



February 2015

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The big cruise ships arrive very early for their day in port. These lads were up even earlier. They had already had their own cruise up the harbour, a coffee break and a chat before heading home. On Sunday 15th of this month you can watch three cruise ships arrive if you are out on the water nice and early.

PHOTO ROGER LOMAS

Auckland Canoe Club Information

Postal Address

P.O. Box 9271, Newmarket, Auckland

Clubrooms

Marine Rescue Centre, Mechanics Bay

Website

<http://www.aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz>

Officers

<i>Patron</i>	Jim Mason	
<i>President</i>	Philip Noble	575 3493
<i>Treasurer</i>	Matthew Crozier	817 1984
<i>Publicity</i>	Roger Lomas	846 6799
<i>Storage/kayaks</i>	Gavin Baker	528 5188
<i>Assistant</i>	Roger Lomas	846 6799
<i>Vine House</i>	Trevor Arthur	817 7357
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Claire O'Connor	521 1769
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webmaster@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz

hire@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
(for kayak hire, or any related questions)

storage@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
(for questions about storing kayaks in the locker)

Club Trip/Event Policies

Visit the Club website for details of safety and other important policies.

Contacting trip/event organiser

You must notify the trip organiser in advance of your intention to go on a trip. Organisers need to know numbers and to be able to contact you if the plan changes.

You must also discuss with the organiser in advance any medical or other conditions (such as your experience and ability) that might affect the progress of the group.

Cancellation

If the weather looks uncertain call the trip co-ordinator.

Club Banking Details

<i>Bank</i>	BNZ
<i>Branch</i>	Newmarket
<i>Account</i>	02-0100-0023453-000
<i>Name</i>	Auckland Canoe Club
<i>Particulars</i>	Your FULL name (Initials are not enough to identify some members with common names)
<i>Code</i>	Either SUBS, STORAGE, HIRE, OTHER (depending on what you are paying for)

If your payment is for several items, then please make **separate** payments for **each** item.

IMPORTANT

If you are depositing money to the Club Account please ensure that you include YOUR name so that the Treasurer knows who deposited the money.

Internet Banking

All major banks have set up Auckland Canoe Club as a registered payee for internet banking.

This means that you can pay to

Auckland Canoe Club

without having to enter the account number.

Check with your bank.

Kayak Hire

To book a kayak, enter details in the diary. Check diary before taking a kayak.

Kayak Hire Rates

Single kayaks

Daily hire – out am, back pm \$20.00

Half day – out am, back am
out pm, back pm \$10.00

Double kayaks

Daily hire – out am, back pm \$30.00

Half day – out am back am
out pm back pm \$15.00

- Please enter details of hire in register and on an envelope.
- Put money in envelope and place envelope in honesty box.
- **No I.O.U.s!**
- Carry or wheel kayaks to water.
- No seal launching.
- Please wash kayaks before returning to rack.
- Report faults or problems on the faults/problems sheet.

Regular Events

Vine House Weekends



On one weekend each month we have the use of Vine House. This gem in Mahurangi Harbour is a 2 km paddle from Sullivan's Bay, which is the ARC park at the end of the Mahurangi West Road, first on the right past Puhoi.

The house sleeps 10 and has all creature comforts. Bring sleeping bag, pillow case and food. A shared meal and nibbles is the norm for Saturday night, so bring your goodies.

Lagoon Bay is very tidal, so bringing a kayak trolley is a good idea. The range of paddling is endless, e.g. Waiwera, Warkworth, Kawau Island, Motuora Island – your choice. Or just rest and read and enjoy this tranquil and special place. We recommend you take a carry bag to get all your gear up the track to the house. Secure parking is at Sullivan's Bay. Leave a note on your dashboard reading "Vine House Volunteer" when you park in front of the ranger's house.

Please ring to book a bed, and for detailed directions. **Trevor 817 7357 or Matt 817 1984.**

Saturday Morning Coffee Cruise

Most Saturday mornings some club members do a short paddle from the club lock up at Okahu Bay.

We set off from the lock up at 9.00, returning by 12.30. The level is fairly easy and you can nearly always hire a club kayak. The route depends on the tide and the weather. We often paddle out to Bean Rock lighthouse and then stop at Kohi Beach for coffee in a local cafe before paddling back.

Join us for a relaxed paddle. It's a great way to meet people in the club.

Be aware: People don't go every week. You might go one week when no-one else happens to turn up.

You should have basic paddling skills to join this group, you will be responsible for yourself.

Note: Paddlers under 18 to be accompanied by a guardian!

For more information, go to:

<http://www.mapmyrun.com/routes/view/127561>

NEW MEMBERS



Welcome

The Committee extends a warm welcome to the following new members ...

Tony Rea, Tony Keegan and Grant Mackay.



Deadline for Next Newsletter

15 February 2015

On the waterfront

Roger Lomas

There have been very few complaints about the weather this summer. Our early morning group has been taking full advantage of the wonderful warm spell. We have been out every weekend, with quite a few mid-week paddles as well. Our weekend excursions alternate between the Waitemata and Manukau Harbours to optimise the best of both tide and weather conditions. The format for these early morning adventures has been refined over the last thirty years and we have a very envious safety record.

One of the most anticipated highlights of each outing would have to be the cuppa stop. Some are at pre-determined locations, but many are delightful little discoveries. It's all part of the enjoyment which keeps us coming back for more.

Now that most of the holiday makers have gone back to work, we are off for a spot of kayak camping ourselves. Islands in the Gulf and the Northland coast beckon. I am looking forward to giving my new lightweight Helinox camping chair a proper field test. This will probably involve a good book, a shady tree and lots of cups of tea.

Occasionally there are opportunities for new paddlers to join the group. If you are prepared to commit to a regular early morning paddling routine throughout both summer and winter, have reasonable fitness and paddling skills, then contact me.

On the topic of good books, I have just finished reading Tara Mulvany's new book on her sea kayak circumnavigation of the South Island. It's a great read and chronicles a real gutsy effort. It is hard to believe that she managed to achieve it all, right in the depths of winter. No place for wimps or part time paddlers with ice encrusted kayaks and pre-dawn departures.

Tara will be one of the key note speakers at the upcoming KASK Forum later this month. This event is based at the MERC facility up at Long Bay on the North Shore. The Forum finishes up with an overnight camp at Dacre Cottage which will be hosted by Pete Townend.

Our hard working club committee convene for their first meeting of the year this month. We hold these meetings in the Marine Rescue Centre on the second Tuesday of each month. Most of the time we are dealing with mundane procedural matters, but we also discuss club events and activities. The committee members organise and lead most of the regular events. If you would like to come along and have your tuppence worth, then you will be most welcome. You can curry favour and garner more support for your opinion if you bring along something nice like a chocolate cake.

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One of those magic little beaches tucked away for kayakers only to discover.

Coromandel resident and long-time club member Wally Gilmer called into Vine House for a visit recently. Wally had paddled all the way across the Gulf in his Storm sea kayak, with a couple of nights camping along the way. His voyage was timed to meet up with the monthly Vine House gathering. The Mahurangi Regatta was also being held the same weekend. This is centred on Sullivan's Bay, just across the way from the holiday house. A club group came over to join in the activities. They were on hand to cheer Matt Crozier across the finish line for a sterling second place in the sea kayak race. At the end of the holiday weekend after a good relaxing rest, Wally set sail back towards his distant home port of Coromandel Township.

Where have all the little Blue Penguins gone this summer? Nobody has reported sighting any for quite a while now. We have however seen plenty of sting-ray activity. Nothing like five or six sea kayaks paddling line abreast through the shallows to spook these critters out. Reports of a Great White shark lurking in the upper reaches of the Waitemata have also created a certain amount of trepidation. No one has been keen for a swim when we have been up that way lately.

Lean and mean and extremely fit club member Peter Moses has been paddling a super slim racing ski for a few years now. You can often see him out for an early morning training run with the other ski lads. A couple of new recruits have just joined the ranks of this need for speed brigade. Ian Smeeton and yours truly have both splashed out and purchased brand new ultra-light skis. The big problem now is finding somewhere at home to store them. We both have a multitude of kayaks already, so some will have to go. I'm predicting that it will have to be the heaviest ones. It's rather nice being able to carry the ski down to the water with one hand. They are so light that you have to tether yourself to them with a flexible leg leash. A capsize in windy conditions could result in the ski being blown away and separation at sea.

In the December edition of our newsletter mention was made of an ocean going open top type sea kayak. Barracuda Kayaks made a version of these based on their popular Safari model. Now former club member Gerry Maire, has produced a similar craft on a smaller scale. Marketed under the brand Star Kayaks, it has a pod cockpit similar to that of the old Puffin kayak. It is quite short at 4.35 metres and with a beam of 60 centimetres. It's not a complete open top craft, as it has a small fairing covering the front of the large cockpit. It should however be reasonably easy to re-enter with its broad beam. Fergs Kayaks have one on display now.

Talking about new kayaks, the Barracuda Interface sea kayak is in full production now. Club member Kevin Woolcott has just taken delivery of a brand new one. The Interface comes in three volume sizes and tips the scales at an amazingly light 19 kilograms. Five of the early morning kayak group lads have decided to order them. The biggest dilemma they now face is in deciding what volume size to order. As I mentioned in an earlier edition, the vast majority of our kayaking is only short day trips. A low volume sea kayak is less prone to wind forces especially when lightly laden. When you think about it, isn't wind the one element we all try to avoid?

Another event being organised this month is the International Kayak Week. This is a gathering of intermediate and advanced sea kayakers out on Urupukapuka Island. Auckland kayaker, Paul Hayward is co-ordinating this get together and it sounds like a fun, laid back affair. The Bay of Islands venue has basic bunkroom style accommodation and most food is provided for a very modest fee. The focus of this gathering of elite paddlers will be on sharing kayaking skills and stories. It all sounds a bit like getting back to the successful formula employed for the original Coast busters. The first two events were held at the now long gone Mon Desir hotel at Takapuna Beach. This was way back in the nineties and one of my old paddling companions, Dave Robinson was the 'no nonsense, keep it simple' organiser. The International Kayak Week is being held on the 23rd-28th February and Paul Hayward can be contacted at paul@coastbusters.org.nz

The poor old organisers of the Auckland Masters Swim Series are having a torrid time. For the third successive occasion they have had to invoke an alternative course option. With the safety spectre forever hovering above their heads, they appear to be getting a little gun-shy now. Coastguard need to smarten up their act as well. A week out from the Chelsea swim, they advised the swim organisers that they couldn't provide sufficient craft because it was a holiday weekend. The entrants must be getting a little bit hot under their swimming caps by now.

Ports of Auckland are trying to escalate their expansion programme again. Their big reclamation project at the Fergusson wharf has been well underway for some years now. The latest stage involves building a new wharf frontage at right angles to the existing complex. This new wharf will accommodate huge container ships and create big problems for small craft making passage past this area. It is one of the busiest and narrowest parts of

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the harbour. Tidal flow will be altered and accelerated. Perhaps more challenging for us as sea kayakers will be the chaotic sea conditions that will be created. The big bow wake coming off the ferries, tugs and other large craft that ply this area will be the problem. When these waves rebound off a ship's side at this new berth, a phenomenon known as clapotis will occur. The waves will double in height and often do this in dramatic fashion by exploding upwards. In these conditions, it will only be a BCU five star qualified kayaker that will be able to navigate this gauntlet. Further up the harbour, Ports of Auckland have announced their latest expansion plan. They want to extend the Bledisloe container terminal a further 179 metres out into the harbour towards Devonport. I did an interesting measurement check on a Google map. It revealed that the sea gap between this new port expansion proposal and the Devonport wharf would decrease to less than the sea span of the harbour bridge. Could this be the start of a second harbour crossing?

On a more positive note, Waterfront Auckland has been doing a splendid job tidying up the city foreshore. Our early morning group has availed itself of many of their new waterfront enhancements. One of our favourites is the big stepped landing platform just beside the pedestrian draw-bridge in the viaduct harbour. This landing is all tide, kayaker friendly and a fabulous place to have a cuppa. It's magic, just sitting in the early morning sun, soaking up the million dollar view. A constant parade of early morning strollers and lots of boat activity too.

Across at Westhaven marina, the launching pontoon has been installed and the over the water walkway adjacent to Westhaven Drive is finally open. All this new work certainly has been bringing more people down to the waterfront and bit of interaction between them and us kayakers can only be a good thing. Many new members find their way into our club through these casual encounters.

See you out there,

Roger



The Viaduct Harbour landing steps.

SAILING

Rona Patterson

I have lived a very sheltered life which did not include sailing so it was absolutely stupendous recently for me to receive an invitation from Colin Quilter to spend Friday on Ailsa's yacht. Needless to say, I had no problem accepting the invitation, but did arrive at the starting point with a few nerves. 'Would I do the wrong thing and make a nuisance of myself, or would I embarrass myself by not having sea legs?'

Our group consisted of Colin, Ailsa, Gavin Baker, Mike Randall, Philip Noble, Sigrid Speidel and myself. We moved off from the floating jetty at Okahu Bay soon after 9.30 am with the motor running, but this was only for a few moments before the sails were unfurled and we were under way. I had found myself a little corner to sit comfortably (out of the way of everything – so I thought). It was not long before the yacht listed (perhaps not the correct word) and I was now leaning back with the feeling that my hair was about to get a salt water wash. It all looks so easy on the television. Changing sides soon saw me sitting more comfortable again. I tried to brace myself with my legs pushed against the seat opposite, but the boat designer did not consider my short legs when planning.

It didn't take me too long to lose some of my inhibitions and I was soon standing up, but holding on tightly, and watching where we were heading, with the wind in my face. Lovely! There was talk of Mainsail, Genoa, Clutch, Sheet, Halyard, Starboard, Port, Beam, Galley, Saloon, Stern and Aft, and many more. Some of these needed no explaining, but others I may have heard of but had no idea where they were or what they were used for. Ailsa and Colin were extremely hospitable and left the rest of us with no chores, at all!!! (On a normal Friday outing, I have to paddle my own canoe and/or ride my own bike up whatever hill is in front of me so this was a real treat.)

We sailed into Islington Bay and anchored in as far as possible at low tide. Sigrid swam to shore, the rest of us were rowed in. On any outing with Colin where there is a beach landing and a hill to climb, then this is what is on the agenda. I am always pleased when I reach the top of any hill and it was a treat to find a sign which said 'shut' on the gate which was only half way up the hill, so rather than disturb any of the calves behind the gate we retraced our steps back to the beach and were all ferried back to the yacht apart from Sigrid who swam back.

Once back on board, it was straight into bathing suits and all seven were soon having a very pleasant swim before lunch. Lunch eaten, it was time for Sigrid's siesta. The rest of us enjoyed our homeward trip, which was very different from the outward journey. We had wind and tide behind us and it was a very flat, smooth and fast trip back to shore.

I am well aware that our outing would not have been so enjoyable without the skills of Ailsa and Colin, and I would like to publicly thank them for a most enjoyable and comfortable day. I came away with the knowledge that kayakers have it relatively easy with only one kayak, one paddle, and one body to look after. I was most impressed at the number of ropes, wires, beams, sails and countless other things which all have to be used or be ready for use in every voyage. We were extremely fortunate that the dull and cloudy day which was promised, turned into a perfect, warm day with lots of sun and a light wind, although on my cycle home into a head wind made me realise that there was more wind out there than it appeared. A perfect day.

Thank you Ailsa and Colin.

SWIM ESCORT, 8 FEBRUARY

Rona Patterson

Following appalling winds on Friday and Saturday; Sunday 8 February dawned fine and windless for the third Masters' swim for the season, but once again, those in charge had altered the course for the safety of the swimmers. Who can blame the harbour swimmers for being a little upset about this because this is the fourth swim in a row which has been transferred to safer waters.

Birkenhead was the meeting place for the kayakers to partake in Roger's promised breakfast and Philip's briefing. Eighteen kayaks arrived via road and water. Those who paddled over parked their kayaks on the concrete ramp with no-one expecting the huge wave which came in with a passenger ferry, floating a few of the kayaks which until that moment were well up the ramp.

The 148 swimmers were to swim 1¾ laps of the bay alongside Chelsea Sugar Works. Conditions could not have been more perfect with no wind, no sun and no waves. All swimmers had finished in under an hour. Our 18 kayaks were placed around the inside of the course with two Coastguard rubber duckies along side of us. There was only one large Coastguard vessel which was in command.

On one of the small Coastguard boats were two new Coastguard members – John and James. They had finished their course earlier in the week and were eager to show off their proficiency. During the middle of the race Will and I were chatting while waiting for the swimmers, with the newbies nearby. We were not aware they were watching keenly as Will was stirring the water with his paddle perpendicular. They called out to us and started their motor to swoop in to save Will. They were very keen to support this swim in whatever way they could and one of the things they had been alerted to look out for was a paddle which is held aloft, which was a sign for help needed.

Once the race was over and we were advised to stand down, it was over to the beach for a sausage and can of coke and a catch up with those club members we have not seen since the last swim. It was afternoon by the time we got back into our boats to head home – back to Birkenhead for some, Okahu Bay for others, and Westhaven for the rest.

As always, this swim was enjoyable because we all get out there on the water, but if I were a harbour swimmer, I would be getting a little tired of not being allowed to swim in the harbour.

Poet's Corner

*Six hundred k from Sydney town
Just up the road they say
Forty degrees and getting warm
Swimming saves the day
The Murrumbidgee quietly flows
Regardless of the heat
This little town of a thousand souls
Appears to be asleep
No sign of ghosts of steamships
past
No phantom logs float by
Few motor boats no rowing skiffs
What do they do all day
Without a kayak or a bike
A different scene from Sydney town*

*This country place of Darlington
Point
Half dozen shops a swimming pool
A levee built post major flood
The eucalypts as old as old
Lie stricken all around
The cotton fields and orange groves
Stretch on and on
While way down South the forest
fires
Wreak havoc in the usual way
With consequences dire
Meanwhile the daily Murrumbidgee
swim
Against the current staying still*

*A metaphor you might well say
That morning swim my daily pill
So despite your charms dear Oz
It's home that calls
NZ my place of choice
Can never pall
Our lovely coast just beckoning
To get out in the boat
To learn the art of living
That keeps us all afloat
So all in all it's not all bad
It's good to be alive
Even though the world's a mess
This year two thousand ten and five.*

Mike Randall

TRIPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

KASK FORUM 2015

For those who may be interested, the **KASK Forum 2015** is scheduled for 20 to 22 February, and details can be found by Googling KASK Forum 2015. There may still be places available.

Kayaking Skills and Information Sunday 22 February

A **kayaking skills and information session** will be held at Okahu Bay from 9.00am.

We will commence on the grass with discussions on aspects such as equipment, safety, paddling techniques, packing your kayak, camping etc. etc. Then progressing onto the water to practice those things that you may have forgotten, did not know, or though you could do but really couldn't when you try.

We will start early – 9.00am – before the parking in Tamaki Drive gets full. Bring refreshments and tea/lunch. Be prepared to get on the water and get wet. How about kayaking skills – paddle strokes, rescue drill, self-rescue, re-entry techniques and practice.

Call Philip on 575 3493 for further details and anything you specifically would like covered.



SWIM ESCORTS 2015

Update

Thanks to those (18) members who supported the club by assisting with the swim escort at Chelsea Bay. The weather was great and the swimmers were happy and appreciative of us being there to support them.

Rangitoto Wharf to St Heliers Sunday 22 March

The final Swim Escort organised by the club is the Rangitoto to St Heliers. This is usually the biggest event requiring 40 kayaks so I ask you all to please to make every effort to participate.

Those wishing to participate in the club tradition of staying overnight on Saturday to be up early for the event should phone one of the committee members for details.

If you plan to paddle over to Rangitoto on Sunday morning you will need to be on the water before 6.15am to be in time for the briefing at 7.20am at the Rangitoto Wharf.

Roger has kindly offered one of his awesome barbecue breakfasts from 5.45am. Be there and sample it. Thanks Roger.

Mairangi Bay to Devonport Reserve 10km Marathon Swim Sunday 26 April

Swim Start Time: 7.00am. High tide: 1.18pm

The marathon swim runs from Mairangi Bay to Devonport Reserve. Each swimmer is required to have their own kayak escort, so if you are interested in participating, call Philip for details.