

January/ February 2017



Club Information	2		
Club Trip/Event Policies	2		
Club Banking Details	2		
Kayak Hire	3	On the waterfront.....	4
Regular Events.....	3	Poet's Corner.....	9

The Auckland Canoe Club AGM will be held on Wednesday 17th of May starting at 7.30pm at our usual venue – the Marine Rescue Centre.



Summer days on the North Shore. The twenty kilometre stretch of coast running from North Head to Long Bay is a mecca for Auckland kayakers. It offers a nice sheltered haven when the westerlies are about and lots of easy landings for refreshment stops. It's a great place to enjoy the passing parade of paddlers.

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
treasurer@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
trips@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
publicity@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
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 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.

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 March 2017

On the waterfront

Roger Lomas

Kayakers have been extra active these last few months. We have all been out there taking good advantage of the splendid paddling conditions. Some interesting expedition ventures succeeded in getting underway, and there was the usual exodus of club paddlers off to relax at their favoured coastal camp-grounds. For most of us though it was just a matter of staying resident and helping to enhance the waterfront with small fleets of our brightly hued craft.

Club long distance kayaker Kristine Van Kuyk and her expedition buddy John have been strategically paddling the North Island's west coast. They have reconnoitred many potential landing options, but still expect to receive a dunking or two along the way. We can eagerly look forward to having Kristine back again for another lively night at the winter lecture series later this year.

When she isn't away on her long distance expeditions, Kristine likes to join the early morning kayakers for a regular fitness workout and she is good company.



Most of the early morning team muster eager for action, but there is always an exception. One reluctant early riser made a stoic stand for moderation of the departure time. This pathetic spectre loomed up in the headlights on a recent outing.

PHOTO ROGER LOMAS

It didn't take long for us to realise that she is very much a gadget girl. She never ceases to amaze us with her assemblage of useful gear. Goodness knows what she carries around in her handbag, but when she puts to sea, she has all the bases covered and that's a good thing.

Tucked just inside the mouth of the Wairau Stream on the North Shore is the Milford Marina. It's a pleasant little haven for a small fleet of yachts and motor boats. Our dawn patrol often deviates in for a quick meander when we are over that way. A recently installed lifting bridge spans the narrow entrance channel and alarm sounds when it is about to operate. It's remotely activated and we were surprised when it went into action for our arrival recently. Even more startled was the little old lady crossing the bridge with her shopping trundler. She took off faster than a speeding ticket and didn't quite get to see the small yacht sneaking in behind us. We all thought she would make a good candidate for the upcoming master's games.

Some of our club seniors are still very much motivated for the masters games. Flash new racing kayaks have been purchased and some are finding them a tad tippy. One budding entrant has a real dilemma. Apparently he falls out quite a bit and has consequently become a good swimmer. He just needs to decide which event to enter now.

The Auckland Canoe Club AGM will be held on Wednesday 17th of May starting at 7.30pm at our usual venue, the Marine Rescue Centre. It's timely to start thinking about matters pertaining to this and perhaps even consider some involvement.

Many paddlers like to monitor their progress with the aid of a GPS device. It's a great companion, especially on a solo outing. I like to use mine to display speed and distance. It has proved particularly useful for refining paddle technique. Often when a group of us are picking up the pace for a short sprint session, there is keen interest as to peak speed attained. Believe me, it's quite difficult giving a running commentary for this whilst gulping in great lungful's of air. I'm sure that diversionary tactics are frequently at play here.

A couple of years back our group of kayak speedsters were straining to reach terminal velocity on a short sprint. I was calling the speed, but there was a minor dispute as to the accuracy of my GPS unit. One of the others in the pack had his own new device, a very compact wrist-watch one. The matter was rapidly resolved when one of our quick thinkers quipped in that the wrist watch was giving a false reading.

Continued on page 5 ➤



It's a stunning sunrise at Westhaven and the dawn chorus is already in action. Karen and Kristen are busy warming up for the morning's paddle.

PHOTO KEVIN WOOLCOTT

He had us all just about falling out of our kayaks in fits of laughter when he explained. He reasoned that the wrist-watch GPS was subjected to an excessive reciprocating motion courtesy of the paddle stroke and hence giving a different reading. The wrist part of the watch name was quickly replaced with another (rhyming with banker) and the accuracy of my deck mounted unit was never questioned again.

Each year some big sea-beasties arrive in town for their annual summer holidays. Making the long excursion north recently was a leopard seal. It has been loitering up near the mouth of Lucas Creek and can sometimes be seen sunbathing on the landing pontoon next to the Salthouse boat yard. Another even bigger brute of a seal weighing close to three hundred kilograms has taken up residence in the Bayswater Marina. Owners of Sea-Bears and other big beamy kayaks are warned to be mindful of the upcoming mating season.

We were out on the Manukau Harbour recently, paddling with the tide up towards the Cape Horn area. It was a humid sort of day and we were all looking forward to a refreshing swim and morning tea. We spotted a small bush clad cove that looked fitting for the occasion in a local coastal reserve. Just as we were about to glide in for a landing on the sparkling white shell-bank beach, a sinister dorsal fin was sighted. It wasn't exactly a great white pointer, but it undoubtedly had multiple rows of sharp little teeth. Suddenly the swim wasn't such a great idea and we all ran our kayaks well up the beach before scampering out.

Okahu Bay is always buzzing with paddle-sport activity. The action around our end of the ramp has amped up a few notches with the arrival of some new neighbours. The Akarana ski paddlers have been temporarily relocated to the sailing club building next to us whilst their new club-house is being built. Be warned, parking will be at a premium on the weekends, especially so if the sailing skiffs are active.

Some of our dawn patrol paddlers were relaxing back at the club locker recently when we spied a familiar friendly face returning to base. Rosemary Sanson was giving her polar white Euro-X a much needed sea trial after a lengthy lay-up in the locker. Just a few years back, Rosemary was the kind caring soul who mentored many of our fledgling new entrant paddlers. Under the guise of the coffee cruise she carefully coerced them out along the coast to cafes near and far. It was good to catch up again, and hopefully we will see a bit more of the Euro-X out plying the coastal café route.

Word soon gets about when a good product arrives on the market. A few years back a couple of the lads in the early morning group splashed out and upgraded to the new ultra-light weight Barracuda sea kayaks. Some of these craft barely tip the scales at the 17–18 kilogram mark. They are just so easy to lift and move around, car loading them is effortless. They certainly made a good impression on the early morning regulars, at last count I think we have about ten of them speeding along with the pack. A little

Continued on page 6 ➤

while later, one of the lads went out and purchased the very latest feather-light carbon wing-foiled paddle. Of course we all had to have a go with it, and guess what happened next.

A recent very early morning excursion saw our paddlers enjoying a cruise up the coast past Wenderholm. It was all very quiet and calm with not a soul being sighted until we rounded the southern headland of the Mahurangi Harbour. Here a small group of kayakers were just getting underway from Sullivans Bay. It turned out to be the club presidential fishing party, off to lure a few big ones. We enjoyed a quick catch up with Gerard and Iris before morning tea and fishing demands prevailed. The Vine House brigade were in residence that weekend just a couple of kilometres further across the water. It all looked very peaceful over there and we left it that way to track back to our launch site before the tide sucked all the water away.

I was looking through some old photo-albums recently and there was a picture of one of my old kayaks. It was the first kayak that I built and it gave me a bit of a start to realise that it happened some fifty years ago. It was a nifty little kayak that had a skeletal wooden frame covered with a tight waterproof membrane. Even by today's standards, it was a very lightweight craft. My home built paddle was probably considered to be high-tech too. It utilised a lightweight alloy shaft with laminated wooden blades. It was very fashionable back then to have tennis ball halves skewered onto the paddle shaft to act as drip stoppers. I wanted something light and they soon disappeared. I can't remember how much that proudly made in New Zealand paddle weighed, but it felt good and that was the main thing. The high-tech carbon paddle that I currently use weighs a mere six hundred and eighty grams, probably a bit less now because I've removed the made in China stickers.



Old kayaks don't retire, they just perform useful secondary roles. This is a waterfront backyard near Belmont.

PHOTO ROGER LOMAS

Last winter Colin Quilter gave us another one of his excellent motivational talks at the winter series. He focused on the many paddling and cycling opportunities available about the Coromandel Peninsula. Since then many club members have popped over for a look. Veteran club kayaker Paul Shipman was one of those in on the action. In his trusty little Beachcomber sea kayak, he crossed the Firth of Thames to the township of Coromandel. It was then a leisurely coastal cruise out around the peninsula. Paul's final night away was at a tiny coastal campsite tucked just inside the Tiarua Harbour. Jim Mason has kindly made this private facility available to club members and its best to inquire first.

The dawn patrol paddlers managed to complete a long overdue Rangitoto Island circumnavigation in the New Year. Narrow Neck beach is the closest launch site for reaching the island and we watched a massive liner pass as we made the short crossing. On a big rising tide we were able get in nice and close to enjoy the spectacular volcanic coast. Running east from the lighthouse islets, the Black lava cliffs and scoria scree contrast with an ever emerging abundance of greenery. Soon we were approaching Boulder Bay and its many scattered ship-wrecks.

The hulks of the old ships scuttled about here were easily visible in the clear calm waters. Often when out this way I like to land and fossick around to see what maritime remnants have been revealed by recent storms. This was also a much favoured pastime for the former bach colony residents of the island. Anything usable from the abandoned ships quickly found its way into their humble holiday homes.

Many years ago I organised a small landing party of keen kayakers to visit the area. We were well armed with information and set about trying to identify some of the hulks. These former fine sailing ships and steamers had all passed their use by date, and the area was a dumping ground for them. In some places there were multiple layers of shipwrecks storm stacked upon each other. Landing at low tide is best for viewing the remains which now have a historical protection status. In recent times information boards have been erected with photographs and a brief history to help visitors survey the scene.

For most of our keen group that morning, the main interest lay a little further around the coast. They were looking forward to Gardiner Gap, the bridge and the narrow channel that separates Rangitoto from Motutapu Island.

Continued on page 7 ➤



Club kayaker Ian Smeeton negotiates the causeway bridge at Gardiner Gap. This was almost an hour after peak tide. The bridge support strut on the outer left clearly shows the high tide mark.

PHOTO PETER VAN KUYK

Once through this shallow passage, morning tea beckoned. We had made good time on the outward journey and arrived as planned near the top of the tide. It was a very big tide and clearances for kayakers under the bridge were looking marginal. As we approached the bridge a squad of four ski paddlers skimmed past us.

There is usually a tidal flow out under the bridge and it always appears to run in a northerly direction. When we arrived it was a torrent. One brave ski paddler ran the gauntlet and just managed to squeeze through, the other three portaged over the bridge. Our two nimblest kayakers also gave it a go but it was so marginal that one of them received a very close facial shave. The rest of us baulked at the limbo like challenge.

Majority rules were invoked and morning tea was taken as we waited for the tide to subside. We even had time for a spot of bridge jumping and enjoyed being swept downstream by the still surging torrent. An hour or so later we all made it safely through to Islington Bay.

There is a notable change in coastal topography on the island's more sheltered southern shores. The tide was ebbing and shoaling reefs were starting to reveal themselves. It all added to the fun as we skimmed and weaved our way through. We called into Rangitoto Wharf for a quick refreshment stop and chatted to a group of Australian tourist. They were off the cruise ship that we had waved to earlier that morning.

Our last little paddling challenge was to cross the now busy shipping channel. A strong ebbing tidal stream had set in and we were swept rapidly past one of the channel markers. Visions of our Rona's famous close encounter with a green navigation



The small bridge at Gardiner Gap was strengthened some years back. Substantial laminated beams were installed, diminishing clearances for kayakers passing below. On some big tides passage is restricted. These kayakers enjoy a picnic near the bridge waiting for the tide. The grassy area was once a summer campground.

PHOTO KEVIN WOOLCOTT

buoy at Manukau Heads were recalled and we had a little chuckle. We rounded off a very satisfying morning's paddle with a cup of tea under a pohutukawa tree back at the beach.

Every now and then the club newsletter might look a bit thin on content. It's probably collectively our fault for not contributing, but Mike Randall has been a stalwart to the cause. For longer than most of us can remember, we have been able to enjoy the cheerful inspirational verse of our own resident club poet. Well done Mike.

On the waterfront

Continued from page 7



The first public appearance of the new hybrid skis. Blue Streak (front) and Mellow Yellow getting ready for sea trials on the Manukau Harbour. They deliver sports car like performance for the avid day tripper and are very easy to remount.

PHOTO ROGER LOMAS

Near the end of last summer two of the early morning loyalists went over to the dark side and purchased racing skis. My one was bright blue and white and along with my fellow accomplice Ian Smeeton, we didn't actually manage to do a lot of paddling on them. My excuse was that I didn't have the appropriate paddling apparel for a good public appearance. Saggy polypro long-johns just didn't quite deliver the desired image. For this summer, some very fetching ski gear was acquired and the Blue Streak has been drawing admiring glances all along the waterfront.

Before I get hauled before the committee and threatened with a dishonourable discharge for promoting such a demon craft, my ski does possess a few mitigating features. I was looking for something light and nimble that incorporated some of the good features of a sea kayak along with the performance and user friendliness of a ski.

In looking around as to what was commercially available, it was noticed that a couple of smart thinking ski manufactures were onto it. My new Think Ace is fast, stable, has storage hatches, deck bungees and tips the scales at around thirteen kilograms. It ticked many of the feature boxes that I desired and will suffice until something better comes along.

The Blue Streak has even caught the attention of the regular racing ski paddlers. Some of them were casting an envious eye at the rear deck hatch. I wouldn't mind betting that a few of the senior paddlers were savouring the thought of a nice morning tea break midway around their Saturday morning circuit.

Continued on page 9 ➤



Ovation of the Seas is the largest cruise ship to visit our shores. Our little sea kayakers were out to give her a friendly welcome in the Rangitoto channel as they set off on a voyage around the iconic island.

PHOTO PETER VAN KUYK

On the waterfront

Continued from page 8

Our early morning paddlers have enjoyed a good variety of both weather and adventures during the last couple of months. We have kept most of our mini expeditions local to avoid the holiday traffic mayhem. In recent times we have launched at Castor Bay, St Heliers, Torbay, Birkenhead, Narrow Neck, Okahu Bay, Westhaven, Armour Bay, Waiwera and French Bay.

We set off from St Heliers beach early one February morning. Our intent was to visit a few of the inner gulf islands. We ended up on Motuhie Island for morning tea. Whilst there we noticed that the north-easterly was starting to freshen. On the run home, we had both wind and tide behind us and some good surfing runs were enjoyed by our keen enthusiasts. Nearing Achilles Point we surged past a couple of groups attempting to battle their way out into the ever increasing wind. We wished them luck.

It was probably one of the quicker return runs for most of our energetic little group that morning.

The early morning kayakers are out on the water around sunrise every weekend. We're cruising the coast exploring, keeping fit, upskilling and having a heap fun along the way. Often we are heading home just as the weather starts to rough up and some of us can feel quite smug about that. It sure is a mighty good feeling being safely ashore watching those white-caps being whipped up. If you feel that our early morning paddling is your type of thing, give me a call. You will need to be up to speed with basic skills, have a reasonable level of fitness and be prepared to participate on a regular basis.

The best paddling weather is still to come. See you out there.

Roger

Poet's Corner

*Two thousand years
And seventeen
Yesterday's date
Of a future foreseen
Where cars that can fly
Travel in space
A wee trip to Mars
Forget about pace
All so last Tuesday's
Of things yet to come
Today's all we have
Make the most of it folks
With the bike
And the kayak
Other things simple*

*Nothing can touch them
Or change their appeal
In my little world
Of the here
And the now
So it's back to the present
For this Earthly being
Who chanced into life
Some decades ago
Trying not to make sense
Of this very strange place
A space we call
Home.*

Mike Randall

NEW MEMBERS



Welcome

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

**Chas Foxall, Jovanka Hall,
Jon Kearins and Daryl
Robinson and Family**