK EXPLORATIONS LED ME TO SIONEY BAY WITH ITS CASCAING WATERFALL AND LOG CABIN OCCUPIED BY 25 YEAR RESIDENT, HELEN CAMPBELL, WHO TOLD ME THE HISTORY OF THE AREA. APPARENTLY, THE RCMP HAD MADE FREQUENT "VISITS" TO THE PAST RESIDENTS OF THE FLOATHOUSE.

KAYAKING FURTHER UP LOUGHBOROUGH INLET, I WAS IMPRESSED BY THE MAJESTIC SNOW CAPPED MOUNTAINS, NUMEROUS WATERFALLS, BALD EAGLES, DEER AND BEAR, HOWEVER, WHEN I CAUGHT A WHIFF OF A STRONG MUSKY ODOR, AND

HEARD SOME DEEP THROATED SOUNDS COMING FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BERRY BUSH I WAS PICKING FROM, I KNEW AN URSUS WAS MUCH TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT & BEAT A HASTY RETREAT.

AFTER PASSING THROUGH WHIRLPOOL RAPIDS, DOUGLAS BAY IN FORWARD HARBOUR PROVIDED ULAIETER WITH STORM PROOF ANCHORAGE & MUCH FOR ME TO EXPLORE. AN UNINHABITED CLUSTER OF OLD BUILDINGS AT THE HEAD OF THE HARBOUR HOUSES A PAST PLANTATION INSIDE ONE OF THE CABINS, LOGGERS HAVE LEFT THEIR WASTE OIL DUMP ENCLOSED BY ROTTING LOGS TO SEEP INTO THE GROUND WATER. A PETROGLYPH OF A WOMAN GIVING BIRTH CAN BE FOUND ON A STONE ON THE BEACH.

AS I PADDLED MY KAYAK UP THE MOUTH OF WORTLEY CREEK AT HIGH TIDE, A CINNAMON COLORED GRIZZLY BEAR POPPED UP OUT OF THE LONG GRASS BESIDE ME. HE ROSE UP ON HIS HIND LEGS TO PEER AT THIS STRANGE INTRUDER, EXHALED A 'WOOF' & UP POPPED TWO MORE GRIZZLY BEARS, OBVIOUSLY ON A FAMILY OUTING!



PETROGLYPH IN FORWARD HARBOUR

NEEDLESS TO SAY, I DECIDED TO DELAY MY EXPLORATIONS OF THE CREEK AND THE OLD LOGGING ROAD JOINING FORWARD HARBOUR TO BEAVER INLET. INSTEAD, I WALKED THE WELL MARKED TRAIL ACROSS WOODED THYNE PENINSULA TO

BESSBOROUGH BAY WHERE ONE CAN WALK ALONG THE GRAVEL BEACH, WATCH OTTER DIVING FOR FISH + GAZE UP SUNDERLAND CHANNEL. HOPEFULLY, THIS PICTURESQUE PENINSULA MAY BE INCLUDED IN OUR MARINE PARK SYSTEM

ULAIETEA LEFT SHELTERED FORWARD HARBOUR IN CALM SUNNY CONDITIONS BOUND FOR TOPAZE HARBOUR WITH THE INTENTION OF HIKING UP TO HEYDON LAKE. THE BAROMETER FELL 4 THEN ROSE 7 POINTS DURING THE DAY AS WIND VELOCITY INCREASED AND THE CHOPPY WAVES BECAME "ROLLERS" WITH BREAKING CRESTS. SO, DESPITE A RELATIVELY SECURE ANCHORAGE WITH A STERN LINE TO SHORE, I DECIDED NOT TO SPEND A ROLL-Y NIGHT, BUT TO RETURN TO FORWARD HARBOUR.

ULAIETEA BATTLED UP WIND IN THE DARK, NAVIGATING BY THE FAINT LIGHT FROM A CLOUD COVERED CRESCENT MOON



THROUGH THE UNKNOWN ROCKS, REEFS + ISLETS, UNTIL I COULD SEE THE LIGHTS FROM THE FISH FARM + OCCASIONALLY THE LIGHT AT CARTERER POINT. IT SEEMED AS IF THE WAVES CAME FROM EVERY DIRECTION AT ONCE AS ULAITEA ROUNDED TERMAGANT POINT + SEA SPRAY SOAKED ULAITEA + ME FROM BOW TO STERN. SUNDERLAND CHANNEL APPEARED TO BE A MASS OF WHITE HORSES GALLOPING EVERY WHICH WAY SO I SANG "THE WAYWARD WIND" AS AN ODE TO THE SEA. THE WELCOME SHAPE OF THE MOUNTAIN GUARDING THE ENTRANCE TO FORWARD

HARBOUR GUIDED ULAIETEA INTO THE HARBOUR A LITTLE PAST MIDNIGHT. THERE WERE EVEN TWO TUG BOATS + A LARGE FISH BOAT WHO HAD ALSO SOUGHT SHELTER IN THE BAY THAT NIGHT. A SEA-DOG HAD BEEN "LOST" TO THE SEA IN SUNDERLAND CHANNEL THAT DAY, SO I GUESS THE "SEA SPIRITS" WERE GUARDING ULAIETEA'S PASSAGE THAT DARK + STORMY NIGHT!

GENTLE BREEZES + SUNNY SKIES ESCORTED ULAIETEA ON HER PASSAGE ALONG JOHNSTONE STRAIT TO PORT HARVEY THEN UP HAVANNAH CHANNEL, THROUGH KELP LINED CHATHAM CHANNEL, AROUND MINSTREL ISLAND, ALONG CLIO CHANNEL + INTO POTTS LAGOON ON WEST CRACROFT ISLAND. KAYAK EXPLORATIONS OF THIS AREA TOOK ME UP THE UNIQUE MEANDERING TIDAL STREAM TO A SERIES OF BEAVER DAMS + ON TO A LOVELY CLEAN CLEAR LAKE. TWO MAGNIFICENT BUCK DEER INTENTLY WATCHED MY KAYAK AS IT DRIFTED ONTO THE EDGE OF THE ISLET WHERE THEY WERE RESTING, BALD EAGLES IN VARIOUS STAGES OF MATURITY SHARE THE LAGOON WITH WOLVES, BLACK BEARS, "HERMIT" BOB, + WELDER JOHN IN THEIR FLOAT HOUSES.

A PRETTY WHITE SHELL BEACH ON NEARBY KLAOITSIS ISLAND MARKS THE SITE OF "CHARLIE"'S (1945) GRAVE SITE UNDER A GROVE OF CEDAR TREES. THE DESERTED VILLAGE OF KARLUKWEES WITH ITS RANSACKED SHACKS, DILAPIDATED WHARF, BEACH STREWED WITH OLD BEER BOTTLE GLASS, + FRUIT TREES LADEN WITH FRUIT IS PASSED EN ROUTE UP BEWARE PASSAGE. GOOD ANCHORAGE WAS FOUND OFF CREASE ISLAND BEHIND GOAT ISLAND, VILLAGE CHANNEL SERVED AS AN EXCELLENT KAYAK ROUTE FOR MY VISITS TO FRESHWATER BAY ON SWANSON ISLAND WHERE THE TALENTED TRANSPLANTED CALIFORNIA CARVER + SCULPTOR, GEORGINNA MALLOFF RESIDES IN A LOG + STONE HOUSE SHE BUILT

HERSELF.

KWAKWAKWUTL CULTURE PREDOMINATES IN THIS REGION. A PICTOGRAPH OF A FEROCIOUS RED FACE ON THE ROCK WALL IN INDIAN CHANNEL GUARDS THE BURIAL SITE ABOVE. A KAYAK TRIP TO MAMALILACULLA WAS MADE MORE INTERESTING BY THE KWAKWAKWUTL GUIDE WHO RELATED THE HISTORY OF THIS FASCINATING VILLAGE WITH ITS ANCIENT TOTEM POLES, CEREMONIAL CANOE, OLD + SEMI-RESTORED BUILDINGS, RUINS, FRUIT TREES + MANY HUNGRY BLACK BEARS!

ULAIETERA SAILED ON TO SHOAL HARBOUR + BUSY ECHO BAY, THEN ALONG FIFE SOUND TO BOOT COVE + JOE COVE "YACHT CLUB" ON EDEN ISLAND IN THE BROUGHTON ARCHIPELAGO MARINE PARK. HERE THERE ARE MYRIADS OF ISLANDS + BEACHES TO EXPLORE. A COLONY OF FAT MULTICOLORED SEA LIONS CAN BE OBSERVED GROOMING, VOCALIZING, YAWNING, STRETCHING, SCRATCHING + EXCRETING AS THEY BASK UPON THEIR ROCKY ISLET HOME.

WITH A GOOD BREEZE TO FILL HER SAILS, ULAIETERA DEPARTED SOUTH DOWN QUEEN CHARLOTTE STRAIT, HOWEVER, ONCE WE ENTERED BLACKFISH SOUND SOUTH-EAST WINDS ESCALATED FILLING BLACKFISH PASSAGE WITH RIPS, WHIRLS, FLOTSAM, LOGS + KELP NECESSITATING AN ESCAPE UP BARONET PASSAGE AGAINST THE TIDE. IT WAS QUITE A STRUGGLE CHUGGING PAST WALDEN ISLAND. A STRONG BREEZE CARRIED ULAIETERA BACK TO PORT HARVEY, BUT THE GREATEST CHALLENGE SO FAR CAME IN JOHNSTONE STRAIT, DOGGING LARGE PATCHES OF KELP + OTHER FLOATING DÉBRIS WHILE ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE HELM IN A REPORTEDLY 38 KNOT FOLLOWING SEA.



TAXED ULAIETERA'S FUEL SUPPLY, AS I WAS UNABLE TO SAFELY LOWER THE MAINSAIL, A RE-FILL AT SEA WHILE UNDER SAIL WAS CARRIED OUT. HOWEVER, A STRONG FICKLE GUST OF WIND RIPPED ULAIETERA'S TRAVELLER OUT OF THE TRACK. I HAD TO EXERT ALL MY STRENGTH TO HOLD ONTO THE SHEETS WHILE GRADUALLY PULLING IN ENOUGH LINE TO SECURE A SHEET AROUND A CLEAT + THEN A WINCH ON ONE SIDE + THEN THE OTHER. A STRANGE SHAKING BESET ULAIETERA. LOOKING DOWN I NOTICED THAT MY KNEES WERE VIBRATING!

AFTER MAKING TEMPORARY REPAIRS IN FORWARD HARBOUR ULAIETERA SAILED ON TO BIG BAY. DEPARTURE THROUGH YUCULTA RAPIDS WAS DELAYED UNTIL THE AFTERNOON SLACK TIDE DUE TO DENSE FOG + HEAVY RAIN IN THE MORNING. HENCE, MY DECISION TO ANCHOR IN FRANCES BAY WITH ITS CLEAN, CLEAR CREEK, PRETTY GRAVEL BEACH, + ROCKY HILLS OF DOWNIE RANGE.

AT 0100, I WAS AWOKEN BY THE HOWLING OF THE WIND AS IT BLEW INTO MY EXPOSED ANCHORAGE. THE REMAINDER OF THE NIGHT WAS SPENT WATCHING THE PHOSPHORESCENT WHITE CAPS DANCING BY AS ULAIETERA BOUNCED ABOUT IN A DRENCHING RAIN + INCREASING WIND. THE HAZE OF DAWN REVEALED THE DISTANCE ULAIETERA HAD DRAGGED HER TWO ANCHORS TOWARD SHORE. A RISING MIST SEEMED TO BE BLOWN ABOUT LIKE SMOKE. BIG CHOPPY WAVES GREETED ULAIETERA ON HER VOYAGE THROUGH DEER PASSAGE TO LEWIS CHANNEL. BEATING UP WIND TOOK ITS TOLL ON THE FUEL SUPPLY, SO THE LARGE BREAKERS NEAR BOULDER POINT AT THE ENTRY TO SQUIRREL COVE WERE GREETED WITH TREPIDATION. THE WATERS OF SQUIRREL COVE EVEN SPORDED WHITE CAPS AS WE SAILED IN WITH AN EMPTY TANK OF GAS.

FAVORABLE WINDS ESCORTED ULAIETEA TO POWELL RIVER WHERE A FIRE ON AN OLD TUG BOAT TIED TO THE GOVERNMENT WHARF BROUGHT THE ENTIRE POWELL RIVER FIRE DEPARTMENT OUT IN FORCE. THE TUG WAS ENTIRELY "GUTTED".

TWENTY-FIVE KNOT WINDS PUSHED ULAIETEA ACROSS GEORGIA STRAIT. A BALTIC SAILOR MOTORED INTO GANGES HARBOUR GRATEFUL AUX DIEUX DE LA MER + TO ALL THE CLUB MEMBERS WHO GAVE ME SO MUCH ASSISTANCE + ENCOURAGEMENT + WHO GENEROUSLY SHARED THEIR WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE + EXPERTISE. A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO PHYLLIS AND TO DICK PATINSON, A STALWART SAILOR WHO SERVES AS AN EXAMPLE TO US ALL!