

July/August 2016

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Recent heavy rain made this waterfall weir in Chelsea Bay a delightful place to visit.

A small stream flows down from the Chatswood Reserve to the duck ponds just above the weir.

Kayakers can easily enjoy this little treat which is tucked in behind the local sugar refinery.

Auckland Canoe Club Information

Postal Address

P.O. Box 9271, Newmarket, Auckland

Clubrooms

Marine Rescue Centre, Mechanics Bay

Website

http://www.aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz

Officers

Patron	Ian Calhaem	579 0512
President	Gerard Fagan	021 071 5917
Secretary	Rona Patterson	528 1155
Treasurer	Matthew Crozier	817 1984
Trips Advisor	Colin Quilter	360 6271
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hire@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz (for kayak hire, or any related questions)

storage@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz (for questions about storing kayaks in the locker)

Club Trip/Event Policies

Visit the Club website for details of safety and other important policies.

Contacting trip/event organiser

You must notify the trip organiser in advance of your intention to go on a trip. Organisers need to know numbers and to be able to contact you if the plan changes.

You must also discuss with the organiser in advance any medical or other conditions (such as your experience and ability) that might affect the progress of the group.

Cancellation

If the weather looks uncertain call the trip co-ordinator.

Club Banking Details

Bank	BNZ
Branch	Newmarket
Account	02-0100-0023453-000
Name	Auckland Canoe Club
Particulars	Your FULL name (Initials are not enough to identify some members with similar names)
Code	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

Daily hire – out am, back pm \$30.00

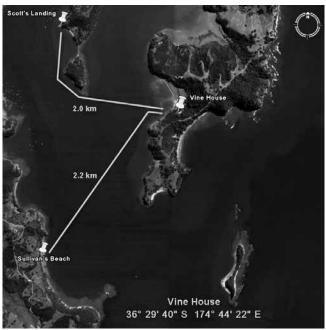
Half day – out am back am

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 Sullivans 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.

NEW MEMBERS



Welcome

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

Jose Family (Kevin, Daniel, Ellen, Nicholas, Trish Brothers); Evgenia & Shalpegin Kholmanskikh.



Deadline for Next Newsletter

30 September 2016

Auckland Canoe Club Winter Lecture Series 2016

Wednesday 17 August

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

Joining the dots... Kristine Van Kuyk

Summer 2016 was an El Nino. Bringing with it unfavourable weather patterns for a South Island coastal paddle.

However, on New Years Day, the paddling duo put their loaded boats in the water in Wellington and headed south anyway.

With an open agenda and no hurry to return, time would tell how far they would get before they decided it was time to pack up and come home.





Poet's Corner

Winter on the Waitemata

Surrounded by

Reflections

Often of the past

The bane or comfort of the old

Other lives inhabited

By those different people

I once was

In foreign realms

Of last Tuesday and beyond

The only hazards

On these calm mid winter

Harbour paddles

Unless a sudden flip

And disappearance of

An Orca's tail

Or some such animal

Close by

Is counted as a hazard

More a joy and wonderment

About its life and motivations

Thinking as I circle widely

To gain another glimpse

Mainly I suspect

A continuing search

For food and comfort

A kindred spirit

No less.

Mike Randall

Roger Lomas

The Birkenhead Wharf ramp was a busy place for paddlers late last month. This popular mid-harbour launch site is a favourite with kayakers when wild winds from the north are about. Our early morning group often enjoys the company of a like-minded North Shore based group when these wind warnings are about. Recently the spacious boat ramp car park was stretched to capacity when a third group of fellow paddlers decided to join us. As with any gathering of sea kayakers getting ready, there was plenty of good humoured banter flying about.

Cruising along the waterfront recently, I spied the familiar lean profile of former club president Philip Noble. He was just about to embark on a training session in his rarely seen racing kayak. The little speedster has been laid up since he bought it as a bargain many years ago. All that was required to get it back on the water again were a few small repairs and some motivation.

Well the motivation finally arrived in the form of the World Masters Games. Auckland will be hosting this mega event in late April next year. The few small repairs were no problem for our Philip's capable skills. He will be deserving of some well-earned accolades if he enters, and we will wish him well. Philip is undoubtedly already a winner with his bargain buy from many years ago. He could also have a valid claim to fame on race day. His bargain buy may well make him the only contestant with a kayak costing less than the rather steep entry fee.

I'm really looking forward to the final of our winter talks later this month. Kristine Van Kuyk, who slipped into our club ranks recently will be along to entertain us. An avid adventure seeking paddler, Kristine has been a quiet achiever. In recent years she has paddled well below the radar clocking up a truly impressive paddling portfolio. Extremely modest about her achievements, Kristine was reluctant at first to appear. Fortunately for us, we have our ways of making people talk.

Another wonderful lady making the news recently is our hard working newsletter editor. Claire O'Connor has moved back to Auckland. Please note the editor's new contact phone number on page 2. Now we can all look forward to catching up with her both on and off the water again. Welcome home Claire.

Back in the early nineties there were a couple of small sea kayak manufactures based in Northland. Challenge Plastics up near Kerikeri produced a colourful selection of sturdy craft. They included the Sea Quest, Sequel and the Breeze. Our club employed these kayaks in its hire fleet for many years and they did their job well. Alec Bell was the proud proprietor and he endeared himself to many in the sea kayak racing community with some generous sponsorship support. The Kerikeri production of these durable plastic sea kayaks, finished almost six years ago. Some of the moulds ended up in Australia where the Sequel begins a new life as the Shrike.

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Probably one of the more interesting launch ramps for Auckland paddlers. This one is at Sulphur Beach next to the northern motorway. Access to this tiny ramp is via a subway near the Stafford Rd off-ramp. The origins of the Sulphur Beach name hark back to the late 1870s. For a brief while, sulphur mined at White Island was transported here in sailing scows to be processed at a nearby works. The original beach lies buried under the motorway, about where the old harbour bridge toll booths once operated.

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The former flying boat ramp at Hobsonville was a welcome sight for these early morning kayakers recently. They were resigned to foregoing that all important morning tea stop as the weather deteriorated. It was a popular call to land and enjoy shelter inside the flash new ferry wharf complex nearby. The local farmers market was also nice and handy for tasty treats.

The other manufacturer was a tiny concern based in the small coastal settlement of Tutukaka. Its origins evolved out of a tourism enterprise taking big sailing trimarans out to the Poor Knights Islands. There was a need for a sea kayak component to compliment this venture, so they built their own. The sea kayaks were called Shearwaters. There was both a single and double version, and they were constructed of wood. The craftsmanship skills were exceptional and the kayaks were noted for their extremely light weight.

The big Shearwater double made a very public debut with a promotional article and photo in a popular outdoor adventure magazine. This caused concern for at least one rival manufacturer. It was probably the photo that caused all the kerfuffle. It showed the proud manufacturer holding the big new two seater high above his head with just one hand. A rival in the trade tried to emulate this attention grabbing publicity with a similar pose. He was using his own much heavier double craft. Unfortunately for him, there was a strong whiff of rodent lingering about this barely believable second stunt. A closer scrutiny of his copycat photo revealed some very fine wires attached to the bow and stern 'assisting.'

The Shearwater story was sadly to be short-lived. The venture struck financial difficulties and the business and all the assets were sold. A few of the single Shearwaters eventually found new homes down in Auckland. Club member Steve Davy is the proud owner of one of these rare wooden wonders.

Over the years I have enjoyed looking at many innovative sea kayak designs. Some of my good friends are at the leading edge in the design and manufacturing of these fine products. I have been privileged to be involved in testing and evaluating many new models. Occasionally one gets to try out a hybrid craft that for marketing reasons will never go into production. Some of these craft were stunning. One that I well remember was a double seater version of the same sea kayak model that I have been paddling for the last twenty or so years.

It was just the designer and I that embarked on that one off proving voyage. We were both more than familiar with the handling characteristics of his unique version of the deep V hull. It had a reputation for superb rough water performance and had already proved itself by twice winning the premier sea kayak race of the era. The hybrid stretched version of that champion craft was almost seven metres long and just over fifty centimetres wide. It looked lethal.

As we pulled out into the deep water channel, a wild westerly wind was blowing down the harbour and a storm was brewing. The conditions were ideal for a true test of this experimental craft. It was a matchless voyage that took us out into the turbulent torrents where the tide races are at their best. It was classic wind against tide. In my trusty single kayak this can be a whole lot of fun. In the hybrid double version, it went to a higher level.

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As with many high performance kayaks, there is only a limited market for that type of craft. Production volumes make all the money. The hybrid prototype, which for want of a better name we will call the Disco Double was later rebuilt back to a single and sold. I had often hoped that one day a production version would miraculously appear, but that was just pure fantasy. It will only ever be ghost paddlers that will take the Disco Double out in another storm.

As an addendum to the above, Mr Barracuda, Gordon Robinson went on to design and produce a very successful bigger beamier version of the Disco Double. It was named the Outbacka. The first craft came off the production line just in time to enter the last ever running of the famous Cavalli Islands Sea kayak race. There was always a strong entry for this testing endurance race. It was the one to win and competitors came from all over the country to try.

The big Barracuda doubles managed to take out the top two positions in their class that day. Our race winning effort also secured a new outright race record. We were rightly pleased with our victory, but often wonder what rule would have been invoked if we had dared to enter the Disco Double. Fellow competitors and rival manufacturers would have rallied in unison to banish the boat, it was that fast.

The Cavalli Classic was run over four consecutive years from 1994 onwards. Shortly after the running of the 96 race, I was sitting with some fellow competitors in the nearby Matauri Bay campground talking about our recent race. We were all Auckland paddlers and had participated in earlier events. I remember making the comment that we should have a race like that in Auckland. Almost in the blink of an eye one of the others said let's do it, and we did.

In 1997 we ran the inaugural Gulf buster sea kayak race out and around the far end of Motutapu Island. Our event was a little different in that it involved two days of racing with an overnight island camp half way around the course. We had so much fun running the first event, that we ran another the following year. My fellow Gulf buster race co-organisers were: Grant Stone the Albatross man, who was quick with the endorsement of 'let's do it.' Gordon Robinson who was a two time winner of the famous Cavalli Islands race and mastermind of the Barracuda business. Brendon Smith was the last of our foursome. He ran the fabulous Canvas City outdoor shop on Hobson Street. Around that time, they were all active members of the Auckland Canoe Club. It's been a while since we've all sat down together, perhaps it's time for a twenty year reunion.

Often whilst sitting in the sun outside our club locker at Okahu Bay, my gaze falls upon the Kelly Tarlton's complex on the other side of the bay. This iconic waterfront feature is both a tourist Mecca and a must do for every Auckland toddler. If it wasn't for the untimely death of club stalwart Evan Stubbs and a few other complexities, I could well have been sitting on that other side of the bay.

Evan was at the forefront of an ambitious scheme that would have seen the Auckland Canoe Club take up residence in the real estate that Kelly Tarlton's now occupies. Back then it was an old abandoned sewerage discharge complex. It was surplus to requirements and on offer to us. Our primary focus was in utilising the old brick valve house building for waterfront clubrooms and storage. The massive underground holding tanks below Tamaki Drive were also part of the deal.

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Soon the old Mangere Bridge will be demolished to make way for a new pedestrian and bicycle friendly structure. Kayakers will undoubtedly miss the little challenges that the old spans created. It was a place of swirling eddies, low clearances, and even the risk of danger from crumbling concrete. Some will also sadly lament the loss of a little more of our industrial heritage.

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Some mornings can be magic on the Manukau Harbour, eerie calm and serene. Then the early morning kayakers arrive. Here they are getting under way with a rare glaze of ice upon their decks. That faint glimmer of sunrise will soon put a stop to all the pathetic whingeing.

Our club carried out a comprehensive feasibility study into accepting the offer. For a variety of reasons the venture did not proceed and the visionary Kelly Tarlton moved in. The memory of Evan Stubbs is maintained within the club by a superb memorial award trophy.

Spring is just a few weeks away. It's time to start shaping up for summer. This should be a relatively easy task for most of us. As Auckland paddlers we are just spoilt rotten with almost unlimited paddling opportunities. Assisting this is our unique to New Zealand geographical location. We are the only city that can boast both east and west coast tide zones. We also have two large sheltered harbours almost right at our doorsteps, and then there are the islands.

The club winter lecture series has been a popular place these last few months. We have all enjoyed the chance to catch up with club mates and meet new members. It's also a great place to start networking with fellow paddlers trying to glean important information about upcoming summer adventures. Just remember, if you don't ask, you may never get to go. Don't be deterred if none appear to be in the offing, just take the initiative and launch one of your own. We have a club bulging with willing eager participants. The club night at the winter lecture series is the perfect place to chance your arm at either of these endeavours.

Of course the main event of the evening is the Winter Lecture (see promo on page 4). These inspirational talks are often the catalyst for future events. Question time, near the conclusion of these talks is a valuable interactive opportunity. Our presenters have all made a wonderful effort in preparing for these lectures and we are extremely grateful for their generous time.

The early morning paddlers voyaged up to the head of navigation on Lucas Creek recently. It's been quite a while since we've ventured up that way. Probably over fifteen years for me, but more surprisingly, it was the first time for half of our eight strong group that mid-July morning. I had probably overdosed on Lucas Creek excursions in earlier years when they appeared to be the mainstay of the club trips calendar. In more recent times, reports of stagnant water and rubbish polluting the upper reaches had deterred us from wanting to explore again.

It was a combination of events that finally persuaded us to take another look. Recent heavy rain should have well and truly flushed away the pollution problems, and the weather warning alarm bells were ringing loud in our ears advising caution out on the water that morning. The headwaters of Lucas Creek suddenly sounded rather attractive.

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With the assistance of a big tide many small coastal streams of no particular significance can be explored. This one was at the head of Huia Bay on the Manukau Harbour. We spent a full morning poking around all the little bays and inlets out that way recently. We thoroughly enjoyed it.

A few things have changed since my last visit, and I have to admit that I thoroughly enjoyed our voyage of re-discovery. I was expecting to see a greater presence of Auckland's urban sprawl to be on display as we cruised upstream. Pleasingly, at least from a kayakers lowly perspective, most of this was obscured by riverside vegetation. Kell Park was our morning tea stop and it was all ashore at the nice new landing steps. That certainly earned a few extra stars on the trip report.

We found sheltered seating near the children's adventure park. This playground features an awesome flying fox and a super steep stainless steel slide. Oh to be a kid again. Well some of the lads just couldn't quite contain themselves and there was much hooting and hollering as they re-lived their youthful years. Some of us just never grow up.

Highpoints from recent outings have included: paddling through the steaming early morning mist on a calm Manukau Harbour morning, enjoying the cosy shelter of the flash new Hobsonville Wharf facilities for

morning tea whilst the wind whistled outside, paddling past the last of the old coasters servicing the port at Onehunga, heading out from Okahu Bay expecting to be lashed by a storm but ending up basking in winter sunshine, exploring the little inlets and creeks on the coast out near Huia. We even had ice on our kayaks one crisp July morning, but it wasn't long before a brilliant sunrise warmed us on our way.

The early morning paddlers are out exploring the coast in their kayaks every weekend. Our Saturday morning excursions are well planned mini expeditions of adventure. For most of us the early start routine suits our lifestyle. Many of us have strong family and work commitments which preclude our involvement in activities which tend to dominate the day. If this paddling programme appeals and you are prepared to be part of a compact team with commitment, then contact me. Remember, if you don't ask, you may never get to go.

Roger

CAMBRIDGE TO HAMILTON PADDLE RACE

This annual event on the Waikato River will be held on Sunday, 18th September.

For all information and entries phone Phoebe on 021 823 131, or email: theboatshed@xtra.co.nz

The Landing Development

Ian Calhaem

I cannot remember how many times I have written in this newsletter over the years telling you about the developments at the Landing. This time I can tell you what is actually about to happen!

Many years ago the City Council held public meetings to gauge what the public wanted, then all the users were consulted, and tentative plans were drawn up. At that time there were two main groups which were identified as the Yachting group and the Paddling group.



The Landing Development

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For a variety of reasons things slowed down as various activities were completed, such as the Marina, but eventually several years ago the project was revitalised and the Greater City Council reviewed the development of the Landing again.

You probably remember the details, but the result of the latest review round was to confirm what had been agreed to so many years before. This was an excellent result as it was possible for the Council to accept the latest recommendations without having to go out again for public consultation.

In summary, the plans that were put into the Unity Plan, were for two separate developments – the Yachting at the Western end of the Landing and the Paddling at the eastern end. This is what the Auckland Canoe Club Committee has been planning for, for so many years.

Whilst we were promoting the development of the eastern end, the Royal Akarana Yacht club were trying to develop the Western end using funds that had been promised by the City Council. These funds were conditional on the RAYC raising an equivalent amount of funding and that did not happen. To save these funds the various yachting groups got together and formed a new entity the Auckland Marine Sports Trust (AMST) which primarily consists of the Royal Akarana Yacht Club and the Sailing Club, plus a few other organisation. The Sailing Club moved from the building next to us to the Western end. The Council then transferred the funding to that new organisation.

So how does that affect us?

It means that the development of the Landing can now commence!

All users had a meeting with the Council this week, and agreed how we could move forward. It was acknowledged that there will be a period of upheaval with possibly a lot of inconvenience but this will be for a limited period of time.

Several things are going to happen starting on the 1st October:

- 1. All the waka are being moved onto the eastern end of the hard stand.
- 2. The Rib in the lockup next to us, plus those housed in the RAYC building will be moved to the Outdoor Boating Club on Tamaki Drive.

- The surf skis currently at RAYC will move into the space vacated by the Rib plus possibly space freed up in Ferg's building.
- 4. Waterwise equipment will be moved under the Sailing Club building and
- The space currently occupied by the Waka will be used for temporary containers to house the equipment from RAYC. This will be two story and connect to the balcony of the existing Sailing Club building.
- The Auckland Canoe Club will remain where they are, but it is acknowledged that the area is going to be a lot more crowded for the next few months.

These arrangement will continue until Feb/Mar 2018 when it is planned for the new AMST building to be completed. At that time the detailed planning for the eastern end will commence.

Two items of concern were raised at the meeting, Toilets and the Condition of the ramp.

- The toilets currently looked after by Ferg's will be upgraded with new larger capacity pipes to the main sewer. New temporary disabled toilets will be considered for outside the Sailing Club building.
- The Ramp is currently cleaned every 6 weeks, but with the addition of many more users in a concentrated area this was felt to be inadequate. It is intended to increase the cleaning to every 3 weeks.

This will be done by the Council using their special low pressure steam equipment as it is not permitted to use a normal water blaster on the ramp as this causes pitting of the concrete and compounds the weed problem.

Ian Calhaem Patron

MAKE A BASE CAMP AT TAIRUA

Jim Mason

Colin's tales of the Coromandel gave us a fascinating evening. For me, they brought back memories of the fifties. As Chair of the Auckland Youth Hostels Association and also the N.Z.C.A. we could run combined bus trips easily filling Bill Shears 33 seater Greenline charter bus. Main activity was building a chain of Canoe Club Cabins / Youth Hostels, around the peninsula.

There was no Kopu-Hikuai Highway in those days and it was a 3 hour trip to Tairua. Few people worked on Saturdays of the 40 hour week and every second Friday night saw us heading for the peninsula.

OPOUTERE was our first challenge. The old school house and school building were set in beautiful gardens on the shore of the Wharekawa Harbour.

WHANGAMATA was next. Phillip Williamson gave us a section and we put up the building.

KUAOTUNU, another old school house North of Whitianga followed.

PURU, with an Auckland tramcar in the camping ground, was our only one on the West coast.

TAIRUA was the missing link in the chain. The old shell lime mill, right on the water's edge, looked ideal but the Cory Wright Estate Trustees would not lease it. However, they said the 150 acre Paku Headland, complete with its 537 ft. high pa site and coastal caves, was for sale! So we formed a company and bought it! The mill had a high tower with hoppers for the lime. We built floors over the hoppers and constructed multiple bunks. It became a very popular destination for weekend trips during the next 10 years.

In 1963 I went to London to marry a young canoeist and make a honeymoon trip down the Danube. We went to the World Canoe Slalom Champs at Spittal on the Drow and visited Hans Klepper's folding canoe factory in Germany. He invited us to stay in his guest house. We then, proudly carrying our 17 ft. Klepper, joined the annual Canoe Federations 70 strong Danube party canoeing across Austria. Not one spoke English and one day, planned as a rest day, we woke up to find the camp deserted. They had camped short! For the rest of the cruise, we joined an Austrian couple who did speak English.

Meanwhile, back in God's Own, the Government had offered substantial subsidies to build city hostels. The YHA National Council decided to drop the Coromandel chain!

North Shore retained the Opoutere Hostel and it is now the most popular country hostel in N.Z. Whangamata was sold, the Kuatunu and Puru leases abandoned.

OHUI, 5 miles north of Opoutere along the surf beach, where the beach reserve pine plantation ends, has road access and good camping. It is however, on a surf beach with no shelter.

HIPPIES BIVVY is a further few miles north. It has two rooms, screened by strung shell curtains, placed beside a reef with plentiful mussels and a delightful stream with good drinking water. It is a rock landing.

STORM BAY is next north, with a beach but no road access.

PAUANUI Headland leads to the beach and TAIRUA HARBOUR with Paku Headland standing guard.

TAIRUA CAMPSITE is just beside the marina with its own beach. It has good road access, sheltered camp sites, and a utility with shower and toilet. If the weather turns rough a caravan may be available for shelter. A sign tells how to contact the caretaker. There is no charge for A.C.C. parties. It makes an ideal base camp.

Colin's guide sheet covers the area North of Tairua.

Good luck with the weather!

Jim Mason

See illustration on page 13 >

MAKE A BASE CAMP AT TAIRUA

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