



February 2016

Club Information	2	
Club Trip/Event Policies	2	On the waterfront.....
Club Banking Details	2	Poet's Corner.....
Kayak Hire	3	February's Trips and Events.....
Regular Events.....	3	Tuesday Night Paddle revival.....



Sea kayaks adding a nautical slant to downtown Oamaru's famous Steampunk exhibition. Two of our early morning kayak team overnighted there recently whilst on a South Island expedition. Note the nifty customised trolley system used with their new kayaks. The wheels stow on special pins on the rear deck, a clever design that keeps it all very compact. Read more about the adventurous duo on page 4. 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

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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 ...

Garry Mabey and the Tripathi Family – Arvind, Shivarn, Sameer and Rama.



Deadline for Next Newsletter

15 February 2016

On the waterfront

Roger Lomas

I don't know about you, but we have enjoyed a feast of paddling over the holiday period. Some of our early morning group managed to get away for a brief holiday or two, but most of us stayed in town. The regular paddling program was maintained right through the Christmas-New Year break. We used Okahu Bay quite a few times for voyages up past the busy port area. On these paddles we always manage to have a bit of a play on the bow waves from the ferries and other large harbour traffic. It requires some serious sprint paddling to catch some of the waves, but it's a good workout. All of this energetic activity certainly helps build up an appetite. When we eventually return to the ramp at Okahu Bay, it's all ashore for a quick wash down and clean-up. Then there's time to relax and put our feet up. It's a great feeling sitting outside the club locker enjoying the post paddle cup of tea. Our fleet of freshly washed sea kayaks glistening in the mid-morning sun as we effortlessly solve all the worlds' woes.

A couple of our early morning team members are currently busy paddling around the South Island. I made a brief mention of Kristine and John in my last column. This was when they took their brand new Barracuda Interface sea kayaks out on a couple of shake down cruises late last year. First it was Auckland to Hohora up North, and then Auckland to Tauranga

via Great Barrier Island. It was all part of warm up preparations for the South Island expedition. Last summer, this adventurous duo paddled the entire length of the North Island's East coast.

Their South Island expedition started on New Year's Day when they launched from Wellington's South coast to cross Cook Strait. They are currently working their way down the Eastern side of the island. One of their first campsites was at Whites Bay near Blenheim. The local DOC ranger informed them that another expedition kayaker had called in to camp there some nine days earlier.

This was Lynn Paterson, aka Red, who set off from Auckland's Takapuna Beach on the 27th of October last year. Red is attempting to paddle around New Zealand in her little Star sea kayak. She has already paddled down along the North Island's East coast. Early one cold winter's morning last year, I bumped into Red whilst she was out on a training paddle. We had a brief waterborne chat before going our separate ways. Red had already been training for some months way back then and certainly looked lean athletic and determined.

Our early morning expedition duo also managed to catch up to Red along the South Canterbury coast.



It's always a pleasant diversion when dolphins come to play. Here Kristine gets a personal escort to assist her on the long haul down the Marlborough coast.

Continued on page 5 ➤



Cape Campbell lighthouse provided a welcome beacon to lure the hungry expedition kayakers ashore for a lunch break. El Nino weather patterns are making for testing paddling conditions.

This was when they put in a massive ninety kilometre day in an effort to get to Oamaru before a predicted nasty weather change. So far their paddling progress has been stymied by frequent spells of unfavourable weather. They have been patiently working their way down the coast as the narrow weather windows permit. There have been many days so far when conditions have curtailed paddling. I will file another report on their progress in the next newsletter.

It's certainly a sign of the times. Paddling around the Auckland area for the last twenty-seven years or so, I have observed many changes on the kayaking scene. In recent years I have noticed a marked decline in numbers of sea kayakers out on the water. Back in the early years, sea kayakers were few and far between. If one was sighted whilst out paddling, it was quite common to deviate way across to the other side of the harbour to exchange greetings. It was a great way of networking with fellow paddlers. When sea kayaking started to boom in the early nineties I decided to join a club. It was becoming too much of a hassle in trying to communicate with all the new kayakers out at sea. A friendly wave from afar had to suffice. Now the wheel has nearly turned the full circle. With numbers joining our ranks slowing and many enthusiasts being less active, sightings at sea are becoming a rarity again. The deviations for friendly greetings might soon be back in vogue.

There were three main Auckland paddling clubs that catered for sea kayakers back in those early boom years. The good old Auckland Canoe Club, which has been involved with kayaking since way back in 1954, became the biggest. Over time the other two clubs have all but expired. One became defunct when its original organiser pulled the pin and the other has just dwindled away with an aging membership and a lack of new members. Another sea kayak focused group was formed around a new kayak retail chain that emerged in the late-nineties. It is still

active and survives on a stream of new recruits via its retail supporter. In recent years many other new paddle sports have arrived. Their proliferation and presence is easy to spot.

I've always felt that sea kayak clubs are the aquatic version of the old tramping clubs. There are so many similarities in our activities, and much of our outdoor equipment is complimentary. In earlier years when promoting our club I would use this comparison to our good advantage. My promotional banter suggested that we were the sea-going version of tramping. The big difference was that we travelled twice as far, could carry twice as much and did it all sitting down. It proved to be a very effective promotion for a while. We still attract new members, but it is significant that they are almost exclusively from the forty-plus age bracket.

The tramping clubs have lost a lot of their former significance since their popular heydays in the fifties and sixties. They lost out to changing times too. Energetic young people looking for adventure in the outdoors became involved in endurance running and multi-sport type clubs. But hardy old souls are still out there, roaming the hills with their rucksacks and packs. They, like most of us sea kayakers know that the secret to the great outdoors involves taking time to enjoy it all. Be it a stop for a cuppa or a camp, it's all part of enhancing the outdoor experience. That's something that the ski paddlers and the SUPs are missing out on.

There is no need to press the panic button yet. Sufficient recruitment numbers will still sustain us. We could however focus on refining the things that we do well, taking them to a higher level. This could only have positive benefits for us all. We can also console ourselves with the knowledge that all those fit young multi-sport and racing ski types will get old

Continued on page 6 ➤

and worn out one day. Then they will probably find their way into clubs like ours to discover the true delights of sea kayaking. So even if our recruitment is bereft of the youngsters, we need to remain staunch and uphold the sport. Our club will long remain a bastion for salty sea kayakers, even if we are all old fossils.

Our early morning group sometimes encounter the rowing skiff teams out training on the upper harbour. They only venture out when sea conditions permit. Most of the time though they are busy training on the sheltered mangrove fringed waterways up near their clubhouses. These are located up the Whau and Henderson Creeks. Most of the skiffs are multi crew craft. I have yet to see one of these skiffs out rowing with a crew member missing. It just doesn't happen. A tardy team member would not be tolerated. We have a slightly similar system with our early morning group. We like to think of it as a team. We all turn up knowing that others will be there, even when conditions look challenging. We have a very good knack for knowing just the right place to paddle in these situations. A paddle rarely if ever gets cancelled. I can only recall two occasions when paddles have been postponed in the last twenty-five years. One was during a tsunami alert and the other was when it proved too dangerous for driving with a kayak atop the car.

That day it was extremely wild weather and some of us had made it part of the way down to our launch site, in the sheltered Waikato wetlands. I was at the vanguard of the group probably about an hour ahead

of the others. Whilst crossing the high spans of the Mangere Bridge, my vehicle was subjected to severe wind buffeting. Mindful of the fact that others were coming from the North Shore and would soon need to cross the Auckland Harbour Bridge, I postponed the paddle.

So we are out on the water every weekend, just like the dedicated rowing teams. Usually we paddle on Saturday, sometimes on Sunday and quite often on both. If anyone is keen to join our energetic group they are welcome, but be mindful of the attendance requirements. It has a positive aspect in that it provides a regular fitness workout, greatly improves your paddling skills and puts you out on the water with some of the best paddlers in the club. We all enjoy the camaraderie that is created within a tight knit group. If you are keen to give it a go, contact me.

When the Auckland Council upgraded the beach and foreshore facilities at Judges Bay some years ago, they anchored three small floating platforms just offshore for the swimmers. These have proved immensely popular over summer especially with the kids. This popularity has spread and we have now noticed swimming platforms appearing at many of our other beaches. Kayakers have got in on the action too and paddlers have been spotted using them as a picnic platform with their craft tethered alongside. This summer there is one anchored in Okahu Bay, just the spot for novice coffee cruisers.

Our club website has been constantly expanding. It is viewed by many thousands each year and has proved to be a very effective recruiting tool. It pulls in most of our new members. Regular postings and contributions by our members over the years have built up the site. It now contains a vast knowledge bank of useful kayaking information. If you probe around a bit, you will find an excellent selection of well researched coastal information articles. Our old club newsletters have been progressively archived in a folder on the site. More are being added as they come to hand. So far we have managed to scan old newsletters from right back into the nineties. These have proved to be a valuable source of information, with many trip reports now available to peruse online. If you have any old newsletters that have not appeared in our archived section, please contact our webmaster Ian Calhaem and arrangements to include them can be facilitated.



Nosing up around the port on Anniversary Weekend, there were activities and displays aplenty onshore at The Cloud. The steam tug Daldy gave us a friendly toot as it passed by.

Continued on page 7 ➤

There is an old saying amongst serious sea kayakers that says, 'if you haven't fallen out of your kayak lately, you are not trying hard enough.' Some years ago I fell out twice in one day without much effort at all. It was on a trip around the Whangaparaoa Peninsula. We were just east of Gulf Harbour and about half a kilometre offshore when I struck a submerged rock. It was in glassy calm conditions and the remote rock was not making its presence very obvious, lurking less than 200 millimetres below the surface. My kayak has a very deep V shaped hull with an alloy keel protection strip. Hitting the rock at speed left me precariously perched. My frantic back paddling and jostling about only resulted in the inevitable capsize. It was relatively easy to stand atop the little rocky pinnacle and just step back on-board. My paddling companion, who was right beside me at the grounding, was equally oblivious of the submarine rock. He couldn't believe what he saw. He reckoned it was like watching JC walking on water.

An hour or so later we were around the other side of the peninsula. We were making our way towards our destination of Tindalls Beach when the second incident occurred. A couple of us were at the back of the group tracking across the shallows of the large flat rock ledges that are common in this area. The Northern side of the peninsula was exposed to a barely perceptible swell that occasionally made its presence felt. As we skimmed across the shallows a slightly bigger swell rolled in. It reared up and surged across the rock ledge towards us. We desperately

raced for the deeper water just metres away. I was just a fraction too late and the wave smacked into the side of my kayak. In the blink of an eye, I was unceremoniously usurped from my craft. Once again, in less than knee deep water I re-gathered what shards of dignity I had left and remounted my kayak. Thank heavens waterproof cameras weren't too prolific back then.

Falling out of our kayaks would appear to be a rather common occurrence. Many of us do it in quite benign conditions, usually when we are not paying attention. Landing back at the beach would probably be the most common place that we disgrace ourselves. I'd love to have a dollar for every landing incident that I've witnessed. My sea kayak with its very deep V shaped hull requires a little bit of extra effort to launch and land. Over time, I have perfected a good landing routine of my own. It involves running into the beach at right angles. The spray skirt is completely released well away from the shore break and the rudder is also released from its locking cleat, but left down in a trailing position. If there is any sort of sea running then the approach is made on the back of an incoming wave. The aim is to arrive on the back of the surge as it washes up the beach. With the spray skirt released it just requires a very quick leap out of the kayak clutching the paddle with one hand and grabbing the bow line with the other. A short quick haul hoisting the kayak clear of the surge will have you safely out of harm's way.



These lads were all up early on Saturday morning for their regular helping of happiness.

The fact that it was windy and wet didn't deter them at all. This little cove on the Manukau provided temporary shelter for a nice cup of tea before a brisk paddle back on lively seas.

We don't always have idyllic conditions, but we always enjoy the camaraderie of being out with our paddling mates.

Continued on page 8 ➤

On the waterfront

Continued from page 8

Just remember a few key points if you want to try this. Riding in on the back of a wave requires a bit of sprint paddling to get positioned. Once underway and lined up, you will have time to pull the spray skirt clear. Now it is time to get ready for the quick exit, with hands positioned on the cockpit rim either side of the hips, ready to start lifting yourself out. The paddle still firmly grasped on one side pointing bow to stern. One foot should just about be dangling outside the cockpit ready for the leap out just before the bow hits the beach. This technique will work well for most sea kayaks. It won't work for those wretched kayaks that have very small cockpit openings that you have to shoe horn yourself into. It's a good system, and with a bit of practice will allow you to land in dangerous dumping wave conditions. I have also perfected an efficient launching technique for similar conditions but it requires a lot of practice and

commitment. It would certainly create a lot of laughs if I got it wrong, so I practice it at every launch, just to keep it perfected.

With the warm sunny weather in abundance now, we are all rearing to be out on the water. It's time for a fun competition that everyone can enter. We are looking for the best short summer paddling story and photo. These should be submitted to the newsletter for publication and it will be the editor's choice as to the winner and runner up. Entries will be accepted up until the May newsletter deadline. The competition winners will be announced at our May AGM at the Marine Rescue Centre venue. Some great prizes are up for grabs, so take the camera and start sharpening up those writing skills.

Roger

Poet's Corner

*On a cool Auckland evening
In the middle of this summer
Reading Philip's notes
On how to ride the surf
I took my cup of coffee
And gazing out the window
Dreamed how I might handle
That rolling briny turf.*

*The night was getting older
My coffee getting colder
A face appeared before me
In the darkening of the glass
A grizzled looking visage
Said listen to the old guys
I did just that and listened
To this timely wise advice.*

*You gotta know how to judge 'em
Don't try to fudge 'em
Know when to back away
Know when to roll
You never count your landings
When sitting in the cockpit
Time enough for bragging
When back there on the beach.*

*The night was dragging on
And with nothing on the tele
Memories of paddling
Local beaches long ago
Some waves up north of Warkworth
Came to mind as I recalled them
My first and only endo
Heard these words that we all know.*

*You gotta know when to roll 'em
Know when hold 'em
Know when to make a brace
Know when to lean
You never count your landings
When sitting in the cockpit
Time enough for bragging
When back there on the beach.*

To be sung to the tune of that good ole country song 'The Gambler'. If in doubt check it out on YouTube. Works with chords 'C', 'F' and 'G7'.

Mike Randall

February 2016 – Trips and Events

Sunday 21st February Chelsea Swim Escort (See below)

Master Swim Association 2016 swims and swim escort details

The following are the remaining dates and times for this season. Kayakers need to ensure they are on the water 15 minutes before the start of each event. (If you have any queries please phone Philip or any of the committee members, see phone numbers on page 2 of this newsletter.)

	Event	Date	Swim Start time	High tide
1	Chelsea	21/02/16	6.45 am	7.16 am
2	Rangitoto	10/04/16	7:45 am	9.32 am

Notes

- 1 Chelsea swim runs from Masefield Beach to Chelsea Sugar Refinery. Park your car on Curren Street Extension and wheel your kayak to the beach. Kayakers' briefing at Masefield Beach at 6.30 am.
- 2 The Rangitoto to St Heliers swim starts at Rangitoto Wharf at 7.45am. Briefing will be at 7.15 am on the wharf. Kayakers have two options: to paddle on the morning of the swim to Rangitoto or paddle over on Saturday afternoon and camp on the deck Saturday night. More details nearer the event.

Saturday 27 February Day trip to Moturekareka Island

Meet at Martins Bay at 8am. We will paddle out to Moturekareka Island (4km) and have our first stop for a stretch and a look at the wreck. Then head north to Motuketekete Island and Beehive Island for morning tea. The white sands and blue/green water of Beehive Island are a delight. If you have to get home early, then it's only 5km back to the cars. If you want to paddle up to 20km, then we will head over to South Cove on Kawau Island and maybe have lunch in Farmer Bay. We can explore the western side of Kawau Island or head back to Martins Bay.

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, but it will make it easier for me to advise you of a change of trip destination.

Gerard Fagan, mobile 021 071 5917

Tuesday Night Paddle – Revival of a club classic

Restarting regular Tuesday night paddles out from the club lock up at Okahu Bay departing around 6pm every Tuesday evening. It is a great way to build up fitness and skills in a broad range of conditions.

Destination to be decided on the evening. It depends entirely on the conditions of the night and ability of the paddlers. May be as short as Bean Rock or to any number of other destinations such as Rangitoto,

Browns Island, Takapuna etc. Need basic skills and a reasonable level of fitness. Days are getting shorter so bring a white all round light and/or dolphin torch in case of coming back late.

For more information contact **Steve Davy** phone **021 272 1291** or email stephen.davy@opencountry.co.nz