

July 2017



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Even when the weather is trying its hardest to be un-cooperative for kayaking, hardy paddlers will be out there participating.

This little group found shelter from a blustery northerly in a small cove at the Kauri Point Centennial Park. They couldn't linger for too long though, the beach completely disappears when the tide rolls back in.

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> | Kristine Van Kuyk | 282 0387 |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Matthew Crozier | 817 1984 |
| <i>Trips Advisor</i> | Colin Quilter | 360 6271 |
| <i>Publicity</i> | Roger Lomas | 846 6799 |
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webmaster@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz

hire@aucklandcanoecub.org.nz
(for kayak hire, or any related questions)

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

Club Trip/Event Policies

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

Contacting trip/event organiser

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

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

Cancellation

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

Club Banking Details

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| <i>Bank</i> | BNZ |
| <i>Branch</i> | Newmarket |
| <i>Account</i> | 02-0100-0023453-000 |
| <i>Name</i> | Auckland Canoe Club |
| <i>Particulars</i> | Your FULL name (Initials are not enough to identify some members with 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 Lester Miller on 021 165 0297.

NEW MEMBERS



Welcome

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

Bruce Deeming, Ann Orman and Rachel Peters



Deadline for Next Newsletter

31 July 2017

Vine House

On the last weekend of May 2017 the Northland Canoe Club joined members of the Auckland Canoe club at Vine House at Lagoon Bay Mahurangi Regional Park.

Friday evening Greg, Raewyn, Nancy and Willie paddled across from Sullivans Bay to Lagoon Bay. Greg headed back in the fading twilight, with headlights to get Graham. We had unloaded Greg's kayak and by headlight took all our gear up the newly mown steps to Vine House. Matt from Auckland Canoe Club had just come back from a swim, at Big Bay, after mowing the lawns. Vine House is maintained by the Auckland Canoe Club and a new spot for us Northlanders. It is very comfortable with power, a fridge and showers.

Saturday morning we set off for a walk to the woolshed end of the bay to successfully find a geo-cache and have a look at the woolshed. It was then into kayaks to meet Richard and Barbara at 10.30am at Scotts Point. We had a look at the old homestead that has been renovated and is used as a wedding venue.

Kayaking through the moored boats, eight of us continued north to Grants Island where we disembarked and had Raewyn's delicious ginger crunch. We headed to the inner coast and oyster beds where a covered boat was working. This oyster boat reminded Raewyn and I of the boats in the Disney films. Some then kayaked back to Lagoon Bay while Greg, Matt and I got a couple of caches

in Mita Bay before heading back to Vine House for lunch. It was siesta time for some before we went for a walk up and over the hill to Big Bay. Mahurangi Regional Park also has a house there that you can rent. It had a pole inside decorated with lots of flax weaving and a glitter ball. Went for a walk amongst the driftwood on the beach then walked back to Vine House via a steep grassy track and along the ridge.

Everyone had brought food for a great potluck dinner with Murray from Auckland Canoe Club arriving just as the main course was ready. With tummies full we all settled in comfortable chairs for a chat or to read from the well stocked bookshelves.

Sunday was another nice day – kayaks packed we seal launched, due to the very high tides, and set off to Saddle Island – yes you guessed it to get a couple more geo-caches. The water was high and there was not much sand to put our boats on. From here, as the sea was calm, we paddled 3.8km to Motuora Island. Graham had the billy boiled and Ann's yummy muffins ready. Over a number of years 275,000 native trees have been planted to reforest this island. Our kayak back to Sullivans Bay was even calmer and we saw more penguins than on our way across.

A fantastic time was had by all. Thanks again Auckland Canoe Club for your great hospitality.

Northland gang

Poet's Corner

*The shortest day will have come and gone
Seasonal blues are a risk
Attack this spectre with a sweep of the blade
Hop on the bike make it brisk
But even without a bike or a boat
There's plenty to do with the feet
A trot to the library a walk in the rain
Seasonal blues can be beat
The Terns on the posts at Okahu Bay
Seem to have got it sussed
Off to the sun and a warm winter wind
A good pair of wings is a must
We winter bipeds a wetsuit is needed
For this timorous soul it's accepted
An early morning immersion*

*To my wetsuit I'm always indebted
It's the planet's tilt wot done it
Affecting us and our sway
Maybe it's time for a change of home
On a planet far far away
Now writing this has done wonders
For my own bit of seasonal blues
Go write a poem if not already done
To encourage your personal muse
Though for you Dear Reader as is your wont
Seasonal blues don't exist
But perchance some rogue one creeps up from behind
You will know how to make it desist.*

Mike Randall

Our winter paddlers have been rummaging deep into the thermal gear locker of late. Some extra layering can be lovely, especially when a cool Antarctic inspired southerly is about. Over the next few of months, the keenest kayakers will be out there keeping the paddling momentum active. Getting underway on a cold winter's morning requires a little bit of extra effort. For some it entails dressing up with gaudy winter headgear and pulling on the paddling poggies. A few of the fashion aficionados relish this opportunity. They like to strut their stuff in the latest winter woollies. Either way, it all adds a little colour to a bleak grey day. The winter paddlers are hardy types and their humorous pre-departure banter is often spiked with a ripe explicative or two as cold fingers fumble. But the most hilarious happenings often occur when they are well underway. Usually it takes a good ten minutes or so for the paddlers to warm up. It's about then that most of us realise we are totally overdressed and getting too hot.

The club's Annual General Meeting was held mid-May at our Marine Rescue Centre venue. Club president Gerard Fagan delivered a glowing report on the year's attainments and acknowledged the many involved. We all felt that Gerard had put in a decent effort too, and he was quickly re-elected back for another term. The ballot for new committee candidates was short and selective. A couple of fresh-faced innocents were press ganged into servitude with all those other long serving reprobates. Kristine Van Kuyk is our new club secretary and Jeff Amsden takes over as gears officer. Gavin Baker who served a remarkably lengthy term in the storage locker was released with time off for good behaviour. The AGM always draws a good attendance from our senior members and we took time to acknowledge the services of two of our favourite ones. Peter and Su Sommerhalder were the popular recipients of the Evan Stubbs Memorial Award.



When Peter and Su Sommerhalder popped along to the club AGM in May, they walked away with our premier award.

They were presented with the Evan Stubbs Memorial Trophy for services to kayaking.

Our monthly opportunity to occupy the Vine House holiday bach traditionally falls a bit short on attendance over the winter months. But the no vacancy sign was out on display recently when our good friends from the Northland Canoe Club popped down for a visit. Club duty officer Matt Crozier was on hand to settle the northerners in. The visitors came well prepared for paddling activities and were all up bright and early the next day. You can just imagine Matt's delight when after breakfast, they announced that they were off for a spot of kayak geo-caching, and would the housekeeper like to join them.

Many of us are looking forward to exciting times when America's Cup racing returns to the Waitemata. We all remember the euphoria that embraced the city when we last hosted the event. For us kayakers, it was a time of balmy summer evening excursions up the harbour to visit the cup village. Our café craving fraternity wanted to be right in on the action too, and insisted on landing for a latte. When it was finals time, a massive armada of yachts and launches assembled to farewell the combatants. The entrance to the downtown Viaduct Basin base was the place to be and our good keen kayakers were out there again. In our super skinny craft we were able to sneak right up to the front row for the prime viewing positions. We will all no doubt be back there again when the next big show begins. Hopefully this time to celebrate a successful cup challenge defence.

For many years I lived in a house at Hillsborough that overlooked the vast expanse of the Manukau Harbour. The magnificent vistas were ever changing as the big tides worked over the shallows. During those years I was to witness boats and ships of all sizes falling foul of the mud banks. Even kayakers occasionally fell prey too. I remember watching a big group of paddlers embark from one of the Mangere Bridge boat club ramps. It was just across the harbour from my hilltop lookout. I thought at the time that they were cutting it a bit fine with a late departure. They were off for a picnic on nearby Puketutu Island. Most of their journey was over shallows that drained well before low tide. A fortunate few just managed to make it back. The others ended up wading from a good kilometre or two away. Wading is perhaps a kind way of describing their misfortune. It would have been a long laborious haul dragging the kayaks through that viscous mud. They would have cursed the Manukau that day and probably never ventured out there again.

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For many years our early morning group has landed on a small beach tucked just below the Harbour Bridge. Nearby is a wooden deck perched on high piles above the rocks. It's a lovely place to sit in the sun and enjoy morning tea.

We've often wondered as to the origins of the structure until I found this photograph. It's from the Whites Aviation collection and taken in 1959.

The flagpole and shelter shed are long gone now, but our little morning tea party would appear to be perpetuating one of the platforms original intents.



I've had one or two close calls with my own Manukau excursions, but thankfully all have ended well. There was an ambitious voyage out to the end of Mangere Airport and back. Timing was of the essence and it required an extra big tide for success. Our little group set off from a beach in Hillsborough Bay for a voyage that would take us out past Puketutu Island and around to visit the far south-western end of the runway. With the help of a big tide, we were planning to short cut across the base of some massive mud banks along the way. This would be a crucial tactic for the success of our quick out and back visit. We managed to get all the way to the runway well within our allotted time and enjoyed a bit plane spotting with morning tea. But it was no place to dilly dally on that sunny Saturday morning. The tide soon turned and the vast mud banks were waiting to catch a kayaker or two.

On the outward voyage we became acutely aware that clearances across the mud banks were minimal. Less than half a metre at the pinch points. If we didn't keep to the schedule, the alternatives were dire. We could end up marooned in the mud. If we managed to flee out into deeper water, a lengthy detour would be required. It would take hours to get back to the landing and it would be a muddy slog ashore.

On the homeward leg one of the group became a bit tardy. We slowed briefly to allow him to catch up, and reminded him of the consequences. With self-preservation foremost in our thoughts, we all then bolted. Tail End Charlie was left to pick up the pace. That certainly did the trick, no one wants to be marooned for over six hours out there. Tail End Charlie soon become one of the fastest paddlers in the group.

On another Manukau voyage, I paddled all the way out to the Heads and back from my local Hillsborough Bay beach. That journey was a rewarding solo adventure that utilised the big Manukau Harbour tides for assistance both ways. Launching some three hours after one of the bigger tides of the year saw me being whisked down the main shipping channel at near peak tidal flow. Back then I fancied myself as a fit paddler and was a regular participant in kayak racing. With a nice new wing bladed paddle in hand, my long sleek Barracuda Discovery sea kayak started to get a little bit carried away with itself and I needed to restrain it. There were still many miles to go.

The shipping channel stays close to the coast until near Blockhouse Bay where it diverges. A smaller channel still parallels the coast for most of the way and I knew this would provide ample tidal push if I stayed in it. The ebb tide was to be my helpful companion nearly all the way out to the heads. By choosing this coast hugging option a few rock hazards would occasionally present themselves. This was particularly so around the headlands of the many now well drained bays and inlets along the way.

I have paddled this coast in segments on multiple occasions before, but always near the top end of the tide. It was a novel experience to journey along it at the lower level. It was quite a revelation to see all the evil oyster encrusted rocks revealed. Mill Bay near the base of the Cornwallis Peninsula usually has an enormous cluster of offshore rocks waiting for the unwary kayaker. They looked like impotent sentinels, left stranded high and dry when I paddled past.

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I like to duck under the long finger of the Cornwallis Wharf when out that way. It's one of those privileges that our lowly craft are able to enjoy. Puponga Point at the tip of the peninsula was soon rapidly approaching. It can be a nasty place for kayakers when all the elements conspire. I went there once when it was wild. The tide was rushing out around the point to be greeted a howling westerly wind. Massive standing waves with foam flecked crests were rearing up. Just to make it even more exciting, a decent sized swell was rolling up the harbour. There was a good splatter of clapotic wave action rebounding off the steep headland cliffs. It was a very brief visit and perhaps if I had attained a BCU grade 5 ranking, I might have lingered longer. This time there couldn't have been a greater contrast in conditions. It was calm and sunny with just the faintest hint of a tidal trickle. The tide turned not long after rounding Puponga Point and I kept close to the coast for the final push to the heads.

Outside on the bar there was barely a breaker, but the temptation to pop out a bit further would have to wait for another day. The tide was now incoming and building up speed. This was my ticket for an easy ride home. I was still comfortable sitting in the kayak and elected not to land. After a quick snack beside

the old Paratutae Island wharf it was time to catch the 'Manukau Express'. My return voyage would take me back via a different route. I would attempt to bee line it home across the length of the harbour.

It was a speedy return trip to Puponga Point, the tide wasn't mucking around as it surged in through the narrow throat of the Manukau. After rounding the tip of the Cornwallis Peninsula I could see the bulk of the Cape Horn headland away off in the distance. It was very close to my destination at Hillsborough and I altered course towards it. With a bit of luck, I would be home in time for lunch.

I am not usually a fan for paddling way offshore when there is a coast to explore, I find it rather boring. The bee line back option would take me well away from the coast, but there was a testing challenge to enjoy. With the tide only recently on the rise, I would have to negotiate the many mid harbour mud banks along the way.

On the Manukau, the strong swirl of the tidal flow stirs up the sediment. Water clarity is compromised. The mud banks are easily viewed from elevation, but from a kayakers lowly perspective they are not that well defined, as many of us well know. Some of the mud banks up ahead would hopefully already be flooded, but in the calm conditions and with murky water it would be a matter of wait and see.

It wasn't long before I encountered the first big shoaling area abeam of Laingholm. An early warning of this was the turbulent upwellings of stingray spooked by my approach. Soon the inevitable happened, the rudder sliced into the soft mud and then the deep vee hull found it too. It was a rather uncanny feeling to run aground some three kilometres from the shoreline. There was no portion of the mud bank visible, but a probe with the paddle assured me that it was certainly there. I could have climbed out of the cockpit and stood up in calf deep mud.

With the rudder up, I carefully backed off before probing my way out into deeper water. For the next half hour I worked my way through the shallows. The Manukau has a reputation for big sharks and stingrays and there were many upwellings and fishy fins splashing about me. Imagination is a fine thing and mine was enjoying an extra good workout.

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Over the last few months the early morning group has been having a wonderful time cooking up breakfast on the beach. Here we are out on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula.

[Left to right] Matt Crozier has made us all envious with his bacon and egg muffins. Jeff Amsden, Roger Lomas, Tony Hannifin and Jon Allen are making do with sausages and beans on toast. Our lovely photographer Kristine Van Kuyk was quite happy with her fresh fruit. We had a chance to work it all off an hour or so later with a mid-winter dip back at Army Bay.

Nearing the Cape Horn headland I found myself trapped behind another large mud bank. It required considerable backtracking and a big detour over towards Puketutu Island to get around it. Eventually I made it safely into the main shipping channel which skirts the coast up towards Onehunga. Home was now just a couple of bays away.

On that local mini adventure paddle, I had clocked up almost sixty-five kilometres in just under seven hours. I felt quite chuffed with my morning's efforts and it was even more gratifying when I arrived back at home. It was wonderful to gaze out across the vast expanse of the harbour to the distant hills at South Head. As I settled back with a nice hot cup of tea, I enjoyed a new-found admiration for the view with the accompanying thought that I had been there and done that.

The Winter Lecture Series got off to a great start with the June event. We all enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with fellow paddlers and it was nice to meet some of the newer ones. We were using lecture room one, which overlooks the busy downtown heliport. The buzzing of arrivals and departures was no match for our fast paced presenter and we were all left in awe of her amazing adventures. Well done Kristine Van Kuyk for a wonderful evening.

Coming up over the next couple of months will be the July and August winter lectures. There is little worth watching on the television these days so join the smart people and gather for a great evening of friendly company at next event. Look for the promotions on page 9

In earlier years we used to plan our paddling endeavours with topographical maps and marine charts. I've still got a great selection of them stashed away. They all have tiny pin prick marks where the compass dividers have plotted out many a pleasant paddle. These days google earth takes care of that. Most of us now have access to electronic tracking devices that can readily report our movements. One of my good paddling mates has been playing with a new App of late and likes to share it on social media. It shows his travels in fast time superimposed over crystal clear satellite imagery.

He was with us on recent paddle up around the mid harbour region. We stopped for a well-earned break at a small bush clad cove. Sometimes the tea break can last a while and a second cup is often enjoyed. It's very important to feel comfortable on the return journey and just before departure, a private place is usually sought. The tracking device was in on the action too, and left us with no doubt exactly where he went. Big Brother is certainly watching now.

The early morning kayakers celebrated the shortest day with their traditional mid-winter swim. It was surprisingly pleasant and memorable this time because all present participated. We even drew a hearty round of applause from onlookers and managed to entice one of them to join us. If you are a keen hardy type who wants to enjoy regular kayaking, you might like to join us too. We embark on our mini adventures every Saturday morning.

Roger



The mini expedition out to the Manukau Heads and back started in Hillsborough Bay at the top right of the map. The trip out to the end of the Mangere Airport runway [mid-right side of map] also started and finished in Hillsborough Bay. The massive mud bank between Puketutu Island and the airport presented the big challenge for an out and back visit.

Auckland Canoe Club Winter Lecture Series

Marine Rescue Centre

City end of Tamaki Drive next to the downtown heliport

Meet at 7 pm for a 7 30 pm start

The winter lecture series club nights provide the perfect opportunity for kayakers to gather for a friendly informal evening.

Early attendees can enjoy refreshments and then grab the best seats in the house for the show.

It's a great place for catching up with club mates and meeting some of our newer members.

Everyone is welcome so feel free to invite along family and friends.

The main event of the evening is the informative winter lecture.

This is the ideal platform to showcase the adventures of our own intrepid explorers.

Not always about kayaking, but guaranteed to arouse an interest in the outdoors for next summer.

Make a note of the upcoming dates, the third Wednesday of July and August.

All inquiries Roger Lomas 027 221 4671

Wednesday 19 July

Cycling around Tasmania – Colin Quilter

Earlier this year I spent a month touring around Tasmania.

It's an island close at hand with much for a cyclist to enjoy.

On a touring bike, with camping gear, you can see it at relatively small expense.

In this talk I'll explain some of the highlights

(which included having my cycling gloves eaten by a Tasmanian Devil).

Of course a cycle tour is not the same as travelling by kayak,

but I think there are enough similarities to make the trip interesting to paddlers.

Wednesday 16 August

Circumnavigation of Great Barrier Island – Matt Crozier

Last March, Wally Gilmer and Matt Crozier circumnavigated Great Barrier Island, starting and finishing at Long Bay, Coromandel.

The trip took 10 days, squeezed in between two major storms.

Come along for a slide show of pictures taken on the trip.



Coromandel, November 2016 – Gerard Fagan

Iris Wegmueller and myself had planned to paddle around Coromandel Peninsula but the south-west wind wasn't looking favourable. Instead we did day trips on both sides, joined by Peter Sommerhalder.

There were fish caught, dolphins photographed, and caves and arches explored.

