



August 2015

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Winter Lecture *Rafting on the Colorado River, Grand Canyon, USA.*

See promo on page 10.

PHOTO SUE AND PHILIP NOBLE

Auckland Canoe Club Information

Postal Address

P.O. Box 9271, Newmarket, Auckland

Clubrooms

Marine Rescue Centre, Mechanics Bay

Website

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

Officers

<i>Patron</i>	Ian Calhaem	579 0512
<i>President</i>	Philip Noble	575 3493
<i>Secretary</i>	Rona Patterson	528 1155
<i>Treasurer</i>	Matthew Crozier	817 1984
<i>Trips Advisor</i>	Colin Quilter	360 6271
<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	027 238 1250
<i>Webmaster</i>	Ian Calhaem	579 0512

Email addresses

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trips@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
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merchandise@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
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newsletter@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
webmaster@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz

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

storage@aucklandcanoecub.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 café 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, contact either Lester Miller on 575 5942 or Chris Dentith on 486 5599.

NEW MEMBERS



Welcome

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

Kirsty Weyman
Anne and Nick Taylor/Bowe



Deadline for Next Newsletter

15 August 2015

Poet's Corner

*Well whadaya know it's winter
A time for hunkering down
In the cockpit of your kayak
Ere your beautiful life has flown.*

*You gotta get out there and do it
If you totally know what I mean
In case you wake up in the morning
And find that your being has been.*

*Waddle off down to the library
There are hundreds of books to be read
It's no use you wishing you'd done it
It's quite hard to read when you're dead.*

*There're all those countries to visit
Dozens of lingoes to learn
People to meet and converse with
Not one minute to burn.*

*I really need five hundred years
To do all the things that I want
No profit in playing the age card
No point in saying I can't.*

*Perhaps now's the time for just sitting
Quite still for a moment or three
Reflecting on simply just nothing
And focus on just letting be.*

*That's enough philosophical ramblings
No more of this nonsense with words
Winter in lovely old Auckland
Is a time for us all to applaud.*

*For it sure is a wonderful season
In spite of the cold winds and wet
We gotta climb into that kayak
And be thankful it's not over yet.*

Mike Randall

Notice to Members

The Club Website allows members to be notified of any new events and trips. Users need to register to get these emails, but like any database the information can get out of date.

This has happened with a number of members, who have either changed their email addresses since registering or have set up filters to prevent these emails from being delivered.

The following is a list of emails that have failed to be delivered and have now been removed from the Club database.

returned

aa1sonesterei@hotmail.com
brentt@ihug.co.nz
bruce@somervilles.co.nz
ccatkins@clear.net.nz
chenghocklim@xtra.co.nz
chris.longson@paradise.net.nz
commissa@clear.net.nz
denisrailey@ihug.co.nz
drtwxzs@avtomatyklubnichka.net
elmac@clear.net.nz
fionaheenan@yahoo.com
g.morrison@paradise.net.nz
geoff1@teamcoach.co.nz
glenn1@woosh.co.nz
homut700@hotmail.com
iancalhaem@outlook.com

jace_peel@yahoo.com
jonathon.allen@waitematadhb.govt.nz
jservice@paradise.net.nz
juron@slingshot.co.nz
kayaknsteve@xtra.co.nz
ldthompson@pacbrands.com.au
lj1135@xtra.co.nz
mark.wilson@aut.ac.nz
paul.bradshaw@xtra.co.nz
rankinefamily@xtra.co.nz
s.jordan@ags.school.nz
sg1000nz@gmail.com
shalini@asbcommunitytrust.org.nz
shobap@xtra.co.nz
tofska@orcon.net
Wilma@womenlikemeonline.com

Failed

leowgd123@hotmail.com
cjca@kth.se
d.l.williams@xtra.co.nz
david-ward@clear.net.nz
fruntegiddege@hotmail.com

Please remove

mhoughton11@googlemail.com

On the waterfront

Roger Lomas

Our Auckland waterfront has been subjected to many modifications over the years. Thankfully not all have been detrimental. As kayakers, we have been the beneficiaries to some of the better ones. The re-sanding of the city beaches has pleased many.

Over on the Manukau Harbour there have been improvements too. Hillsborough and Blockhouse Bays spring to mind. Auckland Council is about to unveil its latest coastal enhancement – the Onehunga foreshore reclamation. Costing close to twenty-eight million dollars, it will be the largest reclamation for recreational purposes ever completed in New Zealand. It will be good to us kayakers, both for launching and lunch; it ticks just about all of the boxes with car parks, toilets, beaches and a boat ramp. Perhaps the only thing missing is trees and some shade. Saplings have been planted, so we'll just have to wait.

Just a few paddle strokes further up the harbour, is the old Onehunga wharf. It will soon service the last of its coastal traders. The container ships stopped calling here a couple of years back. Now the only regular traffic are the Holcim cement boats. They too will cease operations when the Westport cement works near Cape Foulwind are closed down.

Entrepreneurial café and restaurant operators are already queuing to stake a claim for prime waterfront positions in the old cargo sheds. Our discerning coffee cruiser kayakers could be in for a treat. Mid-way along the main wharf frontage is a big seaward sloping ramp. It is perfectly positioned for a pod of café craving kayakers to land on.

A small fleet of our early morning kayakers made a reconnoitre visit to the wharf ramp some fifteen years ago. It was a sunny Saturday morning and all was quiet on the shipping front. In fact from our perspective, there was not a solitary soul to be seen. We eased our kayaks up onto the big concrete ramp and set about enjoying morning tea. From nowhere it seemed a big burly Fijian security guard suddenly appeared. Expecting the inevitable move on request, we gulped down our dregs and prepared to depart. Instead he just gave us a big friendly Fijian smile and invited us to stay. He had undoubtedly assessed that we didn't pose much of a threat in our brightly hued polypro and saggy spray skirts. So we all sat in the sun and talked, mainly about kayaks. It soon transpired that he also had done quite a bit of kayaking. He was as a former member of our elite SAS force. Back in his day, they had used big two man folding Klepper type craft for their secretive training manoeuvres. They would think nothing of paddling or sailing them all the way out to Great



This new foreshore development at Onehunga Bay re-instates former recreational opportunities denied when the 1970s era motorway annexed the bay. The new beaches could be a useful destination for day trips up harbour when easterly winds are about.



The old Onehunga wharf once formed a vital link in the Auckland-Wellington passenger service.

Prior to the completion of the main trunk rail line, an overnight passenger ferry plied the coast from Onehunga to New Plymouth. The journey then continued south by rail.

Very soon coastal shipping will cease from here and maybe one day kayakers will be able to 'pull up' at the wharf.

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Barrier Island on a pitch black night. There would certainly have been no all-round visible white lights for those boys.

We had a fun time at last month's winter lecture evening. (Look for the next promo on page 10.) It was another excellent show that kept us all well entertained. At the half time intermission we had a real retro blast from the past, an ice-cream man. A big queue formed to sample the delicious fruity



When it's wild and windy out at sea, we often duck into Hobson Bay. With a good high tide, there are many little adventures to be enjoyed. This one saw us exploring an inner city stream. We snuck up under Brighton Rd and Ayr St, to just below Newmarket Park.

Kayakers can easily access the Orakei Basin via the boat ramp in the reserve. The more adventurous paddlers take the scenic route via Hobson Bay and the Purewa Creek. A small portage is required at the spillway into the basin. Well worth a visit, but be sure to arrive around the top of the tide.



flavours from one of our country's premier boutique brands, New Zealand Natural. Most of us managed to sneak back into the queue for seconds, and reports of a few of committee members indulging in thirds are being investigated. The icy treats were all courtesy of a good deed from fellow club member, Gerard Fagan. He helped kayak assist a long distance harbour swimmer recently. For this he was amply rewarded with a stack of ice-cream gift vouchers. Well done that man and thanks also to Philip and Sue Noble for facilitating with the vending.

During the evening, we also took time to acknowledge exemplary service from two club stalwarts. They were both unable to attend our awards evening at the AGM earlier in the year. Rosemary Gatland was the popular recipient of the inaugural 'Club person of the year award'. This recognised commitment throughout the previous years that has seen Rosemary organising, assisting and attending at a multitude of club events. Rosemary serves as a good role model for future award winners.

The gold paint will be splashing out on the honours board again with Trevor Arthur's name being gilded upon our prestigious life members list. Trevor was recognised for his long involvement with the club which has spanned over twenty-six years. During this time Trevor has been an ever active member both in organising and supporting club activities. He kept a steady hand at the helm during his stint as club president and has continued on as a valued committee member.

It would be great to include some more awards for presentation over the next few years. This would enable us to recognise and perhaps encourage more contributions and efforts from our many members. Back in the club's earlier years, we had a swag-bag full of trophies. These were mostly competition related awards for speed, endurance and skill. We have since taken a new direction with our paddling activities in those eschewing years. The old trophy awards have languished as the club evolved. We are now focused on recreational events and are always looking for new initiatives and people to run them. In a voluntarily run club, this involves time, effort and enterprise. Not exactly appropriate titles for trophy awards, but perhaps we could be inventive and re-brand a few.

Seen in earnest conversation at a recent Winter Lecture gathering were a couple of our club's keener kayak fishers. Not surprisingly, an organised fishing



We set out very early one Saturday hoping to beat the storm that was due to blow through later that morning. We kept cautious, paddling along a lee shore and thoroughly enjoyed the occasion, even if we did get a bit wet on the homeward run.

event has appeared on the club trips calendar recently. Keep an active look-out for further fishing events, particularly if they are being organised by Gary Schroder or Gerard Fagan. They both have an enviable success record in this activity. They are both more than eager to encourage and assist newcomers to the sport. Gary has made many interesting posts on our club website and these give us an insight to his passion for fishing. They chronicle tales of weekends away at idyllic coastal base-camps where fresh pan fried snapper appears to be a regular item on the camp menu. A man of many talents, if the fish aren't biting, Gary has a trick or two in reserve. He can quickly don a mask and flippers and dive in to bag a few with his trusty spear-gun.

The weekend of the 11th and 12th of July will probably be best remembered for its sublime mid-winter weather. Auckland kayakers didn't need to be asked twice to attend to nature's overtures. The sea was just swarming with our colourful craft. There was early morning activity down along the waterfront on both days. Saturday dawned crisp and cool and the early morning team had to deal with a touch of frost. The Westhaven Marina pontoon proved to be a wise option to launch from and we all managed to embark without getting our feet wet. Only just though, as slippery ice on the pontoon nearly saw one impromptu mid-winter dip. Sunday dawned even colder and the dawn patrol was treated to the rare sight of a frost frozen St Heliers beach.

There was quite a bit of muttering and mumbling amongst the ranks as cold fingers fumbled with uncooperative hatch covers. The simpering all but ceased though when someone mentioned the ordeals of that plucky Tara Mulvany.

Her book "A Winters Paddle" chronicles some testing times during her cold South Island circumnavigation. But we were just mere Aucklanders, not made of that stoic stuff from Southland and the groaning and grumbling soon returned. Eventually we pulled on our poggies and paddled away on that fine frosty morning.

We were heading off on our fabulous 'Four islands paddle'. Once around Achilles Point we were able to enjoy the warmth of a spectacular sunrise. We were using the last two hours of the ebb tide to suck us out to the southern end of Motuihe Island and beyond. Foraging gannets near Browns Island and a chubby little blue penguin were some of the delights to be seen along the way. We also spied a fleet of double sea kayaks up on the beach at Motuihe Island. We wondered as to which hardy souls were overnighing out there.

Soon tummies were starting to rumble and morning tea time was near. Just across the channel lies Motutapu Island. At its southern end is Emu Bay with its tall eastward facing cliffs. It is often by-passed by kayakers hurrying out towards Home Bay, just three kilometres further away. The cliffs were trapping a more than generous helping of mid-morning sunshine, and it all looked rather inviting. As we glided into the shallows near the beach, we soon realised that there were others already basking in the bay. There was a series of swift upwellings and darting dark shapes in the water around us as the local stingray colony departed.

With rocks and logs to sit upon, it was a lovely place to linger. We watched the busy Waiheke Island ferry traffic and other boats bustling about in the channel nearby. Soon the tide had turned and there was no longer an excuse for loitering. But then someone found an old football. Eventually we were underway and the incoming tide helped push us along the coast towards Rangitoto Island. On the way we passed a big squad of our mates from the Yakkity Yak kayak group. They were heading out for a picnic lunch at Home Bay.

Soon the flash new Rangitoto Island wharf with its shiny stainless steel railings hove into view. There was already a cluster of sea-kayaks ashore above the landing ramp. We speculated that it might be some of our own club mates over to surmount the

summit. As we approached we could see someone busy manhandling kayaks clear of the small landing ramp in anticipation of our arrival. It turned out to be the evergreen and ever thoughtful Rona Patterson. Her party was busy preparing for the summit climb and there was only time for a quick exchange of greetings.

We finally made it back to St Heliers just before mid-day. The calm sunny conditions which we had enjoyed throughout the morning now looked set to continue. Even though it was now getting very busy back at the bay, we still managed to secure the premium post paddle cuppa stop position. From here we watched as another two big kayak excursion groups landed not long behind us. One of these was the fleet of double sea-kayaks that we had seen out at Motuihe Island earlier. It was one of the Project K programmes in action. They had just completed a two week outdoor adventure. These initiatives set up by Graeme Dingle and a few other good folk back in the mid-nineties, help struggling teenagers to find a better pathway in life. The healthy sea-kayaking life-style certainly seemed to have sorted that lot out. It has probably worked a treat on a few of us older renegades equally as well.

Later in the month we struck a couple of weekends of challenging conditions. Saturday saw strong north-easterlies that tried to give us their best, but we managed to turn them to our advantage. We even taunted them with a good down-wind run. The pelting rain sent to punish us for daring to laugh at the wind, just made our post paddle kayak wash-down superfluous. On Sunday the south-westerly winds

returned and we dodged them too by exploring in and around Hobson Bay.

The following week it was a real pea-soup like fog that amended our plans. Our trip over to the Rangitoto Island lighthouse was replaced with a paddle that was best described as a close inshore grope along the coast. It never ceases to amaze how a fog shrouded voyage along even a familiar coast takes on a special surreal nature. The senses are all heightened to alert and excitement level. We always end up enjoying these murky mist adventures. Probably one of our most memorable kayak fog voyages happened some years ago.

We had launched very early at the old West-End rowing club pontoon in the Westhaven marina. Our intention was to paddle up towards Point Chevalier and beyond if the conditions permitted. Thick fog had engulfed the upper Waitemata and its environs. We navigated our way out past the eerie silent rows of yachts in the marina. By clinging close to the outer sea-wall, we managed to work our way safely up past the harbour bridge. The fog was all enveloping and our sound senses were sharpened in the marginal visibility. Traffic noise from the bridge which was now well behind us, appeared to stay close. We were using the last hour of a big incoming tide to assist us up harbour. It was territory that we had paddled many times before, but in the atmospheric murk, we sensed an element of danger. It was real Boys Own adventure stuff. Occasionally we lost complete visual contact as we cut across some of the small inlets. Staying closer to the coast we paddled under a canopy of giant pohutukawa trees

The long lava rock finger of Meola Reef points out towards the North Shore. Kayakers can take a shortcut through the mangroves of this iconic coastal feature. At the base of the reef is a pleasant harbour-side park. It is hard to believe that it was once a council rubbish dump. That's Pt. Chevalier to the left. The waterway to the right is the mouth of Motions Creek, probably the shortest flowing creek in New Zealand. It starts as the outfall from Western Springs and runs down through Auckland Zoo to the sea, just over two kilometres away. Kayakers can navigate up to near the back of the zoo on a suitable tide.



On the waterfront

Continued from page 8

with ghostly limbs snaking away in the mist. Then the apparition of something dark and sinister loomed ahead. It was just a small boatshed and we all ducked our heads.

Soon we were up near the Meola Reef. This is the outer remnant of a long lava flow that oozed its way down from the Three Kings volcano field. The submersible tip of the reef pokes out over two kilometres into the harbour. It is cloaked with mangroves near its shallow shoreward section. On a big tide there are a few short cut channels through the mangroves. Finding them in the fog was no easy task. The lava rocks in the shallows are all oyster shell encrusted. Woe betides the poor unfortunate who chooses the wrong channel. A reasonably swift tidal stream is always running about here. It is accelerated by the barrier effect that the reef imposes. Running up harbour with a rising tide is less risky. If a stranding occurs, the flood tide will eventually lift you clear. Finding a safe passage on the ebbing tide requires a bit more skill.

Sturdy footwear is advisable for that inevitable mistake. We all managed to safely scrape through both ways and it was a whole lot of fun.

Our return to Westhaven would usually include a visit to tiny Watchman Island just offshore from Herne Bay. But our dead reckoning skills were still smarting from a previous venture and the blanketing fog prevailed. In these conditions we avoid crossing the busy shipping and boating channels. Just driving out to the launch site exposes us to enough motoring madness on the foggy roads. By staying close to the coast and paddling through the shallows and rocky reefs, we know that our bigger boating brethren will be kept well away. We kayakers don't present much of a profile on a radar screen, and in some situations, they don't see us at all. Self-preservation is all important and we perish the thought of becoming the aquatic version of judder bars.

Be seen out there.

Roger

Trips Diary

Sunday 30 August

Morning tea on Puketutu Island

Last time I advertised this trip (18 July), it was cancelled due to a gale strong enough to uproot trees, blow boats off their moorings, etc.

Let's try again on 30 August! Our destination is a sheltered little beach on the northern side of Puketutu Island in the Manukau Harbour, perfect for a cup of tea in the sun.

Meet at the bottom of Endeavour St, Blockhouse Bay, at 9.00am for a 9.15am departure. Bring a thermos etc. It's a 45min paddle each way across the harbour. We'll be back at the cars around noon.

If the weather is windy, I will try to think of an alternative destination in more sheltered waters. Therefore **everyone interested in coming should register in advance with me, Colin Quilter (colin.g.quilter@gmail.com)**. That will allow me to contact everyone on Saturday 29 August, to advertise the new destination. Emailing me does not commit you to coming, it just makes a change of plan much easier.

Sunday 23 August

Motuora Island

We will launch at Sullivans Bay. If the wind is coming from the North or East we can paddle out to Motuora Is and perhaps Moturekareka Island. Then have a tail wind back to Sullivans Bay. If the wind is a strong Southwest then we can explore Mahurangi harbour. Either way we can adjust the distance to suit the conditions and fitness of the paddlers (approx 15 to 20 km).

Meet at 8am. If the weather is unsuitable for this trip, I will try to come up with an alternative trip. Everyone interested in coming should email me in advance (gedfagan@gmail.com). You are not committed to come on the trip. It will make it easier for me to advise you of a change of trip destination.
Gerard Fagan. Mob 0210715917

September Trips Advanced Notice

The following trips are planned for September, see September Newsletter or club website for details.

Sunday 13 September Paddle to Motuihe Island.

Sunday 20 September Paddle to Whitford for lunch.

The Auckland Canoe Club Winter Lecture Series 2015

Wednesday 19th August

Venue: Lecture Room 2, 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.

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

Rafting the Grand Canyon

Sue and Philip Noble

Last year Sue and Philip were fortunate to be in the States and took the opportunity to visit the Grand Canyon and raft the white water of the Colorado River which Philip had kayaked when on his OE back in 1975.

Although kayaking would have been our first preference, time restraints dictated that rafting was the best option and we were able to join a commercial outfit whose organisation and service was excellent.

We then drove along sections of Route 66 and camped for a few days on the South Rim to absorb the wonder of the canyon from above.

The talk will compare the river today to what it was like 40 years ago, the rafting experience, stories from the past, the struggle to prevent the canyon being dammed and camping on the Rim.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sue and Philip

