

Rakino Island

In the mid 1960s Rakino Island had been owned by the United Peoples Organization but this was not working out and they sold some ten acre blocks. Later, sections were being sold and Tony bought a cliff-top section off the plans. Most of those along the cliff were rectangular and were already sold but this one was on an angle of the cliff and went to a point at the cliff edge so it appeared to have no frontage. However, the cliff edge was not at the end of the sections but was, more or less, halfway along them so with many sections only half the area was usable. With Tony's section only about a quarter was down the cliff and this gave the section a cliff top frontage.



Sandy Bay with the road going up, section is far right. Maori Bay, section is centre.

Tony bought a 'flat pack' shed and had this transported to the section by a truck on a barge. We sailed in Tatu to the island and erected the shed.



The section.

The shed as delivered.

While it was being erected we lived in the tent that had been used at Jack and Jill motor camp.



The shed being erected.

Carting supplies up the road, shed at left.

There was a lodge in Home Bay that catered for a small number of holiday makers and an illegal bar was opened if sufficient visitors were around. A new wharf was built in Sandy Bay to augment the pier in Home Bay that was rather tidal. Daily ferries and a shop were promised, but these never eventuated, weekend ferries were all that were available.

After a few years a storm damaged the shed roof and we went to the island and dismantled it. Much of the equipment in the shed, such as it was, had been taken away by others. When we revisited a year or so later there was no sign of the shed yet several batches now had fences.

The area had been built up and there were some that lived there semi-permanently. Tony sold the section to the owners of the section behind so that they would have a large garden to the cliff top.