



## May/June 2016

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### **Torres del Paine – Patagonia**

*Torres del Paine National Park, in Chile's Patagonia region, is known for its soaring mountains, electric-blue icebergs that cleave from glaciers and golden pampas (lowlands) that shelter rare wildlife such as llama-like guanacos and puma. See Winter Lecture promotion on page 4.*

PHOTO IAN CALHAEM

## 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>	Gerard Fagan	021 071 5917
<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	027 221 4671
<i>Vine House</i>	Trevor Arthur	817 7357
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### Email addresses

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[hire@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto:hire@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz)  
(for kayak hire, or any related questions)

[storage@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz](mailto: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 Sullivans Bay. Leave a note on your dashboard reading "Vine House Volunteer" when you park in front of the ranger's house.

Please ring to book a bed, and for detailed directions. **Trevor 817 7357 or Matt 817 1984.**

### Saturday Morning Coffee Cruise

Most Saturday mornings some club members do a short paddle from the club lock up at Okahu Bay.

We set off from the lock up at 9.00, returning by 12.30. The level is fairly easy and you can nearly always hire a club kayak. The route depends on the tide and the weather. We often paddle out to Bean Rock lighthouse and then stop at Kohi Beach for coffee in a local 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.



**Deadline for  
Next Newsletter**

**31 July 2016**

## Auckland Canoe Club Winter Lecture Series 2016

**Wednesday 15 June**

**The Marine Rescue Centre** city end of Tamaki Drive next to the downtown heliport.

**Meet at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start.**

All welcome. A light supper will be available.

**For more information phone Roger Lomas on 027 221 4671**

### A Photographic Adventure to Chile

Most members will know that Ian Calhaem is a Forensic Scientist and uses photography in his work. His photographs have to be accurate and depict an accurate record of the crime scene – how boring!

He recently had the opportunity to join a photographic expedition run by Nikon to learn a different type of photography – artistic creations using a wide variety of lighting conditions, landscapes and wildlife.

Join Ian as he describes the challenges presented to him by the Nikon camera and see whether he learnt from the experience in his travels through Chile.

The challenges included being put in near impossible lighting conditions and trying to obtain usable images.

The locations were Patagonia, Rapa Nui and Atacama – all very different and with their own individual conditions.



*Approaching the Patagonian Ice Fields.*



*A vicuña in the Atacama Desert of Northern Chile.*

## Auckland Canoe Club Winter Lecture Series 2016

**Wednesday 20 July**

**The Marine Rescue Centre** city end of Tamaki Drive next to the downtown heliport.

**Meet at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start.**

All welcome. A light supper will be available.

**For more information phone Roger Lomas on 027 221 4671**

### Coromandel by kayak and bike – Colin Quilter

In the last year I have enjoyed two kayaking trips to the Coromandel Peninsula, and a cycle tour around it. What a great place, and right on our doorstep! Whether paddling or pedaling, the peninsula offers remote coastal scenery as dramatic as any you will find further afield.

In this talk I'll show my favourite spots, suggest places which could be used as a base for future

holidays, and mention local hazards (which are few) and how to avoid them.

**Warning: this presentation contains images of a kayak with a sail, which may be disturbing to some viewers. Those who consider hoisting a sail on a kayak to be sacrilege should prepare to be offended.**



## On the waterfront

Roger Lomas

We have just enjoyed one of the best spells of autumn paddling weather for many a year. It has been an absolute delight to be out on the water these past few months. In networking with other paddling groups within the club, it would appear that it has been smiles all round. Our early morning group has taken full advantage of the Indian summer like conditions, and the regular paddling programme has been well attended.

We were up around the Whangaparaoa Peninsula recently on one of those magic autumn days. Our mission that late April morning was to visit the site of a local shipwreck graveyard. This wreck site lies largely unnoticed off a headland near the Shakespear Regional Park. There are four slowly decomposing hulks in residence here and we were off to pay our respects to them.

There were a couple of launch sites quite handy to the wreck site, but we chose one a little further away. Getting there is most of the fun. In mirror calm like conditions, we headed up towards the eastern end of the peninsula. Making the most of the opportunity, we paddled close in to the coast, at times we were almost upon it. We glided over rock ledges and marvelled at the crystal clarity of the water below. Occasionally this paddling tranquillity would be punctuated with a terse obscenity or two and the graunching of a hull scrape.

Soon we were up near Okoromai Bay. Kayakers usually by-pass this large shallow inlet, but we were here just after the top of the tide, and ventured in. It was exciting to spook a stingray or two as we fanned out to sweep across the sandy shallows. Close to the eastern headland of this bay is the site of the shipwrecks.

It was about morning tea time, so we pulled into the beach just around the point. This is Te Haruhi Bay, also known as Shakespear Bay. The hinterland behind the bay is the Shakespear Regional Park. It was named after the family who farmed the area right up until the early 1970s, when the property was acquired to form the park.

The Shakespear family link to the land can be traced way back into the late 1800s, when they began farming here. They cleared the trees and scrub and worked the land in a variety of enterprises. Pumpkins and melons proved to be good earner. Access for getting the supplies in, and produce out, was by the local coastal shipping service. Eventually the family farm was prosperous enough to warrant the purchase of its own small sailing vessel to tend to this task.

The anchorage for this yacht was exposed to southerly storms, so an old steamship hulk was sought to provide a breakwater for its deep-water mooring. This was back in the 1920s, and over the next twenty years three more old ships were acquired to bolster the breakwater. They were all scuttled off the headland between Okoromai and Te Haruhi Bays.

In the eschewing years, storms and strong tidal flows have dislodged the breakwater hulks from their original positions. Some now lie in deeper water, well below the surface. But kayakers can still call by to view the remains of the SS *Wainui*. Parts of this fine old steamship still stand defiantly above the water.

On our recent visit, we were able to locate the wreck by sighting a rusty old iron spar jutting at a jaunty angle above the waves. We called by again a little later after our cuppa break when the tide had dropped a bit.



*Our first sighting of the Shakespear shipwrecks was this steel spar. It is the only remnant of the seventy-five metre long SS Wainui that remains poking above the surface at high tide.*

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*An hour or so later, the tide has dropped enough for the top of the SS Wainui's old boiler to appear. The hulks of two other old steamships lie submerged immediately adjacent. The fourth and final shipwreck lies away to the left in much deeper water.*

This time the top of an old steam dome was awash. The water was still nice and clear and we could easily discern the large bulk of a boiler lurking just below the surface. Maybe next summer we will organise a return visit, this time taking along the mask and snorkel.

Our AGM was brief and efficient as ever. Philip Noble elected to stand down after two years of sterling service in the Presidential seat. Staunch committee stalwarts will miss Philip's vast repertoire of kayaking tales that kept us all entertained on slow committee evenings. Our newly elected President is Gerard Fagan who is also very well known for spinning a good fishy tale or two. Gerard is no stranger to club officer duties, having served as treasurer some years ago.

We rounded off the evening with a special presentation to Su and Peter Sommerhalder to acknowledge their fifty years of club membership. When I first joined the club, Su was one of the stars of the AGM era when it was decreed, ladies bring a plate please. This time the club supplied the cake and we all gathered to wish them many more years of membership as Su did the honours with the slice.

Many of our kayaking brethren hail from a good tramping background. It was here that we learnt essential survival skills that have gone on to serve us well in our sea going adventures. Those of us who grew up with tramping club backgrounds were able to absorb the good safety ethics that have been fine-tuned over the years within these clubs. When I think about it, we actually served a form of apprenticeship in our early years before progressing

up through the ranks. It was a sound and safe system. Two of the golden rules were: stay on the track, and stay with the group. Some of us had a bit of a chuckle recently in matters pertaining to this.

We were out on a grand circle kayak trip around the upper harbour. Departing from Point Chevalier, we followed the long finger of Meola Reef to cross to the North Shore. It was then up along the coast towards Hobsonville before running home around the western shores via Te Atatu. We stopped for morning tea on a little sand-spit up near Westharbour. On the way back we took a short-cut through a big mangrove forest at the mouth of the Henderson Creek. A long narrow channel weaves its way through this thick bushy aqua-forest. We have been through here before but it was some years ago.

We found the entrance channel to the passage and ventured in. Soon the path of the passage began to narrow. The mangroves had proliferated somewhat since our last visit. The canopy of the forest began closing in all around us, and the tide was rapidly running out. The lead paddler had slowed and was cautiously picking the path forward. An uncomfortable air of anxiety was starting to creep in.

We often explore amongst the mangroves, and have discussed the potential for paddlers to become marooned as the tide drops. It was little wonder then, that when a couple of the lads spied what they thought was a lead out to the open sea, they bolted. The rest of us all stayed together. We persevered on the original passage which eventually opened up and led us out onto the harbour.

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There was no sign of our two wayward wanderers, so we slowly paddled along the edge of the mangroves looking and listening. Soon we heard heavy grunting and scraping noises emanating from within. We also caught a brief glimpse of a couple of orange canoe club caps. We desperately wanted to assist, so we called out some helpful encouragement. We told them about what time the next tide would be back in. That seemed to do the trick. Our bush bashers scampered out festooned with foliage and a couple of sheepish grins. There were a few of extra scrapes and scratches on their ultra-lightweight kayaks which were now just that little bit lighter.

Work is going ahead at a steady pace on further Ports of Auckland expansion. A new four hundred metre long wharf is being constructed along the Devonport facing frontage of the Fergusson Container Terminal. We paddled past recently on a visit to the Viaduct Basin and noticed the increased activity. The tidal torrent can be mighty swift about here and a manned safety boat is always on standby during work hours. The expansion work is only going to further accelerate this flow. It is the narrowest and busiest part of the channel up past the port. Unfortunately for kayakers who like to venture up that way, we will lose that short sheltered stretch of water between the big round mooring dolphin and the rocky eastern tip of the terminal. It was a nice little haven to duck into when fast ferries and giant freighters were bearing down on us.

A big flash powerful water-blaster has been purchased by the club. Its intended purpose is to keep the slippery ramp in front of our club locker clean. It will be stored at Okahu Bay, and regular users of the ramp can do their bit by pitching in to help keep it clean. If the new water blaster sounds a bit daunting to use, then there is always a handy brush and shovel hanging up inside the club locker. A spot of house keeping about here will always be greatly appreciated too.

Many years ago, I organised a regular series of sea kayak races for our club members. These ran over consecutive years from the late 90s. They were scheduled for Saturday mornings down at Okahu Bay with at least a couple of events being run each month. Initially it was just a handful of speedsters who fronted up for the races, but soon the word spread and numbers quickly increased.

The race format was kept simple and a fair handicapping system was employed. Every now and again some novelty events were included. Doubles races, and even mixed doubles events were organised. Our good neighbour Ian Fergusson even participated in a couple of our events. The races were run over a ten kilometre course that weaved its way around the Tamaki Drive waterfront.

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*This is the start of a new wharf frontage being built at the end of the Fergusson Container Terminal. We always paddled close in near the old rock sea-wall when paddling past here, the narrowest part of the harbour. With the port expansion encroaching ever further, life will just get that little bit more challenging.*



After the racing was over, it was all ashore for a quick prize-giving service. This was followed by a big breakfast cooked on the club barbecue. Towards the end of the series, I held a mid-week twilight race. Over fifty club members turned up to enjoy that evening's event, particularly the sunset barbecue. Unfortunately, that ever increasing popularity eventually took its toll. The organisation and management of those events was taking up too much of my time. More importantly, I was missing out on participating. After the fiftieth event, I pulled the pin.

These days I focus on running the early morning paddlers. It's a compact group that contains what would have to be the keenest bunch of paddlers in the club. We often enjoy the opportunity to pick up the pace and extend ourselves. As winter sets in, we will be getting out on the water before sunrise. It can be a mite nippy about then, but a good brisk workout soon warms us up. We still manage to indulge in a bit of sprint racing, usually on the homeward leg, but it's not obligatory. Over the years, I have found that there is a bit of racer in most of us. Just watch any sea kayaker in a following sea.

The early morning group is out paddling the coast every Saturday morning. It's a team event and we all turn up knowing that others will be there. Safety is paramount and we have an enviable record that we wish to maintain. If you feel that you have a bit of racer within you and would like to unleash it, come and join us. It's essentially an opportunity to indulge in good healthy exercise in our own backyard paddling paradise.

We always stop for a well-earned rest with our morning tea break. Out comes the trusty thermos, a packet of biscuits and even some tasty home baking. It's nice to sit back and enjoy the lively banter of a close knit group. Sometimes we lose track of time here, but the tide eventually dictates and we all rush back to our launch site to indulge in more tall tales at the post paddle cuppa.

Our Winter Lecture Club Night series gets underway on Wednesday 15th of June at the club rooms in the Marine Rescue Centre. It's always a popular night's entertainment, and it brings us all together as a club. Before and after the feature event, we get to meet and enjoy the company of our fellow members. It's a great place for new members to become acquainted with some of the regulars, just start talking kayaks. It's that easy.

The main event of the evening is the Winter Lecture. Here we get to showcase the endeavours of our own club adventures. There is always a lot to see and

learn from these inspirational talks and it's a great evening's entertainment. You can invite your friends and family along, it's all free and we even serve a light supper. The first two events are advertised in promotions on pages 4 and 5. Just remember that all of these evenings are on the third Wednesday of June, July and August.

We called into the Viaduct Basin during one of our paddling forays up around the harbour recently. The kayaker friendly landing steps just below the lifting bridge is a fine place to come ashore for a refreshment stop. Even at that early hour of our arrival, there were throngs of others out and about enjoying the waterfront ambiance. We noticed a promotional group handing out information packs for the upcoming World Masters Games.

This prestigious event is being held in Auckland during late April next year. A multitude of sporting disciplines will feature on the games programme. As the name implies, the Masters Games focuses on participants in the 30–35 plus age bracket. For kayakers, there are events aplenty on offer. Quite a few club members are already in training for some of them. There is even an opportunity for recreational type kayakers to enter a long distance race. Within our early morning group there is already considerable interest. A couple of us are keen for the Ocean Ski events and another is signed up for the testing Mountain Bike challenge.

Perhaps it's time to take a good reflective look at ourselves as a club. We have stood the test of time and managed to stay in continuous existence for almost sixty-five years now. There wouldn't be many canoe clubs in New Zealand that could proudly make that statement. During all of those long years, we have led an almost gypsy like existence as we moved around the city with a variety clubrooms and storage facilities.

Many years ago, I dug around and researched our nomadic movements for a small article in our club newsletter. It aroused considerable comment, and the feedback was all positive and helpful. In essence, we had leap-frogged all over the place looking for somewhere comfortable to settle. When I wrote that long ago newsletter article, all the indicators appeared to show that we had finally found somewhere suitable when we established our foothold at Okahu Bay. We have been happily resident there for almost twenty-five years now.

Initially our club kayaks were stored in an old steel shipping container. This was tucked away at the very

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*Okahu Bay has been a home port for the Auckland Canoe Club for almost twenty-five years. Redevelopment plans will see the three waterfront buildings pictured here demolished. That's our club locker building in the middle. Fergs kayak shop is on the left and our old clubrooms used to be on the upper level. The new multi user building will start immediately to the right of Fergs shop and finish close to where the building on the right does. We have been allocated storage space just about where the gap between the middle and right side building is.*

back corner of the old Okahu Bay car park area. Many new club entrants from this era may well remember it for a few nostalgic reasons. Perhaps it was for that long haul, lugging the heavy club hire kayaks down to the distant ramp. Maybe it was the many dramas associated with the security padlock key system that we employed on the steel doors. But who could ever forget the stifling heat generated inside the container during the long hot summer months. Our poor old plastic sea kayaks stored within, were all heat deformed on their storage racks. They ended up with hulls that displayed their own unique permanent wave styles.

Eventually an opportunity arose to move our storage into part of the old rowing club building that we now occupy. We were quick to grab it. All hands pitched in to help transform it into a custom built storage locker. We were so proud of our new acquisition. It boasted a wash down hose and even the luxury of a flickering fluorescent light tube. With our newly refurbished storage locker now right on the ramp, the area became a hive of club kayaking activity.

Our clubrooms back then, were right next-door. This was in a spacious facility that we shared with the Multi-Hull Yacht Club above Fergs Kayak shop. I remember writing at the time that it was about as good as it gets. Since then, we have made one more move necessitated by lease problems.

We currently have club rooms at the Marine Rescue Centre just down the road. Soon however, we will need to consider a move back to Okahu Bay. When the re-development plans for the landing proceed, they are in the Unitary Plan, we have the option to be involved in a new building. This will replace three existing structures. It will contain shared club room facilities for all the paddle sport user groups in the area. Our current club locker building is earmarked for demolition in the re-development plan.

The Auckland Council, which owns the Landing where we currently have our storage facilities, assessed the wants and needs of the various existing user groups some years ago. They meet with our club and asked questions about our storage requirements, paying particular attention to how many club kayaks we stored as opposed to how many private members ones. They also inquired about club membership, our fees and the ease of joining the club. This seemed important to them, presumably to allay concerns about elitism. At the time we had quite a large fleet of club hire craft and our membership and hire fees were, and still are remarkably modest.

This obviously impressed them, because when the proposed plan for storage space for the various user

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## On the waterfront

Continued from page 10

groups was revealed, we had been allocated a more generous amount than we had asked for. We were most probably perceived as being worthy recipients for the occupation of premium Auckland Council controlled waterfront land. This was quite an achievement, because as we all know, there are countless other organisations, particularly those from some very well funded sailing sectors, all vying for what we had been allocated. It was also a small victory for the Auckland kayak paddling community which we have represented and catered to, for the last sixty-five years.

In on-going discussions at committee level, the general consensus has always been that it is important to maintain our footprint and presence at Okahu Bay.

It is an opportunity to occupy prime Auckland waterfront land that enables us to sustain and promote the clubs future. Our allocated position in the new re-development is perfectly placed to do just that. It is strategically positioned right next door to where the new Fergs Kayak shop will operate. Concerns about club recruitment numbers could well diminish.

The Auckland Council officers involved with the redevelopment proposals will soon reveal further details about the tenancy structure. There will be options, and we are in the fortunate financial position to be able to avail ourselves of them. We just need to think carefully now about how we can best utilise our wonderful legacy, the building fund, for the future benefit of Auckland Canoe Club kayakers.

*Roger*

## Poet's Corner

*Now that Winter time is with us  
That time for porridge oats  
To batten down the hatches  
Get out into our boats  
To wrap up in our gear  
Spray deck securely on  
To head out in the Winter wind  
Ere enthusiasm gone  
Welly paddlers would smile at this  
Call that a wind they'd say  
And Southlanders would say the same  
An Auckland gale is our fine day  
OK says me I'll give you that  
You really have a point  
We are extremely fortunate  
To live in this part of the joint  
So many destinations*

*Tea stops along the way  
The occasional wee penguin  
With luck dolphins at play  
So all you paddlers gird your loins  
With whatever against the spray  
Those Treasure Isles await you  
As always seize the day  
And even though a million times  
You've ploughed the same old route  
No paddle stroke is quite the same  
Of this there is no doubt  
But if the weather's really bad  
Have the sense to pike  
Forget the sea and change the plan  
Just get out and ride your bike.*

*Mike Randall*