

# Family Adventures – a way of connecting with families

by Dave Diack, Manurewa Baptist

Hi team! We have had to totally rethink our adventure group this term due to Covid and because our kids are not yet meeting on Sundays - and few are expected in the early days when we do. And so, we are running a few more **family adventures**. These can be great opportunities for our kids to re-connect in a wider group, that is less complex than meeting on site.

**Ideas we are doing and have done that are relevant to the Auckland crew are:**

**Grey Lynn pump track** with playground on site - heaps of fun for all abilities.

**Bethels Sand duning** - super fun for all ages

**Wero kayaking and paddle boarding** (only 14 dollars each, but you need to book a month in advance).

The **Sculpture Hunt** at the Botanical Gardens

...and if you really want to adventure **Karangahake**

**Gorge** - bike and tunnel adventure.



I have lead family groups (40 people plus) to all these locations and found them to be awesome and easy to manage.

**Some hot tips (but probably obvious) I have discovered in leading these trips:**

1. **Do a Recce first!!!** If you are the leader, if at all possible, go there first. I'm not an over-the-top health and safety person - but it can be so so helpful. Even my most competent leaders, have missed stuff if they have been to an activity before but not in a leadership capacity. You will see the activity with a different lens. Everything, from the amount of parking, to meet points, to cell coverage to toilets, even possibilities with different weather, can be gauged on a trip - so again, very helpful!!!
2. **What's your minimum number?** The trips I plan would be super fun even if just 2 or 3 families turn up. In Covid times that could be a possibility! If you plan with that in mind, you can never go wrong and you guarantee that no matter who turns up you are going to have a great time, which leads me to point number 3...
3. **Have your core families – Don't do it alone.** I rally a few families who are super keen on an idea. Once they have committed and booked it into their calendars, only then do I decide to promote to the wider group.



4. **Covid - Now in Phase three, the rules have become more flexible and greater responsibility has been placed on individuals. My advice is just be really upfront about how your event is going to run and the expectations around health and safety.** For example, because it's going to be outside and the activity is going to involve exertion, a lot of our people will not be wearing masks for a significant part of the trip. This gives a clear cue to parents about what to expect and then they can make a decision about whether they feel comfortable coming or not. The Covid bit could go on and on, but every church has their own policies - so best to check in with the wider leadership team to make sure everybody is onboard with your safety plan - before the complaints start coming in :) )