



March/April 2015

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The perfect cuppa stop in the Viaduct Basin.

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
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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 Sullivans 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 ...

Jay Ruffell, Katie Ratcliffe and Mark Freeman.



Deadline for Next Newsletter

15 April 2015

Matai Bay to Whangarei, Summer 2015

Matt Crozier

After last year's trip around Gt Barrier Island, Wally Gilmer and I were keen to do another trip this summer. So we made contact with Ken Marsh, who now lives in Whangarei, to see if he could help by looking after the car. He was happy to come with us right up to Matai Bay, at the top of the Karekare Peninsula, and take my car back home. So it was now up to us to paddle the 280km back to Whangarei.



We settled into the DoC campsite. The sea was calm in the bay that evening – all looking very good for tomorrow. We walked to revisit a geocache I found two years ago on another kayaking trip with Jodi, Judith, and Rosie; and found another one planted since. While I was preparing dinner, I took a direct hit from a seagull dropping bombs from above – I didn't take this as a good omen.

We got our gear sorted. There's always something you forget to pack – in my case it was contact lens solution! Luckily I opened a fresh set of monthly's that morning. There were also items I forgot to put back in the car, so had to find room to pack them for the journey home. But I must be getting better at this, as I had room for an extra 2 litre water bottle (8l in total), with a tiny bit of room to spare. The test pack back in Auckland paid off.

February 23rd

We were ready for departure at 9am. This would turn out to be the usual time on the water during the trip. The very mild surf in the Bay was easy to negotiate and a good way to get ourselves in the right mindset for the trip. The sea was steady until we rounded Pihakoa Pt and could see Berghan Pt in the distance, about 14km away. There was a steady sea running with a 1-2m NE swell, and a few fronts coming towards us. We got caught up in a short heavy downpour, losing all sight of land, so had to reorient ourselves based on the wave direction.



Arriving at Berghan Pt, the sea looked worse through the gap to the small island, so we headed down the sheltered coast to Takerau Bay for lunch. A very pleasant setting with a small lagoon at the back of the beach. We were tired – the 18km crossing took us 4 hours!

We negotiated the mild surf off the beach, heading back to the Point. The gap was still messy, so we went right around the back of the island, and made our way down to Taemaro Bay. There were a few houses in the main part of the bay, but we found a good campsite tucked in the northern arm. We had paddled 28km for the day, but felt the crossing was slower than expected.

February 24th

It was raining in the morning so stayed in bed an extra half hour. We left the bay at 9:30am into 2-3m swells on the outside. The day and sea was grey, but we managed to dodge the showers while watching the mainland get drenched. We beelined straight across Motukahakaha Bay to Cone Rock, going past the Sugar Loaf (Wekaruia Is) on the outside. There was a steady 15kn NE wind slowing us down again, although we didn't feel we were fighting it.



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Matai Bay to Whangarei, Summer 2015

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The winds were stronger turning south around Karau Pt, 20kn according to the VHF, and we thought better of being thrown around in the bumpy sea all the way to Whangaroa Harbour. The plan was to make it to Lane Cove Hut, well inside the harbour in Pekapeka Bay – but we spotted what looked to be a sheltered bay on the western coast.



We landed at 2:30 through small surf onto the beach. Tucked behind a hill on the beach was a flat area with a lone tree, free from any wind. The sun came out though so it was a good time for a swim, reading, and drying tent flies. The sea wasn't getting any calmer toward evening, so after discovering the name of the place was *Camp Bay*, that decision was final.

February 25th

The wind had died down but there was still a good NE swell running. We studied the surf to time our breakout, but the expected lull didn't come so we just went for it. Neither of us had been to Stephenson Island, and the geocache there sealed the deal. The swell was too high to play in Jellicoe Cave at Whangaroa Harbour mouth anyway, so we went to investigate the building we could see from camp. It is a woolshed, still in use.



Paddling up the sheltered western side, there were other farm buildings. The swell made the shortcut through the reef at the top impossible, and the steep clapotis on the bluffed eastern side kept us about 300m offshore. We headed straight for Flat Top island, but knowing there was no landing there, we looked along Mahinepua peninsula for a sheltered spot for lunch. Surprisingly, the swell was making its way around the corner, and a surge washed Wally up on to a steep gravel beach. It wasn't that appealing so we paddled further up to Motuekaiti Island, and the end of the point. It was a fantastic spot – sheltered and a very good campsite. We enjoyed snorkelling around the rocks, playing with the butterfish.

It was a hard decision – whether to stay here, find somewhere to camp in the Cavalli Islands, or take the easy option to Matauri Bay campground. Matauri Bay won out – we felt like getting cleaned up and recharging batteries – paying homage to Phallus Bay on the way (see Feb 2013 newsletter). It was fortunate we did as two sisters, Jo and Chris, cooked us a huge dinner in return for a chat about the Northland mental health system.

February 26

Finally, the weather was beginning to settle as a huge High engulfs the country, and is expected to last a couple of days. The weather was too bad to explore the Cavallis two years ago, so I was glad we had the opportunity to go around this time. Wally spotted a 4ft hammerhead shark, paddling up the eastern side of Motukaroro Island. One is spoilt for beaches in the northern area. We checked out the DoC hut at Waiti Bay.



Finding the ideal lunch spot was tricky – there was either not much space with an incoming tide, or a little too much surge to negotiate. We settled on Whatupukeiti Island, overlooking the fancy residence on Step (Motukawaiti) Island.

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Matai Bay to Whangarei, Summer 2015

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After lunch we paddled the 10km straight down to Kuririki Stream, which flows into a half-moon well sheltered bay. There were a number of campsites set up, looking lived in although no one was there. We waited for someone to show up... before setting up camp closer to the facilities. There were fantastic basalt column formations around the entrance to the bay.

February 27th

It looked like the swell had finally settled down, so perfect conditions for open crossings. The plan was to paddle the Purerua Peninsula coast for lunch at Cape Wiwiki, then straight across to Deep Water Cove, Cape Brett. Remnant swell caught us by surprise on leaving the bay – Wally losing his drink bottle while breaking through surges over the rocks. We thought it would be seen just bobbing around, but there was no sign of it. The ‘private’ bay tucked in the northern side of Cape Wiwiki was sheltered and an obvious point to aim for.



After lunch we snuck through the gap between Harakeke Is and headed straight for Deep Water Cove, 17km away. We cruised along, glad not having to deal with any wind or sea. Along the way we came across an injured blue penguin, unable to swim – a large cut to its flipper. I put it on my sprayskirt to give it a rest and we made for Okahu Is. But unfortunately it didn't last the journey.

There were no camping signs at Deep Water Cove itself so we snuck back to a small beach we saw on the eastern side of the bay. There was a nice patch of grass to set up camp, although a nasty sting on the finger alerted me to a large number of disturbed wasps scouting the ground. We retreated to the stoney beach, then to discover wasp nests among the driftwood. Thankful for my free standing tent, I could just pick it up and move it to a clear spot. The snorkelling was fantastic clear water and abundant fish life due the fishing rahui in the cove.

February 28th

For once we were ready to leave earlier than 9am – except we spent an hour looking for my camera! It's not a very big beach so it had to be somewhere. I had no recollection where I put it though – just ‘with my stuff’. I emptied all the bags and the hatches, squeezed the compressed packed tent bag for a hard object – nothing! Gutted, as today we're going through the Hole in the Rock at Piercy Island, Cape Brett.

The sea was calm again, and good for the ferries to go through the Hole. We let the tourists go first (ie, we kept out of their way), then paddled through and back again with echoing ‘Yahoo’s. Cathedral Cave next door was not as big as I remembered it – maybe I've seen many more since then. Around the island and through the Hole again, then off down the coast to Whangamumu. The coastline past Waiwiri Island is rugged but quite intricate, tempting one to look in the corners.

After lunch on a small beach just inside the Whanagamumu entrance, we paddled off shore straight to Home Point, north of Bland Bay. It seemed we were travelling slowly over the last few days, so we stepped up a gear along this stretch. Apparently we weren't getting any assistance from the East Auckland Current, flowing south-east. There weren't any features straight ahead to transit off and after checking the GPS halfway across, found ourselves being pushed into the bay by a slight easterly sea breeze. We enjoyed the brilliant rock gardening past

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Home Point, particularly the maze of pathways around Karakahuarua Pt. Bland Bay looked ... bland ... so we continued on around Whangaruru North Head to the DoC camp at Puriri Bay, expecting it to be a quieter spot but we were lucky to find a site right by the water. Got cleaned up, pitched the tent – found the camera in the corner!

March 1st

Wally was keen to replenish his bread and veg supply, so we paddled over Whangaruru Harbour to the shop at Oakura. On the way a British couple on a double sit-on kayak offered us one of the many kawhai they caught since early dawn. They were quite intrigued with our trip; Debbie keen on a coastal kayaking trip back in England. On shore, I was satisfied with my steak 'n' cheese pie as warm up for the break-out in slight surf.

We cruised the headlands along to Helena Bay, keen to check out Alexander Abromov's \$50M resort, tucked in Otara Bay. Very pleasing to see it fit well into the environment – unlike the three storey 'termite mound' eyesore dug into the hill at Te Mimiha Bay.

On to Mimiwhangata, bay of beaches. This would be my favourite spot along all this coast, and have paddled here many times in the past with the 'Albatribes' (a group of *Albatross* owners). We stopped for lunch at Kaituna Bay, cooked the fish, and swam in the tropical waters. Over two hours later we were ready to leave.



Cruising past the islands of Otamure Bay, and the surf beaches of Barron's Farm, we sought a quieter sheltered spot on the inside of Motutara Pt for the night. The channel sweeps right into the beach, and the standing waves over the bar are entertaining during ebb tide.

March 2nd

The quiet spell is over and we now expect 15kn NE winds – great! On the water at 8:30am – our earliest start. It was good to have some assistance paddling across Sandy Bay. We made quick work of the Tutukaka coast from Matapouri Bay, although it was quite choppy from this point.

Lunch at Tutukaka marina, hoping to find an ice cream but there are no shops here. We kept getting pipped for the picnic table, so had to have lunch on the rocks. It was entertaining watching a couple of horses being taken for a swim – one enjoying the water, the other clearly not. Wally met by chance some Waiheke yachties that they each mutually knew of.

Time and wind was on our side. We left Tutukaka at 12:30 and arrived at Parau, 11km away, by 2pm. The sea was getting messy around the coast so we headed up the Taiharuru River for shelter. There was a lovely flat green in someone's back yard where others were staying, but the owners weren't home so we couldn't get permission. Ken and Trevor previously mentioned a lovely cove south of Tauharuru Head, so we went out and around again in search of that. There was a huge steep swell running down the Orehauwai Channel just around the Head, which was rather hair raising!

We peeked in every likely cove until we came across a very sheltered and well protected cove on the northern headland of Awaroa Bay, if only we could get in! There was a way through the turmoil, coming in at an angle. Once inside we were safe, and there was a great flat area beside a bach, protected by electric fence. Scouting up the hill, we saw the cattle in a far paddock – and they saw us too! Half an hour later they had arrived to view the visitors in the 'human enclosure'.



March 3rd

The winds persisted overnight so there was a bigger swell at the gate this morning. There was a more direct route out on the other side of the cove, although we had to time our exit well. The sea was big but manageable away from the coast. We found what must be Ken's cove next after Awaroa Bay – very sheltered with no obstacles, and evidently popular with little room left at the inn!

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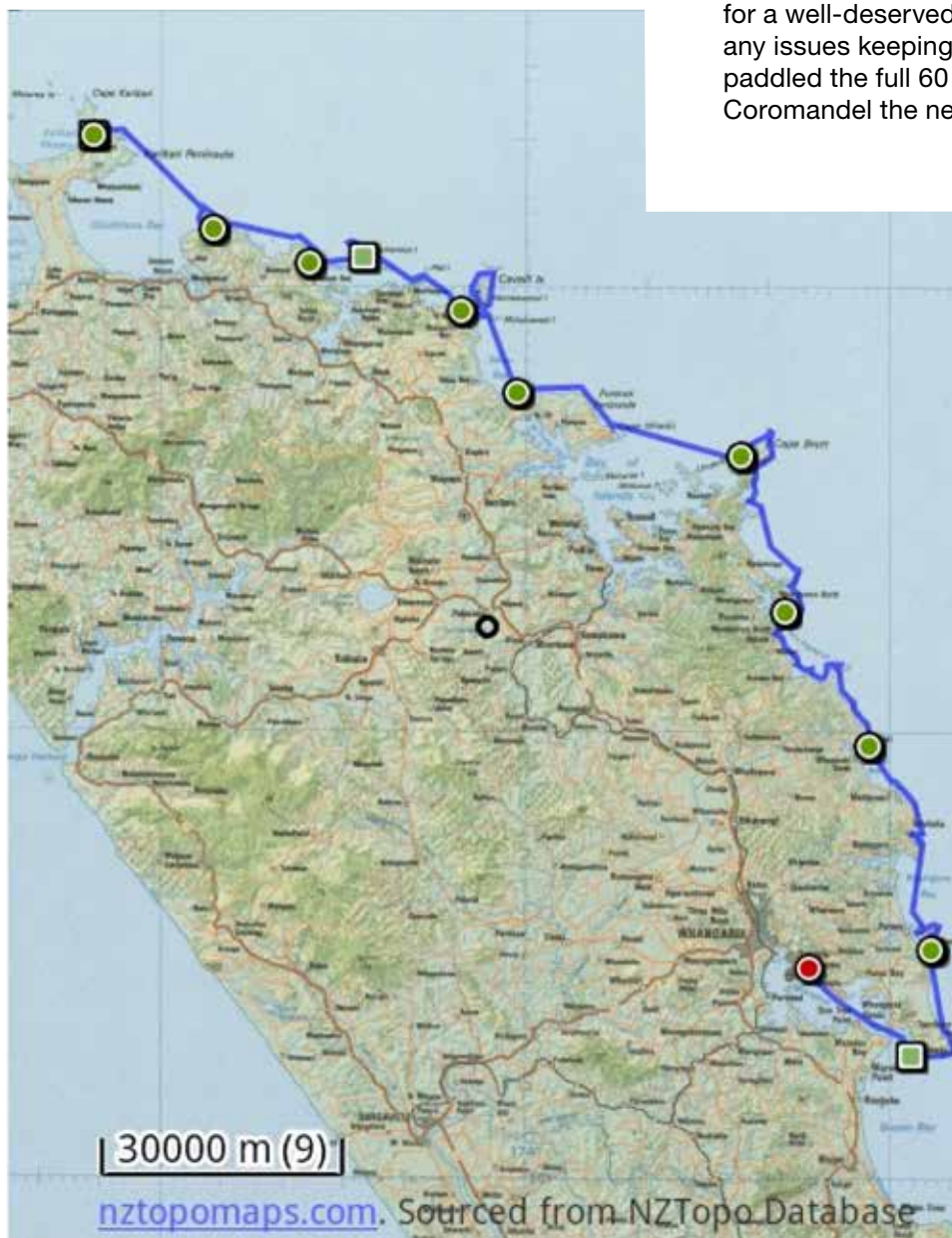
Matai Bay to Whangarei, Summer 2015

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With a 2m swell behind us and beamon easterly, it was a bumpy trip outside Ocean Beach to Bream Head. The water was very messy at the point, but a lovely crystal blue colour. After rounding the point and heading west, we just had a clean swell and fresh wind behind us – we had so much fun surfing the swell, we overshot Peach Cove as our intended lunch spot. So we ended up on a small beach between Smugglers and Urquharts Bays, waiting for the full tidal flow to take us into the harbour even faster. I spent the time finding a geocache on Busby Head. It then took us just over 2 hours to paddle the 16km to Ken's place at 5pm.

There was no one home so we packed up and drove back to Auckland that night. Even though I had to peel the contact lenses from my eyeballs for a well-deserved soak in disinfectant, I didn't have any issues keeping them in over the trip. Wally then paddled the full 60 km from St Heliers back to Coromandel the next day by himself.



Poet's Corner

*It's good to be in Auckland
Now that Autumn's here
Though I'm thankful to be anywhere
At anytime of year
Tawhirimatea is resting
The sea a glassy calm
Goldilocks the sunshine
In all a perfect balm
The evening sun on Rangī
A blessing to the weary
Coming home from work
Of a peaceful Auckland evening
Yes the Autumn time is with us*

*The days are getting shorter
But the real compensation
Is being on the water
Where our worldly cares
Just dissipate
Like sunbeams
In the waves
I am hoping by the next N.L
When this poem gets delivered
The optimistic forgoing
Will indeed be true.*

Mike Randall

FOR SALE

CURRENT DESIGNS STORM SEA KAYAK

Originally owned by Auckland Canoe Club
now owned by Neil Heilemann.

It is currently stored at the
Auckland Canoe Club locker, Okahu Bay

TO VIEW

contact Gavin Baker on **027 528 5188**

TO BUY

contact neil.heilemann@googlemail.com

\$800.00 ONO

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.

On the waterfront

Roger Lomas

Big tides provide an ideal opportunity for kayakers to explore coastal estuaries. Our early morning group likes to take full advantage of these occasions.

Recently there was a very big 3.7 metre high tide on the Waitemata. This height has it rising into the king tide category. We used it to explore all the little nooks and crannies up around the Point Chevalier, Waterview and Te Atatu area. We were able to venture into the lagoon basin at Waterview and explore some of the many mangrove inlets. As the tide was still rushing in, it became a bit of a challenge when it was time to exit the lagoon. The access channel to the lagoon area was under the bridges of the North-Western motorway causeway. It was a torrent akin to that of a river rapid and we had to work hard in the back eddies to make headway. Further along, we were at the shell-bank islands that fringe the Pollen Island nature reserve. These are a favoured cuppa stop area for our group, and we found a nice one that suited the occasion. Around the peak of this king tide, the group was able to witness the rare sight of the sea breaching the shell-bank barrier and rushing in to flood the mangrove flats beyond.

We are well into autumn now and our AGM is not far away. This will be held on Wednesday the 20th of May at our usual venue, the Marine Rescue Centre. A highlight of this year's event will be the presentation of a couple of new club awards, and also time will be taken to acknowledge and bestow some well-deserved recognition for service from some long serving members. Later, in successive months following the AGM, we will be running our ever popular and informative winter lecture series.

This will be from June through till August. More details about this will be revealed in next month's edition of the newsletter.

We sea kayakers like to feel quite satisfied about the simplicity of our sport. Relative to other boating pleasures, ours doesn't involve too much in the way of pre-launch preparation. Look at all the fuss that the yachties have to endure before they can get under-way. Some of us like to feel quite smug when we watch them. And that's probably the very same sentiments that the new wave of paddle board devotees have about us. Their prep-time is but a mere fraction of ours. Little wonder then, that their sport is booming.

The early morning group is often up around the Viaduct Basin area. We always call in when paddling past. It is an interesting area for us, as we are all keen on things nautical. The all tide landing steps just next to the lifting bridge provide an easy place to come ashore for a cuppa stop. On a recent visit we were sitting back supping and enjoying the ambiance of the area. One of the group took the opportunity to recount a tale about a paddle from a bye-gone era. This was back in the halcyon days of the Americas Cup. It was a summer evening paddle of club members, off up harbour to view the cup activities in the basin. The suggestion was made to land and enjoy a coffee at one of the many waterside cafés. Everyone was keen and trooped ashore. As they trotted up to the café, there was a variety of paddling attire on parade. No-one seemed to mind. That was until it was discovered that the group included a rather scantily clad lad. He preferred to paddle in his jockeys. He was a big lad and the spray skirt didn't quite hide it all. Togs-togs-togs-undies.



Big boys and boats up near the Viaduct Basin.

If you think that our club events calendar is looking a bit under-nourished, then think again. Just remember that there are activities happening on a regular basis right throughout the year. Some aren't always promoted. These include: The Vine House get together which happens at the end of every month. Contact Trevor for a booking. Then there is our coffee cruise, which departs Okahu Bay most weekends for a fix at the local café. Contact Lester or Chris. A small group of retired folk get out and about most Friday mornings. This is either on push-bikes or paddling if the weather is nice. Don't be misled by the age inference here, they clock up massive miles on those bikes.

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Contact Colin. Perhaps the most active group in the club is the early morning group. These members are out every weekend, wet or fine. They paddle on Saturdays, Sundays and sometimes both, so you have to be keen. Contact Roger.

So the advertised trips in the newsletter are only supplementary, and compliment an already busy club events programme. The afore mentioned events are happening every week or every month right throughout the year. The principles named are all club stalwarts and are regular attendees at both the club AGM and the winter lecture series. That would be a good place to meet them if their particular paddling penchant appeals to you. If you can't quite find an activity that suits your desires, then maybe you might like to chip in and arrange one of your own. Many club members do exactly that on an impromptu basis. Our club members are an eager lot and will lend support to any new ventures. If you would like to organise or lead an event, then send details well in advance to Claire for the newsletter. Perhaps you have some good ideas and would like to organise an event. Maybe you don't feel quite confident enough to lead it. Give Philip a call and something could be arranged to assist. The club web-site and e-mail alert system can also be used to promote short notice events. Just follow the prompts on the web-site, or contact Ian or Matt for help.

Our Vine House residents have had a surprise treat for the last couple of months. A gremlin in the on-line booking system for these Auckland Council controlled holiday houses resulted in a temporary move to an equally idyllic location at Wenderholm. Trevor Arthur reported that lodging arrangements are back to normal now, but that it was a pleasant change for a couple of weekends. Our committee meetings have also suffered a similar dilemma. Our usual meeting room at the Marine Rescue Centre has been seconded for temporary storage purposes during a fund raising campaign. The lecture rooms were all busy as well, so we agreed to meet at McDonalds McCafé in Greenlane. And in true Auckland tradition, it was fluffy lattes all round.

Earlier in the month, there was a poignant little moment for me. I had decided to donate my old Barracuda Discovery sea kayak back to its original designer and builder, Gordon Robinson. This was the kayak that started it all for Barracuda over twenty years ago. The Discovery has served me well and clocked up well in excess of forty-five thousand kilometres of paddling pleasure. Back in the earlier years I was paddling it three times a week and logging a regular eighty kilometres. A sleek craft with

a narrow 52 cm beam and a very deep v shaped hull, it was a tad tippy. Once mastered though it proved to be a superb sea kayak that really came into its own in rough water conditions. It was raced regularly in its earlier years and didn't disgrace itself. Not always the fastest kayak, it did however maintain an envious record. No paddler older than its long-time owner ever beat it. Over its twenty year life-span, the Discovery has had three major overhauls at the Barracuda factory. Each time it has emerged with new innovative features. Most of these involved modifications to the rudder system. The kayak was also used to trial the unique Barracuda hatch sealing system. It was a very strong and rugged craft with its alloy keel and chine strips. Built of thin ply-wood and sandwiched with layers of Kevlar and fibreglass, the only down-side was in its weight. I hadn't paddled it for over a year, and had always promised Gordon that its rightful end would be as a display piece. It now resides at the Barracuda Kayaks factory in Silverdale.

Whilst I was up there, I was able to view a steady stream of the new Interface sea kayak models coming off the production line. Six of our early morning group paddlers have already ordered them, and the first few are now in the fleet. The ever inventive master-mind behind the Barracuda success story revealed to me a few new designs that were in the pipe-line. These will be further developments utilizing the ultra-light plastic kayak thermo-forming process that Gordon Robinson has pioneered right here in New Zealand. Good things are happening up in the small Silverdale facility where the Kiwi can do spirit prevails.

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The first barracuda sea kayak and its builder Gordon Robinson on the right. The boat's in pretty good condition and so is the bloke on the left.



A paddling paradise awaits. The lounge room view from the Waitawa holiday house.

If you are looking for somewhere local to lodge, that has good paddling options, then try the new Waitawa Regional Park. Located out past Clevedon and just before Kawakawa Bay, it is all open now. A lovely holiday house perched high a hillside is available for hire. It has commanding views out over Tamaki Strait and the islands beyond. There is a good all tide beach to launch from just down below.

Winter paddling is almost upon us again. Whilst some decide to put their kayaks away and hibernate, others are more active. I find that some of the best paddling is achieved in these cooler months. A little bit of forward planning and appropriate paddling gear will make for a much more pleasant experience. Whilst we are very lucky to be Auckland paddlers and not subjected to unpleasant weather extremes, it can still be a mite nippy some times. Keeping our extremities warm is important. A beanie or skull cap can take care of the top, and dive boots or neoprene socks will look after the other end. Thermal garments like poly-pro or merino will keep the middle area nice and warm. A neoprene spray-skirt as opposed to a light-weight nylon type is a good choice as well. It will provide excellent insulation around the midriff area. Some paddlers like to wear a paddle jacket under their life-jacket, but I would love a dollar for every time that I've seen a group have to heave-to ten minutes after starting, whilst this garment is removed because of over-heating. It's probably good to wear one in windy conditions when the spray is being blown about, or when the group speed is very slow. One essential item that I carry is a pair of paddling pogies.

Up here in Auckland, on some of our dawn starts with the early morning group, there are occasions when they are needed. It might be only once or twice a year, but they are worth their weight in gold when a polar blast from Antarctica arrives. I well remember pre-pogie days on one icy August morning, never again. A good life-jacket is always essential paddling gear, and we keep ours on when we come ashore for a cuppa. This can often be a danger period, as after a good spell of energetic paddling, the body warmth can be lost quite quickly during the rest break. Now is a good time to put that jacket on. Choose carefully for an appropriate rest stop. In winter, it is just plain common sense to find a place that is sheltered from the wind and preferably sunny. We like our cuppa stops to be enjoyable.

Another item that our early morning group is advised to carry, is a dry-bag packed with emergency gear. I suggest the scenario of being caught out and having to spend a cold winter's night on a bleak coast. Pack the dry-bag with the things that you think appropriate. My dry-bag goes on every trip, and I tell them all that I'm not sharing it with anyone. It would be interesting one day to see what the others have in their emergency bags. What would you put in yours?

See you out there. Roger



The early morning group is racing across the harbour before the next squally shower arrives.

AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM



New Member

Renewing

IF YOUR DETAILS HAVE CHANGED PLEASE UPDATE US

Surname: _____ **First Name:** _____

Family Name(s) _____

Address: _____ **Suburb:** _____ **City:** _____

Phone (home): _____ **Mobile:** _____ **Fax:** _____

Phone (work): _____ **Email:** _____

Rate your Experience:

I have completed a basic skills course.

No Experience

Novice (confidently forward and backpaddle, paddle for 30 mins without rest)

Intermediate (able to brace, perform a deep water entry, paddle for at least 2 hours or 25 km)

Advanced (self rescue in all situations, off-shore paddling experience)

Do you own a kayak? **Yes** **No** **If YES list type(s):** _____

Please select the types of kayaking your are most interested in:

Sea kayaking

Touring

Sea kayaking racing

Whitewater

Surf/rodeo/polo

MultiSport

Kayak trips: Are you interested in co-ordinating kayak trips ? **Yes** **No**

To comply with the Privacy Act 1993, please read and complete the form below.

I Agree **I Disagree**

To let the Auckland Canoe Club publish my name, address phone Number or any other information concerning me in the Club Newsletter or to National Canoe Associations. I accept responsibility for correcting this information where applicable.

The Auckland Canoe Club and its officers take no responsibility for any injury any person may suffer, or any damage to equipment, while participating in the Club's kayaking activities. Any Person, who does participate, acts at his or her own risk.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Fees for the year ending 31 March

Member \$30

Family \$35

Life Member

Post to: Auckland Canoe Club, PO Box 9271 Newmarket, Auckland

Total Payment

Cheque

Bank Transfer

Bank: BNZ, Newmarket

Acct: 02-0100-0023453-000

Name: Auckland Canoe Club

Particulars: **Your name & initials**

Code: **Subscription**



If address is incorrect, please return to:
Auckland Canoe Club, P.O. Box 9271, Newmarket, Auckland

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