



**November/  
December 2016**

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*Long distance kayakers Kristine and John are about to depart Mission Bay. They were off on a short shakedown cruise to Tauranga in early November (see John's article on page 4). It's their way of building up for a big summer expedition. Note the nifty storage system that locks the trolley wheels onto the rear deck of their Barracuda Interface sea kayaks.*

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>	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
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Claire O'Connor	214 1769
<i>Webmaster</i>	Ian Calhaem	579 0512

### Email addresses

patron@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz  
president@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz  
secretary@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 similar 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.

### Vine House is available for the following weekends during 2017

Typically Friday afternoon to Monday morning.

February 24–27, March 24–27, April 28–May 01, May 26–29, June 23–26, July 28–29, August 25–28, September 29–October 02, October 27–30, November 24–27 and December 15–18.

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 January 2017**

## John's and Kristine's kayak adventures

### The Coromandel: paddling red days – December 2015 and November 2016

Waves, when close to the shore, are different from those found offshore out on the ocean.

These waves run evenly and with large fetches remain undisturbed by reflections from cliffs that cause clapotis, or a rising sea floor that cause the waves to stand up.

It's these offshore rhythmic waves with long fetches that produce a wave face just perfect for a kayak to sit on.

20 kts of wind produces just the right wave, when SwellMap is red and the forecast sea state is 1 or 2 it's time to go.

It was just such a day when we left Medlands on Great Barrier Island and worked our way along the lee of the southern shore before shifting our attention to Colville Channel

We had crossed Colville Channel from the Coromandel Peninsula two days before landing at Smoke House Bay and after enjoying bathing in the bath, headed around the Needles to Medlands

Now here we were watching the white caps march southwards moving along with the tide, and there was no sign of the great tidal driven standing waves that we had met with before in this area.

Our goal, Mercury Island was but a smudge in the distance and the landing at Onepoto Bay 40kms away.

Hoisting our wee one square metre sails we were off running downwind and soon land was far far away as we surfed these ocean waves.

The boats were riding these waves easily surfing along at 15 km/hr with over 20 occasionally appearing on the GPS.

No free ride here though, always paddling, as to cease would mean a loss of stability and control.

These waves can lift the back of the boat so that the rudder is clear of the water and the risk of broaching

and loss of control is greatly increased. Gordon had fitted our interfaces with skegs to shift the centre of lateral resistance aft. These worked well and we would continue to run straight and true down these waves throwing up clouds of spray. The skegs being further forward than the rudder would generally stay in the water.

Occasionally a wave would break at the stern but these new Interfaces show no vices and are well mannered in the most awful conditions, even when the break would stand them on the nose they would fly off straight and true with spray in all directions.

All too soon we were at our landing at Onepoto Bay. There is a photo by photographer Peter Latham of this bay entitled "Heaven on Earth" an apt description.

This was our first big downwind outing in our Interfaces as we hadn't been able to get out in these conditions on our trip to North Cape. We were well pleased as their hard chine makes them ideal for surfing these ocean waves.

In variable conditions we made our way to Slipper Island and from there the 68 km to Tauranga which we eventually gained in a 20 kt westerly.

This island hopping is a totally different trip down the Coromandel Peninsula. We enjoyed these passages further out from the coast so much we repeated it again this year. Unfortunately the weather precluded a Barrier stop but once again we enjoyed the run from the Coromandel Peninsula to Mercury and Slipper Islands with 20 kts behind us.

The 68 km paddle to Tauranga from Slipper was calmer this year and without the distraction of a rough sea the Mount took forever to grow from a smudge on the horizon until we again entered Tauranga harbour and were safe under the statue of Tangaroa, God of the seas and oceans.

*Kayaker John*

## Poet's Corner

*Wind wind and even more  
On many a fine Spring day  
The curse of the paddling classes  
Kayaker Caffyn would say  
I know you cry what wind  
When it gets a trifle breezy  
Call that a wind you'd mutter  
Paddle on and take it easy  
But wait there's more or rather less  
Now that summer's here  
Those gentle zephyrs in your back  
Part of our Christmas cheer  
A Summer evening paddle*

*Joy to calm the mind  
Forget the world's in turmoil  
To yourself be kind  
And add the fun of camping out  
Simplicity itself  
A night or two is all it takes  
Your worries on the shelf  
I prattle on as is my wont  
But you know what I mean  
To all of you your families  
A Christmas time serene.*

*Mike Randall*

## On the waterfront

Roger Lomas

It's taken a while, but summer is finally here. Club activities have been ramping up over the last couple of months with a noticeable proliferation of paddlers getting out and about on the water again. Early season kayak campers were quick to seize the opportunities in the all too brief lulls between the wild spring weather. Down at Okahu Bay, some of our very keen new members have been busy keeping the club hire fleet on the go.

Our ever reliable editor Claire has done another magnificent job putting the newsletters together this year. She has managed to achieve this under sometimes testing conditions with lots of house moving upheaval going on in the background. Safely domiciled back in Auckland again, we will hopefully see her out and about on the water again soon. It will give us all an opportunity to acknowledge her wonderful contribution. But until then, on behalf of everyone in the club, well done and thank you Claire.

The early morning kayakers have been busy as ever over the last couple of months. Everyone seems to be reasonably happy with the paddling programme. A good variation in the departure points and destinations keeps us keen. The wind has tried its best to dissuade us on a few occasions, but we always seem to manage. Working with the wind is the best strategy and it's not that difficult to sort out.

Just a few weeks back, we had a bit of fun with the wind. A reasonably brisk north-easterly was blowing that morning and we chose to launch from Torpedo Bay near Devonport. Using the last hour and a half of the incoming tide, we spent a pleasant morning poking around the Stanley Bay and Bayswater area before morning tea was taken on a lovely shell-bank

beach in Ngataranga Bay. It was then an easy run back to Torpedo Bay on the outgoing tide. The nor-easterly had been blowing all morning but we barely noticed it, having been sheltered by the shoreline. But back near our launch site, we decided to have a bit of fun. The ebbing tide was now building up speed. It creates a swift tidal stream as it rushes around North Head. When this strong ebb flow meets an opposing nor-easterly wind, some pretty impressive standing waves occur. There was plenty of hooting and hollering as the early morning team indulged.

Some of us like to arrive extra early for the weekend activity. It's a nice tranquil time to enjoy the dawn chorus, sunrise and a relaxing cup of breakfast tea. It doesn't take long before the others start clocking in and our launch site becomes a crescendo of pre-launch chatter. After a quick briefing we are underway. Mother Nature has a big influence in determining our destination, and we co-operate rather well. In recent weeks we have departed from Torpedo Bay, Castor Bay, Torbay, Red Beach and Armour Bay on the Manukau Harbour. Of course we had to include a few visits to our perennial favourite, Okahu Bay.

There was a bit of friendly rivalry over at Narrow Neck Beach when we launched from there recently. Over thirty fellow paddlers had rolled up to do likewise that mid-November morning. The premium parking spots were in hot demand as the cavalcade of kayak carriers assembled. It was probably the stiff westerly wind that had driven us all over that way seeking a sheltered shore. It didn't take long for friendly kayaker banter to break out once the pecking order in the carpark had been established. It's always great to catch up with like-minded paddlers.

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*It's all ashore for morning tea on a sheltered shell bank tucked up near the top end of Ngataranga Bay. This compact group of early morning kayakers had launched from nearby Torpedo Bay, just over one and a half kilometres away as the crow flies. But it was a healthy seven kilometres of paddling via the scenic coastal circuit to get there. The stiff north-easterly wind blowing that morning raised barely a ripple along the well-chosen wind evasive route.*

PHOTO PETER VAN KUYK



*We have had more than our fair share of wild westerly winds of late. Often when heading up the harbour, we will take a big detour around Hobson Bay to keep out of the winds way. It's a very pleasant paddle when the tide is in. Watching the Northern Explorer racing across the causeway was a bonus, and the train passengers seemed pleased to see us too.*

PHOTO PETER VAN KUYK

Most of us were keen to view the visiting armada of international warships anchored out in the harbour. Our navy was celebrating its seventy-fifth jubilee. Aware of the heightened security concerns, we chose to view from afar. Helicopters and onshore observers kept a beady eye on our movements. Even at North Head, as we came ashore for morning tea, a security officer was seen scurrying around the rocks to report on us. No doubt they were well versed on the tactical capabilities of kayakers after reading the WW2 exploits of the Cockleshell Heroes. When thermos flasks and tasty home baking treats emerged from our kayak hatches, they somewhat enviously left us alone.

If your penchant is for viewing those reality type television programmes, then you may have noticed the recent series on household hoarders. Apparently it was quite shocking. Our club storage locker at Okahu Bay could well have featured in one of those shows. Over the last twenty years, some well-meaning hoarders have been active within our ranks. The club locker was looking rather chocker. When this dilemma was raised at committee level, action was sanctioned. Three senior committee members descended on our repository of clutter to cleanse it. We were well versed on that tried and proven good adage applicable for situations like this. Soon a big rubbish skip was looking very full. So too was the bulging car boot of one of the helpers. Trevor looked rather pleased with himself as he drove off to Titirangi with his newly acquired trove of treasures.

There is always paddling action on offer within the club, but you have to know where to look. The coffee cruisers are out and about most sunny weekends

departing from our home port at Okahu Bay. Colin's bicycle and paddle group is active each Friday. Vine House is available for club members wanting a weekend away near the end of each month, Gerard's fishing tours are gearing up again and for the very keen, the early morning kayakers' paddle every weekend. If you would like to get in on the action, then you know what to do. Of course we are always looking for more activities and events. These can be promoted at short notice on the club website or via our email alert system.

If you would like to acquire kayak related instruction, be it for basic skills or advanced rolling technique, then the professional instructors operating from the kayak retail shops are recommended. Many years ago, when I was a much younger lad, the club ran a regular learn to roll clinic at the local swimming pool. With sound survival intents, I followed all the prompts and turned up on the designated date. There were five of us present that evening, two randy club male instructors, two luscious young lady members and me. Well that turned out being a big waste of time. The next day, I rang Fergs Kayaks and arranged for some one on one rolling instruction. Best kayak money I ever invested.

Most of the professional learn to roll instruction on offer is accomplished at heated indoor pool facilities. Here in Auckland, we can now avail ourselves of a more realistic fun option, the Wero White-water Park. Opened earlier this year out at Manukau, a team of very capable rolling instructors is on hand to help. They also have an important point of difference, you can take your own sea kayak along to use.

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Most of the indoor pools get a bit prissy about the entry of our big sea beasts. Sounds like a sensible way to learn, with the added bonus of some low level rapid river fun to enjoy afterwards.

In and around our home port we often see interesting craft out on the water. The Team New Zealand AC-45 high performance racing catamaran is always a treat to watch as it foils its way around the harbour. Equally impressive is their chase boat, with four big three hundred horsepower outboard motors bolted on the transom. We also get a buzz watching those amazing tiny International Moth class yachts up on the foils. They have a hull beam width narrower than most sea kayaks.

Another amazing sight is club sea kayak sailor, Kristine. I was down at Mission Bay just recently to wave her and fellow expedition buddy John off on another adventure. A rather brisk westerly saw them whisked down the harbour, as they sailed away towards Tauranga. They have made many tempting offers for me to join them, but alas my sailing skills are lacking.

I briefly pondered on the sail propulsion option over twenty years ago, it looked like fun. I even designed my own basic version of a downwind rig and had partially fitted it to my trusty plastic Puffin. It was about then that I acquired a Barracuda Discovery sea kayak. These craft are peerless in rough water performance. Very soon the thrill of running with the waves at speed quickly overtook the sail distraction. I certainly won't discard the sail option though. When I eventually run low on paddle power, I will probably appreciate the help of a gentle vesper.

No matter what make of sea kayak we choose, they will all enable us to enjoy a rather unique experience. Our sea kayaks are the perfect vessel to take us right into the shallows to partake in a spot of close inshore coastal exploration. Here, we can poke around amongst all the interesting stuff. This kayak capability puts our craft in a league of its own. We are absolutely second to none in this department.

On almost every group paddle outing that I partake in, someone will be out there testing the fine tolerances of shallow water paddling. I like to join them, and it doesn't take long before the whole group is getting in on the game. Usually an element of one-upmanship will manifest itself and someone will score a superficial scratch. It won't make them a winner, but it can be proudly displayed as an award for participation in fun.

In earlier years this type of paddling was almost a competitive sport taken seriously by some of our club members. The undisputed all-time champion here would have to be Brian Strid. His near legendary feats are still spoken of in awe. Often when we are paddling along a rocky coast, an impossible passage will be spied and someone will quickly quip in that Brian had done it, and yes he probably had.

The big flat topped rock islet just off Musick Point is a favourite roost for sea-birds. I often call by to view our feathered friends whilst in the vicinity. There is a small sea scoured hole right through the southern end of this mammoth rock-slab. When I first spied the tiny portal almost thirty years ago, I wondered if anyone had ever paddled through it. The clearances were tight, but a determined sea-kayaker might just about squeeze through. Timing with the tide would be crucial, and there would only be a very narrow window of opportunity. The window wasn't open that day, and the challenge would have to wait.

Over the next ten or so years I kept the rock hole challenge in mind and often called by. It was easy to detour that way after my regular morning tea appointment on nearby Browns Island. The random visits never seemed to coincide with that marginal window. One day I was out that way with Mr Strid and took him past for a look. Just by chance it happened to be bang on the right moment. Guess who squeezed through a mere minute before me. Bugger!



Brian had another more infamous claim to fame. He had this rather unfortunate ability to locate rocks lurking just below the sea surface. On just about every club trip that he attended, and he was very keen, his kayak would invariably end up perched atop one. An assisted wet re-entry would frequently be required. It became such a common occurrence, that it was unusual if it didn't happen. His paddling companions soon tired of the tedious rescue routine and Brian became quite adept at self-rescue.

Being a generous club spirited type, Brian decided to share his new found survival skills. He planned a little impromptu safety awareness exercise. This would test the alertness and rescue capabilities of the lovely ladies in the coffee cruise group. They were paddling back from their favourite Kohimarama café when Brian ambushed them with a faux capsized scenario. So there he was bobbing about in the water as the female flotilla approached at full natter. Our coffee cruise ladies are a very capable crew and were not easily fooled. They quickly assessed the situation, altered course slightly to avoid running him down and gave him a friendly wave as they passed.

Things to look forward to in the upcoming months. We have managed to source a new supply of our iconic canoe club caps. They look stunning in their original bright terracotta orange colour with the traditional club logo embroidered in blue. These caps will certainly make you stand out in a crowd, and they are great conversation starters when worn socially.

Fergs kayak shop on Tamaki Drive has received a big makeover during the last few months. It is well stocked with all the essentials for a well kitted kayaker. Whilst driving past just recently I spied a big new fleet of E-bikes for hire parked at the front of the shop. Just the thing to keep up with Colin, Mike and Rona as they whizz along the waterfront.

Another locally manufactured sea kayak is about to make its maiden voyage. The all new Barracuda Expedition Duo will slide down the slipway just in time for the busy summer season. As the name implies, it is a touring type double with an extra-large central storage hatch.

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*Launching a big tribal war canoe requires a bit more muscle than we usually need to muster. This monster was edging slowly down the Torpedo Bay slipway, about to join in the naval seventy-fifth jubilee celebrations. It was the closest that we dared to venture to any of the warships that day.*

PHOTO ROGER LOMAS



Over the next few weeks, the early morning kayakers will be cruising merrily along the coast singing Christmas carols. Keen early risers capable of harmonising are welcome to join in the festive fun.

Happy holiday paddling,

*Roger*



*For many years this little bay out near Puponga Point on the Manukau Harbour was one of our favourite ship spotting places. The coastal cement boats and freighters would pass very close by when the port at Onehunga was active. Now we will have to be content with the occasional trawler and the distant view of aircraft movements at Mangere. Still, it's not a bad spot for a swim and morning tea on a sunny Saturday morning.*

PHOTO KRISTINE VAN KUYK