

Seaside dining

Considering how much we promote our beautiful coastline in this region, there are surprisingly few places you can have a meal and look out on the sea. It's time to add a venue to that small list.

Dominic and Christina Hodge have opened Kawau Bay Kitchen upstairs at the Sandspit Yacht Club. It is open Thursday to Sunday for lunch and dinner, and catering is available seven days a week for special functions. You can sit outdoors on the deck and the view over the marina to Rainbow's End is gorgeous.

Dominic is a Kiwi who honed his chef skills in France and Italy. After returning home, he's spent the last decade building a successful catering business in and around Auckland.

Christina was born in Canada and after many years as a flight attendant and chief steward in the yachting industry, she moved to New Zealand with Dominic to raise a family and continue her career in the service industry. Starting Kawau Bay Kitchen with Dominic is a natural next move. "This is what we love doing. It allows us to do what we're good at while giving us more time together as a family."

You don't have to be a member of the yacht club to dine there so everyone is welcome. Dominic likes to focus on high quality ingredients from local suppliers, classic kiwi fare and of equal importance: affordability. "We have kept all the prices competitive," explains Christina. "We want this to be a place that locals frequent because they love the atmosphere, the quality and value we provide. We want our customers to feel the same sense of pride that we do."

Kawau Bay Kitchen offers an amazing wine selection and local beers from Leigh Sawmill. The menu is relaxed and includes favourites like fish and chips, burgers and curry. Dominic also comes up with new specials each weekend that are a little more refined. A new Malaysian sous chef is joining the team and there will be some dishes based on his unique skills.

Bookings are encouraged as most Friday and Saturday nights are full. Christina also welcomes any enquiries for weddings, birthday parties or other social occasions. So, set sail for this unique dining location soon and enjoy the amazing view, the delicious food and the relaxed atmosphere. We do like to be beside the seaside.

Contact Christina at info@akk.nz or 021 161 5045.