



## September 2015

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*Almost in the blink of an eye, one of these popped up on the waterfront opposite Vector Arena. It's a new cement silo with a capacity of 30,000 tonnes. Nearby are two rectangular shaped silos. Somehow you get the feeling that the waterfront might need another one of the curved silos to balance things out.*

PHOTO ROGER LOMAS

## 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

patron@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz  
president@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz  
secretary@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz  
treasurer@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz  
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merchandise@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz  
vinehouse@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz  
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 <b>SUBS, STORAGE, HIRE, OTHER</b> (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 ...

**Robert & Wendy Burling-Claridge and Gilbert, Scott & Bethny Camlin/Uptegrove**



## Deadline for Next Newsletter

**15 September 2015**

## KAYAKING PART OF THE WAI-MANU SEA KAYAK TRAIL Waiuku Estuary, Manukau Harbour

Jackie Hillman

The whole trail from Waiuku to Orua Bay is 42 km 2 to 3 day's paddle.

A forecast for a sunny weekend and I found an email from a friend inviting me to join a group of her friends from Alpine Sports Club who had planned a kayaking weekend on the Manukau Harbour – The Wai-Manu sea kayak trail.

The group are all mothers (not sure how I got an invite !!) looking for adventures when they have some family-free time. The understanding is that plans can change at the last minute as family comes first.

Fi who co-ordinated the trip made contact with the Waiuku Information Office who were really helpful, particularly Colin Harrington who offered suggestions of places to explore and stay. He also hires out kayaks and leads guided trips with his company: [www.kayaktrails.co.nz/wetomh](http://www.kayaktrails.co.nz/wetomh)

The original plan was to camp, but the planned area was booked out, so we used backpacker-type accommodation which worked really well.

No camping gear in the kayaks left more room for food and wine!!

We met in a café in Waiuku on a Saturday morning. After coffee and cheese and bacon slices, then after dropping one car at the first night's accommodation, we rendezvoused at our launching spot, Waiuku Botanic Reserve. The gate of the reserve was unlocked by Colin from the Information Centre. Once unloaded we took the cars to the parking spot. A local gym had offered car parking for the weekend providing we parked tidily along the building wall, for the 'princely' rental of 24 Diet Cola cans.

The Manukau Harbour is very tidal, so a check of the tide times is crucial when planning any trip.

Until you pass the point by Clarks Beach the first part of the trail is paddling the Waiuku River. We arranged to launch within 2 hours of high tide. We paddled initially to Waitangi Falls, a small 6 metre waterfall by a small scenic reserve with a swim hole on the east side of the river. It took about 20 minutes.

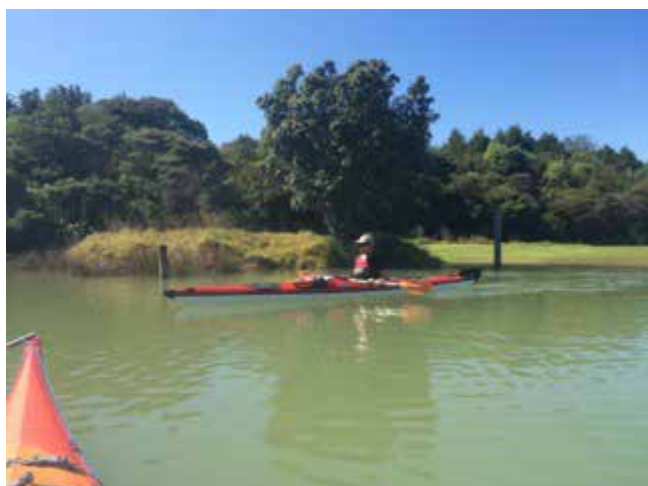
Then we continued up the harbour passing the Glenbrook steel mill on the right, past the Needles where the tidal stream picks up. Around the Needles there can be very strong currents at mid tide and the brochures advise paddling to the west of the Waiuku River. We paddled into the outgoing tidal stream which soon picked up the pace. The outgoing tide produces a few whirlpools and can in a wind-against-tide situation pick up quite a chop with moving water.

For us it was a calm still day and we enjoyed the ride on the outgoing tide .

The first night we stopped at Top Nest, run by a delightful elderly couple, in Greenfield Road off Te Toro Road at Te Toro Point. A delightful eclectic accommodation with water access and a narrow piece of land to pull boats up on. There is a comfortable bunk room (about 6 beds), a small cabin with a double bed and shared bathroom and toilets. The garden is full of quirky sculptures and little rhymes. The water supply is rain water and as we arrived during a long dry spell the water was running low. Hence the water in the bunk room was turned off so we had bottled water to use.

The accommodation is 200 metres distance paddling from an all-tide boat ramp so offers landing at all tides. It would be a about a 1 km walk to tow

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## Wai-Manu Sea Kayak Trail

*Continued from page 4*



boats along the road to reach Top Nest. The tide was rushing out when we arrived and I popped around the headland of Te Toro Point to take a look at the boat ramp. It proved very hard work to return to Top Nest against the out going tide. The fast moving water would have meant a tricky landing on the boat ramp, but the nearby beach and reserve offers an easy landing spot.

We had arrived early afternoon and after a cuppa and a rest we decided to explore the Pollack Café and Gallery. This artist-run gallery was shutting up as we arrived with lights off and the road sign removed. Five girls soon convinced/charmed the artist, so he turned the lights on again as we piled in and started making some purchases. He was a friendly chap and took us on a tour of the small sculpture garden before we headed on our way to find the Awhitu lighthouse.

Here we struck a bit of luck as we had been told it would be closed. When we arrived the gate was open and we were able to explore the lighthouse and take wonderful photos of the sunset over the harbour. On returning to the car we found a couple walking up to the lighthouse a bit puzzled to find us there. We then found the reason for everything being open. They were getting married at the lighthouse the following day and it had been left open for them to check out the venue. A lucky score for us or we could have been locked in the carpark for the night!!

One the way back to Top Nest we took a side trip to Kariotahi Beach on the west coast of the peninsula for a short walk. We arrived just before a sunset. It's a stunning west coast beach. The giant sand dunes are covered with low scrub. On the beach were wind-carved sand carvings. One was an impressive arch that demanded climbing.

A good sleep, then after a relaxing start to the morning we made preparation to depart on the high tide so the outgoing tide would carry us on our way.

We were made to feel guilty leaving as the couple seemed to want us to stay longer. We left with promises we would return another time.

The wind had picked up from the calm day before. It provided a wind-against-tide situation and quite a chop as we neared Clarks Beach. This continued to build as we passed across the current and further up the coast. I was getting quite tired and not all were strong paddlers. I was finding it hard going concentrating on the chaotic waves and paddling against the building wind. It was a lively ride. You soon realize how shallow the harbour gets when you see how the chop picks up. Eventually I gained some distance on the others and decided I needed to take a break so started looking for a landing spot. I spied what looked like a little beach in the distance and headed across. It was before Pollack Wharf. The beach had a nasty surprise for me. Across its entrance was a partially sunken barbed wire fence. A hasty bit of back paddling and a re-lineup for a different approach. I landed and pulled my kayak

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## Wai-Manu Sea Kayak Trail

*Continued from page 5*



There is a large kitchen so we enjoyed a fabulous feast outside on the deck.

I decided I was too tired to paddle another day so I set out to work out how I could hitch a lift back to the car at Te-Toro Point. Awhitu House is near the golf course and it was the night of a black caps test. Here I found a group and asked if anyone was driving south later. It turned out two couples were planning to paddle from Te Toro Point the next day so I arranged to meet them the following morning for a lift.

The sun greeted us the next morning and the wind had settled a bit and would provide a bit of help on the return trip. The plan was to explore further north to check out a possible house to rent further up the coast on a later trip. Then return back to Te Toro Point.

I headed out to meet my lift as the others set off leaving the last person to complete a final house tidy up.

Once I was dropped off at Te Toro Point I headed back to Awhitu to pick up the last paddler and our kayaks.

We then headed to Te Toro to meet the others. We then sorted the final shuttle back to Waiuku and completed a fabulous paddling weekend with a final coffee in Pukekohe before heading home.

### **More information on accommodation:**

#### **Top Nest**

Sleep out with kitchen, alongside a small private beach cottage.

On small beach – kayak accessible, and 200 metres from all-tide boat ramp.

Two bedrooms: one double, one single plus double bunk and two single beds.

\$45 minimum per night 2 persons. Children welcome.

Book with owner Ph 021 414 643

Email [maurenmiles41@gmail.com](mailto:maurenmiles41@gmail.com)

*See map on page 7 ➤*



into some scrub. After a sandwich I looked to see the others also heading my way. With some frantic gesticulating I guided them to the safer landing.

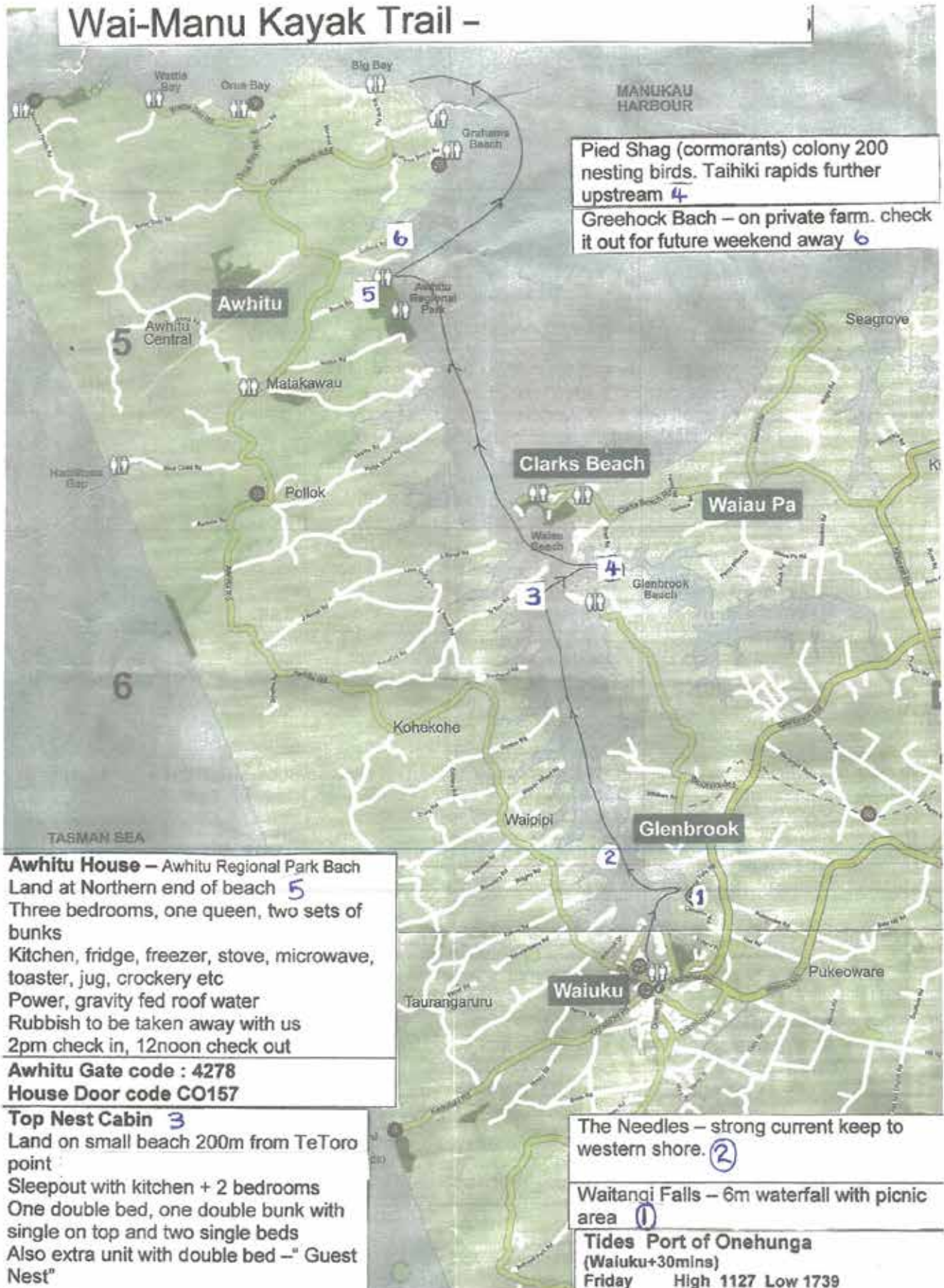
After everyone was rested and a quick check that everyone was fine to carry on, we could see further up the coast near the next headland was clearly quite choppy so would be a lively rounding. The wind had picked up a bit but we headed off again having encouraged one lady who was doubting her ability. In the end we safely rounded and headed up towards Awhitu Regional Park. We passed a few far easier landing spots than the little disappearing beach I had chosen.

Eventually on reaching Awhitu Regional Park we landed at Brooks Beach. Here we followed the path through the bush and shuttled the kayaks on the wheels to Awhitu House, our base for the night. It is an historic house with a large garden lawn and plenty of space to wash off and sort out boats. Also a washing line to hang and dry gear.



# Wai-Manu Sea Kayak Trail Map

Continued from page 6



## Trips and Events Diary

### Sunday 13 September

#### Motuihe Island

Join Philip and Sue for a +/- 20km day's paddle to, and possibly around, this iconic island. We will use the ebb tide to assist us out and the flood tide on our return.

Weather dependant and may be changed to Saturday or another trip to suit the conditions.

Email your interest to **nznobles@gmail.com** so that **Philip** can update you on details and any changes. Emailing does not commit you to coming.

### Sunday 20 September

#### Whitford River

A leisurely 4km paddle from Cockle Bay, Howick, up the Whitford River to the Whitford Cafe for morning tea/coffee or lunch.

Meet at Cockle Bay at 10.00am to leave at 10.30am. Pull up on the lawn of the cafe. Buy something at the Cafe or bring your own. At high tide paddle a short distance further up the river to the Whitford Golf Club, then return with the tide to Cockle Bay arriving approximately 1.00pm. All levels welcome.

Contact **Kevin** or **Karon Sargent 09 536 6308** or email **ksargenz@yahoo.co.nz**

### Sunday 27 September

#### Morning tea on Puketutu Island

Our third attempt at this trip (the two previous ones were abandoned due to bad weather). But it's worth waiting for! 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 26 September, to advertise the new destination.

Emailing me does not commit you to coming, it just makes a change of plan much easier. Those who have already contacted me about earlier attempts at this trip don't need to do so again; I'll assume you are interested and keep you on the mailing list.

### Saturday 3 October

#### A paddle through the harbour.

Take advantage of the 3.4m tide to push us up through the harbour, through Okahu Bay, past the Container Wharf, the Ferry Building, visit the Viaduct Harbour (possible "Cuppa" Stop) then past the Naval Base and around Stanley Point to a quiet beach in Ngataringa Bay for packed lunch. Return with the outgoing tide.

Call **Philip** on **575 3493** to express interest and for further details.

### Sunday 18 October

#### Lunch at the Riverhead Pub

Join John Hotham for this easy tide-assisted 7km paddle up the Inner Harbour to the Riverhead Pub.

Bring your own or enjoy what the Pub has to offer, tell some tall yarns and jokes before returning with the outgoing tide to your car.

Call **John** on **482 1417** for further details including departure point and time.

### Sunday 6th December

#### Year End Picnic and Barbecue

Venue and details to be advised



A couple of weeks back a group of us were basking in a sunny bay having a nostalgic natter about our kayaking backgrounds. It was interesting listening to the different tales of how we each found our various ways into the paddling fraternity. For some of us, it was a struggle to remember. We were delving well back into last century. Well I certainly was it was way back in the 1950s, my primary school days.

Wellington was our family home at the time, but many school holidays were taken down south at my grandfather's place. He lived in the Christchurch port town of Lyttelton. His house had a fine commanding view of the busy harbour. There were ships and boats aplenty to be seen, and it was enough to arouse an interest in a career at sea. But aspiring applicants needed to acquire a few more years of schooling, and be at least double the age of my youthful eagerness. Not one to be put off by such trifling necessities, I soon discovered that there were other ways to 'put to sea'.

Kayaks could be hired on the River Avon. It was just a short suburban train ride away on the other side of the Port Hills. At the Antigua Boatsheds, the kayaks were lined up on the wooden ramp awaiting paddlers. For a small fee, about the price of admission to a movie matinee, a young lad could paddle a kayak for what seemed like all day. My fate was sealed.

With my younger brother in tow, we whiled away the long hot summer holidays on the Avon. They were big beamy craft, and life-jackets were not then in fashion. I can't recall capsizing, but witnessed quite a few. The Avon was only knee deep in most places. Chasing the ducks and exploring up small tributaries were amongst our early exploits. On successive summer holidays we would embark on more expansive expeditions progressing further upstream each time.

Our hard earned efforts were always rewarded with an easy down river run. We would often laze back in the big open cockpits and daydream as we drifted along. This tranquillity would inevitably be rudely interrupted by a deliberate act of aggression. An intentional ramming on the river was always part of the fun with the local lads. It would signal the start of a major navel engagement of epic proportions. We would all end up thoroughly soaked as we laughed and splashed our way back down to the boatsheds.

The Antigua Boatsheds have been an integral part of Christchurch's recreational river scene since they were constructed way back in 1882. I was down visiting Christchurch recently and took time to stroll along the banks of the Avon and reminisce.

Away from all the rubble and re-build, it was pleasing to return to one of my favourite parts of the city. The old green striped wooden boatsheds still looked very much the same as I had always remembered them. Tucked away between the Christchurch Hospital and the Botanic Gardens they had pleasingly escaped the ravages of the earthquake upheaval. A riverside café had replaced the old ice cream and soft drink shop, but little else had changed. The boatsheds were busy going about their business of the last 133 years.

Here in Auckland we have our own version of the Christchurch boatsheds, Fergs Kayaks at Okahu Bay. Kiwi kayaking legend Ian Ferguson, a four time Olympic gold medallist, set up shop here in 1990. The family run business has since evolved to become an Auckland iconic institution. Each summer thousands of Aucklanders make their maiden voyage of discovery in a kayak hired from Fergs.

Ian Ferguson is still very hands on with running the business. He is also a champion for putting a large chunk of his own private time back into the sport. Quietly and without fanfare he has helped countless others to lift their performance to the pinnacle level required to beat the world's best. Fergs coaching influence has been behind all of our nation's recent kayaking successes. It's not just the elite paddlers that have benefited. Most weekends he can still be seen out the back of the shop running junior training clinics. He has even helped a club member or two to sharpen up their paddling technique.

Not long after Fergs had commenced business at Okahu Bay, the Auckland Canoe Club relocated to down there too. We moved into clubrooms upstairs above Fergs shop. It was here that an entrepreneurial young lad started running the winter lecture series. Many interesting and talented speakers climbed the stairs to take centre stage and entertain us there. Who could forget the night that the great Ian Ferguson stood in front of us to tell his story? At a time when the legend could command a fee of thousands on the speaker's circuit, he did it that night for free.

Ian's early pathway to sporting fame was achieved in an era well before sports foundation funding. It required travelling to Europe to stay competitive in kayak competition. Long hours of training, travelling and competing were interspersed with whatever part-time work availed. It was a frugal lifestyle which involved living in the back of an old van. The rest is now history.

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When Ian Ferguson gave his talk, we gained an insight as to the humble character of the man. This was best exemplified with probably one of the most jaw dropping moments of the evening. Someone in the audience asked where he kept his medals on display. We were stunned by his candid reply. They weren't on display; they were stashed away in an old airline shoulder bag at the bottom of his bedroom cupboard.

I felt fortunate that I had asked Ian if he could possibly bring a medal along for the talk. He did just that, and in fact he brought the whole bagful of the precious booty along. It was passed around amongst the spellbound audience. Most were in absolute awe of that magic moment when they held in their hands Olympic gold medals. Quite a few club members could not resist the opportunity to try one on. It was priceless. Thankfully selfies weren't in vogue back then; it could have been a very long night.

Shortly afterwards I also discovered that Ferg didn't even have any video footage of his gold medal race victories. My brother David was working in the newsroom of TVNZ at the time. Their archives had the footage. It didn't take long to have copies made of the medal winning performances. They were presented to Ian as a thank you from the club.

The Auckland Canoe Club couldn't have asked for a better neighbour than Fergs. They have quietly gone about their business without being intrusive to our club. When we have asked for assistance, they have always helped and we are deeply indebted to them in many ways for their generous support. When Ian Ferguson arrived at the bay some twenty-five years ago, he had a vision for its future. He saw the potential to make the bay a paddle sport centre for the Auckland Region.

That small toe-hold that he established at the edge of the bay has attracted many others including our club. The Waka paddlers eventually came over too. Their needs were identical to ours and the Okahu Bay ramp suited us all. We were now occupying prime Auckland waterfront property. The ownership of the area was bit convoluted for a time as it passed between the old Auckland Harbour board which evolved into Ports of Auckland which came under control of The Auckland Regional Council which was absorbed by Auckland Council.

At the same time there was a turf war going on with the previous occupants of the old buildings at the paddler's end of the ramp. Thankfully our club president at the time was able to counter the challenge which nearly had us all being evicted. The strong alliance that we have formed with Fergs and the Waka paddlers has become a bastion of strength.

This has been particularly important when negotiating for our on-going presence in the area.

If there are any further attempts to muscle us out of the bay, we could deploy other tactics. We would look a mighty fearsome lot if we all got out on the water together for a show of strength. I've been told that I present a terrifying sight when I strut around in my saggy polypro paddling gear.

The name of the new Barracuda sea kayak has just been released. The Enigma will be on display in the shops shortly. It is an all new mid-sized sea kayak with more volume and length than the classic Beachcomber model which it will compliment. I haven't had a paddle in one yet but Coast to Coast champion Steve Gurney has. He took the prototype out for sea trials recently and even gave it a demanding down river and white-water rapid test. He gave the new Enigma a very positive endorsement with a big thumbs up for the endurance event.

It was the last weekend of winter and the early morning team were out to give it a good send off. Saturday saw us over on the Manukau Harbour. We were paddling around Puponga Point and felt that we were being watched. Usually our group is out there alone. It's often a big empty harbour and it was rather nice to have some company. About thirty Fur Seal pups were up on the rocks keeping an avid eye on us as we paddled past.

On Sunday rain was forecast and we were on the water nice and early hoping to avoid it. Our six-thirty start worked a treat and we managed to get a good three hours of paddling in before the woeful weather arrived. Back at the Birkenhead Wharf ramp we met a large group of mainly good keen lady paddlers. They were busy getting ready to depart for lunch at Devonport. Just at the critical launch time, a big beastly ferry boat arrived. Its wake wash caused some minor mayhem with a quick dunking or two. Undeterred, they were soon all back on-board and with cheerful chatter, they were off on their way. That group certainly lived up to its name.

For me, it's always interesting when we encounter other kayaking groups. In recent years we have watched another early morning group emerge. We often encounter them and exchange friendly greetings. Just recently, we were converging with this group on a voyage out near the Rangitoto lighthouse. They fired a broadside of rival cheek across our bows as we passed. We have to be careful here to watch our Ps and Qs and mind our manners. This group often has a lady paddler or two in tow. Not to be out done, we now have one too.

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## On the waterfront

*Continued from page 10*

Our motley crew appears to have sharpened up their appearance of late. Many of the group have splashed out on flash new paddling garments. Just recently we were all lined up getting ready to depart. I couldn't help but notice the bright new colourful array of paddling tops on parade. We had vibrant hues of red, black, yellow and blue, so I mocked them in a friendly sort of way. I told them that all we needed now was a green top and they would look like the Wiggles. Well of course it ended up a bit embarrassing for me. Guess what colour my top was.

The early morning group is out every weekend, paddling Saturdays and Sundays, and always in the best places. It is an eclectic group of paddlers who like to paddle on a regular basis. The group size is kept compact for good safety reasons. We don't tolerate much leeway in this area. Occasionally there are opportunities for new paddlers to join the group.

A reasonable level of fitness and skill is required. There is an expectation of regular attendance. This is a team event and we all turn up knowing that others will be there, even when its cold dark wet and windy. If you are interested in giving it a go, then give me a call.

It's time to thank the presenters of the recently concluded winter series. We all had a wonderful time at our cosy heated clubrooms in the Marine Rescue Centre. The weather tried its hardest to make us stay at home on some of the nights, but the hardy stalwarts of the Auckland Canoe Club turned up in force to make the evenings a success. We are extremely grateful and proud to have such wonderful presenters. Thank you all again – Colin, Kevin, Matt, Phillip and Sue.

*See you out there,*

*Roger*

## Poet's Corner

*Here in the land of water  
The Nether of the world  
Not many windmills in our sights  
Or tulips come to that  
Kayaks even fewer  
In this country of the flat  
Terrain where biking  
Is the mode  
Of getting A to B  
On what must be  
The best of cycle lanes  
And numbered routes  
Making up for not a sign  
Of narrow craft  
In which we go to sea*

*Walking along  
Vliet Canal  
From Voorburg to Delft  
I spotted on the bank  
Two canoes upturned and dry  
And at the beach  
Where crowds sun out  
Two paddle boards  
That was it  
An unexpected sight  
A horse drawn barge  
That made this Dutch sojourn  
A treat.*

*Mike Randall*