

May 2015



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2015 Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 20th May – see page 3



Some very familiar Canoe Club faces enjoying a birthday bicycle bash. Mike Randall (far right corner of the table) was amongst friends for a surprise birthday celebration. A belated Happy Birthday Mike from all of us at the club and keep that pleasing poetry pen flowing.

PHOTO KEVIN WOOLCOTT

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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<i>Webmaster</i>	Ian Calhaem	579 0512

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vinehouse@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
newsletter@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
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>

Auckland Canoe Club AGM 2015

Wednesday 20th May

Venue: Lecture Room 1

The Marine Rescue Centre

(next to the downtown heliport on Tamaki Drive)

Meet at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start

Financial members only may vote

A light supper will be available



**Deadline for
Next Newsletter**

15 May 2015

Calm before storm: Manukau Heads, March 14

Colin Quilter

This was a trip that nearly didn't happen. Tropical Cyclone Pam was heading south towards New Zealand, easterly gales were forecast for Sunday, and our trip was planned for Saturday morning. However the immediate forecast was for light easterlies, so we took a chance and went. Seven of us (Matt, Owen, Chris, Helen, Jon, Ryan and me), met at Little Huia, where there is a narrow concrete boat ramp and all-tide launching. We had picked a day with low tide about mid-day, so that the ebb tide would carry us out to the harbour entrance, and the flood tide bring us home; (there are detailed notes about this trip on the club website in the "Guides to kayaking destinations" section).

From Little Huia we crossed the harbour to the southern coast, aiming upstream of our destination to allow for the outgoing tidal current, (like crossing a large and slow-flowing river). On such a calm, sunny morning it was hard to believe that Cyclone Pam was bearing down on us with Vanuatu in ruins and the wind already rising at North Cape. We landed at the sandy cove below South Head and strolled out along the coast, looking for an easy way to scramble up onto the grassy slope above, but recent erosion has scoured away the track which used to lead up the hill to the Signal Station. So we returned to the boats and crossed the harbour to land at Wonga Wonga Bay, tucked in behind Paratutae Island near Whatipu. This corner of the harbour has had a remarkable build-up of sand recently; the boulders which used to cover the shore are completely buried, and you could pull a fleet of kayaks ashore onto smooth sand.



On the beach at Wonga Wonga Bay. The rocky ledge at middle left is the site of the old wharf, where sailing ships used to load kauri logs brought south from Karekare along the coastal railway. Over lunch we speculated about the level of skill required to get a sailing vessel across the bar and alongside this wharf, beset by strong tidal currents.

After a cup of tea on the beach we walked around to the Whatipu car park, then followed the Omanawanui Track to a hilltop which gave splendid views out across the Manukau Bar. I thought that the position of the main channel has changed in recent years, now with a pronounced hook around to the north, but it was hard to be sure. We wandered back down the hill to the boats, and had lunch in the sun.

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Crossing the harbour from Little Huia. Paddlers are (L to R) Chris Dentiith, Jonathon Allen and Owen Sprosen. The calm conditions are typical of an ebb tide; in this part of the harbour with a flood tide the sea always gets a bit lumpy, with or without wind.

Calm before storm: Manukau Heads, March 14

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By now the flood tide was well under way. As we expected, conditions on the water were quite lumpy, particularly close to Wonga Wonga Bay where a strong eddy sweeps across the mouth of the bay, in the opposite direction to the main tidal flow. But we were soon through the rough stuff, and had an easy paddle back to Little Huia following the bush-clad northern coast of the harbour. The easterly wind which I thought might give us a slow trip home never materialized; in fact the only breeze was from the west, a following wind.

So, another pleasant trip in spite of looming bad weather. I suppose there are two things to be learned from it. Firstly, weather forecasting is now so accurate that you can rely on it. If the forecasters predict a short window of fine weather before the storm, then that's what you will get. Secondly, although the Manukau Heads is somewhere we have visited many times before, it never fails to please. Why travel further when we have such a great place on our doorstep? As the Texans say, "When you strike oil, stop drilling."



Seven kayaks ashore at Wonga Wonga Bay, near Whatipu. The bay is named after the steamer "Wonga Wonga" which went to the aid of survivors of the Orpheus sinking in 1863. At the time of the sinking the rocky headland at top left was an island; today it is connected to the mainland with an isthmus of sand, but is still called Paratutae Island. The headland at centre right is Wing Head, named after Captain Thomas Wing who was Pilot and Harbourmaster of the Port of Manukau. His son Edward Wing, the signalman on duty, was unfairly blamed for the loss of the Orpheus.

Browns Island – Motukorea

Peter Sommerhalder



This is probably the most visited spot in the Hauraki Gulf on our day paddles. Members of Auckland Canoe Club have been involved cleaning up the island and assisting DOC with weed control.

The island erupted between 10 000 and 20 000 years ago.

On a visit lately with the Friday Group we noticed a large gap in the north facing cliff, just before turning the corner into Crater Bay. Part of the cliff high above water level has split from the rock face and is held there by the root system of a pohutukawa tree.

How much longer will it stay there?

Poet's Corner

Often have I gardened rocks
Round different bits of coast
Getting through the gap in time
At risk of being toast
But a more gentile sport
With a similar name I'd say
Has grabbed me by the paddle
And added to the play
Some stones laid down on weed mat
With larger ones well spaced
The next requirement driftwood
For this I'm quite well placed
Paddling to a likely beach
I'd spy the perfect shape
To go onto my rock garden
My wee backyard rock scape
So you can just imagine
Each time I walk the shore
The ultimate in driftwood
I'm always searching for
But add to this the other bits
To adorn my rocky plan
A piece of pottery poorly formed

I confess it is my own
A polished wooden pendant
Buffed by sea and sand
Hung round my neck in far off days
The seventies you understand
One curious shape found on a trip
Two double oh four is marked
Memorable for me it is
Sits by some ancient bark
A block of wood of long ago
Band sawed in sometime gone
Bears two memorials of passed loves
Embraced by potted blooms
A bird bath filled with coloured stones
Collected way back then
Every piece a memoir
In this little life of mine
I could say more about the birds
The odds and ends all there
A recent plaque a special bowl
Complete my garden fair.

Mike Randall

On the waterfront

Roger Lomas

Easter was an enjoyable time for those who made the effort and went paddling. Good Friday was once again mayhem on the motorways both North and South from the city. The smart kayakers stayed put. Some went camping at Home Bay. The traditional Coromandel gathering at Wally and Sue's place was a bit quieter than usual. Probably because the regular Auckland contingent were all stuck in their own traffic jam. Maybe they could take a leaf from Wally's book and just paddle there instead. The early morning group lads were eager for action, and managed to be out on the water for three of the holiday mornings with local paddles.

On the Easter Sunday we launched at Waiwera for a dawn patrol up along the northern coast. Just past Wenderholm is the secluded Te Muri Beach Campground, which forms part of the Mahurangi Regional Park. Access to this campground is somewhat restricted, being either by foot or by boat. In the early morning mist, we thought we saw what looked like a circus that had set up camp near the southern end of the beach. We just had to go in for a closer investigation. It turned out to be our mates from the Yakity Yak Kayak Club. They were participating in their big annual Easter base camp. In amongst their mini tent city, they had pitched a couple of very large dome tents for communal use. Now that could be a good idea that might have some merit for us. The first few sleepy heads were only just emerging, so we paddled on.

Later in the morning we were back at Waiwera. After a quick clean-up, it was cuppa time. The grassy bank above the beach was perfect for the occasion. Off out at sea, we noticed the movement of a large flock of Shearwater-type birds. There were thousands of them, and they eventually settled on the water to form a large black raft. Debate immediately started as to what non de plume these birds flew under. A few of the ex-Dunedin boys in the group made mention of their local variety, the Sooty Shearwaters. But the northern naysayers' solemnly shook their heads. The matter was resolved very quickly though with information acquired on one of those ever-present iPhones. It's no fun anymore; those darned things win all the arguments now. They were Fluttering Shearwaters and we even heard a recording of their bird sounds to accompany the plethora of information that the iPhone app was providing. Eventually the phones were turned off, the birds stayed settled in the calm sunny conditions and so did we.

The Paddling Perfection brand of sea kayaks has another new owner now. This makes it the third set of hands that the business has passed through since

the company founder and father of the famous Sea Bear, Ron Augustin relinquished the role. The kayaks are still being made here in New Zealand and rumour has it that manufacturing has been relocated back to the Auckland region. Maybe this will bring the new owners some good karma. A large fleet of Sea Bear kayaks are owned by our own club members. The fact that they remain the kayak of choice for so many is probably testimony to Ron's good original V bottom design.

Tauranga adventure paddler Tim Taylor was back in the news recently. Tim made a name for himself with his epic sea kayak circumnavigation of New Zealand back in 2010-12. Last month Tim was back out at sea, achieving again. He set a new world distance record for an ocean paddle. Tim clocked up a bum numbing 214 kilometres in 24 hours using a racing ski. The record paddle was completed on a course that started in Pilot Bay, at Mount Maunganui. It then went up the coast towards The Coromandel where a turn was made just off Cathedral Cove. This was at the 100 kilometre distance mark. The return leg was extended to add a few more kilometres before a triumphant finish back at Pilot Bay. The previous record was 194 kilometres.

Kayakers paddling out and around Motutapu and Motuihe Islands may have encountered the Ipipiri. She is a big catamaran craft that can accommodate up to sixty guests on mini overnight cruises to these inner Gulf islands. Ipipiri has a few kayaks on-board for guests to use when the anchor is down. These are launched from a special stern plate platform which is lowered into the water. I'm sure that Rona would just love one of these.

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The Ipipiri at anchor with some potential new club members just getting underway.

Our abbreviated club name, ACC may soon need to be changed. Previously we had a popular kayak retailer who perhaps somewhat mischievously managed to ride on the coat tails of our club's name. And then came that Crown entity that is often embroiled in controversy. But, no it is neither of these that may bring about a name change. It is actually another pastime that an ever increasing number of our members are becoming involved in: cycling. It wouldn't be that hard to slip an extra C into our name. Who knows, there may be many benefits down that particular track.

It had been a few of years since the early morning group had launched at Clarks Beach, just out past Kingseat. The weather and tide conditions were all aligned recently, so a trip was scheduled. It's only about an hour's drive out from the city, and easy to find if you've been there before. On our last visit, we almost suffered the indignity of being caught short by a rapidly receding tide. This was because the trip timing had been put out of sync, when we had foolishly waited for a tardy paddler to arrive.

Most of us arrived nice and early this time after a pleasant drive through the ever diminishing countryside. We were astonished by the proliferation of Auckland City's ever expanding housing demands. The countryside is being gobbled up by the developers and endless suburbia is the by-product. Even Clarks Beach, once a sleepy little holiday haven has boomed. It is now hard to find one of those iconic Kiwi Bach type dwellings left amongst all the new builds.

One thing that hasn't changed much out there though is the tide. It has a relentless pattern on the vast shallow mudflats that define this area. It is either rushing in, or rushing out. The early arrivals for our paddle that day were somewhat sceptical of our

prospects for a mud free launch. They could only just discern the sea way off in the distance. It was almost a kilometre away from our narrow sandy beach launch site. The mud flats looked menacing in-between. Most of the lads like to load and prep their kayaks beside their cars. I prefer to carry my empty kayak to a safe place just above where I hope the tide will be at the designated launch time. My previous old kayak was a bit of a heavy brute, so loading it back at the car, only created an extra burden for me to carry. I feel that this is a good habit that I have acquired and fine-tuned after many years of solo paddling. With the tide nearly a kilometre away, predicting that safe place to load was going to be a tricky call. The other lads all eventually assembled their pre-loaded craft next to where I was, and we waited. The tide was still some way out and launch time was rapidly approaching. Some were still sceptical. I could almost hear the tall poppy scythe that hovers over most tight knit paddling groups being sharpened. I was getting ready to cop some good old fashioned mocking for which I was probably long overdue. They say that time and tide wait for no man, but instead, I waited and the tide came to me. The water was lapping at my kayaks bow, bang on our designated departure time, and there would be no muddy memories. Sorry lads, my mana lives for another day.

There was a lesson to be learned from watching the speed with which the tide came rushing in. I felt that it was more applicable to the outgoing tide scenario. Who wants to be left stranded in the mud half a kilometre or more offshore?

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Clarks Beach mudflats when the early morning kayakers arrived.



Clarks Beach at launch time, and it's still very shallow just offshore.

On the waterfront

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*It's all ashore for a cuppa at Seagrove.
The shell banks and birds are just off to the right.*

The weather was kind to us that day and we enjoyed our paddle out along the coast to Seagrove. This was the site of a former WW2 era airstrip. Farmland has now engulfed the area, but signs of its former function are still evident if you know where to look. We however had eyes for a different type of flyer that day. Just before the Seagrove airfield site, there is a cluster of small shell bank islands. They were well populated with the usual suspects that one would expect to find in a mud flat region. Most seemed oblivious to our presence. It was only the Royal Spoonbills that took flight and that was just to move around to the far end of the island. All we needed now, as we drifted along observing, was the hushed commentary of David Attenborough. It was soon time to go ashore for a cuppa on the nearby coast. We sat next to a clump of toetoe whose flower plumes were waving in the gentle breeze.

Away in the distance, we watched aircraft arrivals and at the big Mangere Airport. In this remote rural paddling paradise, we enjoyed the cheerful banter of the group. Out on the shell banks just offshore, we could see the Spoonbills waiting for the tide to depart. Somehow they reminded us not to linger. We made very sure that we were back at Clarks Beach, with more than ample time to spare. A couple of the lads lingered on to enjoy an extra-long post paddle cuppa. This time, it was quite pleasant watching the tide suck the mud flats dry.

Occasionally there are opportunities for new paddlers to join the early morning group. A reasonable level of fitness and skill is required. The group size is kept compact for logistical and safety reasons. Interesting paddles are organised for every weekend right throughout the year. There is one other pre requisite, and that is a high degree of commitment. If you think this is all a bit harsh, then try and see it from a regular paddler's point of view. This is a team event. We all turn up knowing the others will be there, even when it's cold, dark, wet and windy. I'm more than happy to talk with anyone who is interested.

Next month, on Wednesday the 17th of June, our Winter Lecture Series will get under way. Colin will be along to entertain us for the first show. This year we have been allocated a slightly bigger lecture room to cater for demand. Our lecture programme for this winter will feature more all-encompassing eclectic affairs that will show-case the adventures and talents of our very own club members. Read the promo for the June show on page 10 and "roll up-roll up".

See you out there,

Roger.

The Auckland Canoe Club Winter Lecture Series 2015

Wednesday 17th June

Venue: Lecture Room 1, The Marine Rescue Centre
(next to the downtown heliport on Tamaki Drive)

Meet at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start

All welcome, so bring along family and friends. A light supper will be available and it's all free.

Further shows in the series will be held on successive months through until August. Look out for the upcoming promotions, and remember that they are all being held on the third Wednesday of each month.

If you would like more information, or would like to help, contact Roger on 846 6799.

See page 10 (overleaf) for details on the first lecture.

First Winter Lecture :: June 17th :: Cycle-touring Iceland

Colin Quilter

After giving many winter lectures I've begun to wonder whether folk will get tired of hearing me talk about kayaking (or whether I might get tired of it myself)! To avoid that possibility, here's something different. In 2014 I spent a month cycle-touring in Iceland with my daughter Jenni. For anyone who enjoys volcanoes, glaciers, wild coasts and empty roads, Iceland has much to offer. Of course the climate is a challenge, but after a while we discovered ways of coping with bad weather. Another challenge is the cost of travelling in Iceland, which (even after the economic crash of 2008 which caused the kroner to lose half its value overnight), is higher than in almost any other country.

In this talk I'll explain where we went, how to camp happily for a month in gales, low temperatures and rain; and how to do it at a cost which is affordable.

Disclaimer: there are no kayaks in this talk.

However there are Vikings, pirates, outlaws, murders, rape, pillage, etc. Parental discretion is advised.



That sinking feeling...



HAPPY is the kayaker who, at the end of a long day on the water, finds a shady campsite. He changes out of his salty kayaking clothes and into dry shore clothes. After a cup of tea he plans to stretch out and listen to the evening news.

WELL-INFORMED is the kayaker who carries with him a pocket-sized Sangean radio, and a print-out of the frequencies on which Radio NZ National is broadcast from various regional centres. The digital radio allows the exact frequency to be selected, and the radio is very selective so that even if stations on nearby frequencies are loud, the weak signal which he wants to receive is easily heard.



COMFORTABLE is the kayaker who blows up his "Exped" light-weight inflatable air mattress: half the cost, half the volume and twice as comfortable as the self-inflating mattresses of earlier times. With a sigh of pleasure, he lies back to listen to the news.

SAD is the kayaker who hears the unmistakable hiss of air leaving his inflatable mattress!

SADDER YET is he when a one-centimeter tear in the mattress is discovered.

SADDER AND WISER is he when he looks carefully at the zipper on the back pocket of his light-weight, quick-drying, sweat-wicking, non-staining outdoor trousers and discovers a vicious little spike which is designed to stop the zipper opening accidentally; but which easily penetrates the fabric of the air mattress.



Perhaps you should check that your zipper's not a ripper? Colin Quilter

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**