



# AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB NEWSLETTER

*April 1998*

When I first started kayaking I used to go out on my own quite a bit. Against everyone's advice, of course. I couldn't really see what the problem was until I decided to practise some self rescue and discovered that it is actually fairly tricky, especially if you have no equipment other than your kayak, your paddle (a nuisance in these circumstances) and your kayak.

So I decided that it is probably in my best interests to keep company while out on the water. The issue then becomes the skillful art of choosing a boating companion.

Here are some pointers on how to choose and be chosen.

Firstly the customary speed of your companions is important. Don't paddle with someone who is a lot faster than you. They'll be raving on about their latest race successes and not even notice that you're still launching your kayak two kilometres back. Conversely don't pick a mate who is much slower than you. Slow people, and I am not speaking of novices like myself, like to count the ripples on each wave and are thorough, to be polite. You want to get home sometime, don't you?

Secondly to keep good company you have to have an abundant supply of interesting and stimulating topics of conversation. The topics should vary according to maritime conditions, age and sex of fellow kayakers, time of day and the obvious reactions you get from everyone else as you spout on. If they haven't replied for five minutes, and about five minutes ago you heard a splash, this could indicate they fell asleep on the job. Find a less boring topic next time. Oh yes, go back and rescue them too.

Don't be too fascinating though. You want the others to notice Bean Rock BEFORE they crash into it.

Pick topics skillfully depending on the occasion. When the novice in your group is scared stiff on big seas don't ramble on about previous experiences that were ten times worse. The novice will start imagining things getting ten times worse immediately. What if things get ten times worse? I speak from personal experience on this one. Swap recipes and gardening hints.

Thirdly it is important to dress right. Who wants to be seen with an unfashionable bunch on the water? Dennis Connor may sail past. Or even someone who notices you. People simply won't kayak with you if you wear last season's polypro. Well I won't, anyway.

And last but not least, make sure you have a good kayaking style. Kayaking could be a serious art form. Practise in front of a mirror at every opportunity. Don't decapitate the dog with your paddle. If you look good people will want to be seen with you.

By the way humour is useful on the water, isn't it? I'm working on that one.

Yours in paddling

*Julia*

### Your Club Officers

President ..... Trevor Arthur 817 7357  
Secretary.....Margaret Thwaites 292 7883  
Canoe hire/storage/races... Laurie Bugbee 813 1223  
Editor..... Julia Thorn 575 3099  
Sunday paddles..... Matt Crozier 276 7049  
White water..... George Gerard 818 5066

## CALENDAR APRIL - MAY

**18 - 19 April Auckland Sea Kayak Race** This is a race and a cruise of the inner Hauraki Gulf.

On day one cruisers and racers leave Okahu Bay to head for Browns Island and on to Motuihe for a complete circumnavigation, before setting up camp there. Cruisers who wish not to go around Motuihe are allowed to omit that section.

Next day racers head out around the back of Mototapu and the back of Rangitoto before returning to Okahu Bay. Cruisers have the choice of following this same route or rounding Mototapu and then heading through Gardiners Gap on the high tide and back to Okahu Bay.

Further info from ASKR, PO Box 5087, phone/fax 410 0360, e mail nzcanoe@xtra.co.nz

**18 April Picnic with Neal** Join Neal Wilson for another of his enjoyable Saturday trips from Okahu Bay. Time of departure is 10 am with estimated return at 3 pm.

Contact Neal for more details tel 846 1429.

**25 April Intro to Sea Kayaking** Join the Auckland Canoe Centre for a course designed to cover all the basics. See attached flyer.

Meet at the Auckland Canoe Centre, 502 Sandringham Rd at 9.30, returning around 4pm.  
Contact Mike or Peter on 815 2073.

**26 April Meadow Lea Marathon** 16 km starting at Bottle Top Bay, Drury (near Karaka) at 12.30 pm. Contact Manukau Canoe Club, or phone Adrian Davis 576 0996.

## 26 April Track and Gorge Triathlon Palmerston North

Multisport event with long and short course options, also duathlon options. Both courses involve off road run, long cycle and whitewater kayak (not the duathlon option, of course).

Details from (06) 358 1908, e mail rics@xtra.co.nz

**2 - 3 May Slipper Island** Matt Crozier is planning to lead a trip here. The island is about an hour's paddle from Pauanui, and there may be a chance to call in at Shoe Island too. No this isn't a joke, these are real names, I'm assured. This trip is quite weather dependent, so if it's very windy it might be necessary to explore the river and coastline around Tairua instead.

This trip is not suitable for novices. Phone Matt on 276 7049.

**3 May Tamaki Estuary Race** 12 km starting at 12 noon. Contact Hauraki Kayak Group tel 483 6404

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## Saturday 9 May. Dinner on Rangitoto.

Paddle over, walk to the summit, enjoy a shared dinner while the sun sets, homewards in the dark. How could you spend a nicer Saturday evening?

Meet at Okahu Bay boat ramp at 2.30pm for a 3.00pm departure. Sunset is at 5.28pm; high tide at 6.25pm. Bring walking shoes, warm clothing, something to contribute to a shared dinner, a torch to light your way down from the summit, plus a light (if you have one) for your kayak. This trip is suitable for beginners. If the weather looks doubtful phone **Colin Quilter 5280747** for a decision on whether or not to go.

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**10 May ASKNET Tiri Tiri Matangi Island** Paddle to Tiri (about 50 minutes) to visit the lighthouse and explore the rock gardens on the eastern side. Meet at Army Bay at 9.30 am for a 10 am departure.

The trip leader is Peter Sommerhalder tel 815 2073.

**10 May Meadow Lea Superdune** multisport race, features 26 km bike, 5km run and 6 km paddle in the Waitakeries, at Bethells Beach. Contact Waitemata Multisports Club for info.

**16 - 17 May ASKNET Kaipara Harbour** Starting from Port Albert and paddling to Tinopai for overnight camp at the campground there (cost \$5). Return the following day. The distance is 23 km, and there will be about one knot of tidal drag on the Saturday and one knot of tidal assistance on the Sunday.

The trip is suited to intermediate and experienced paddlers only. All party members are to be well equipped.

Meet at Port Albert wharf (it's near Wellsford) at 10 am for an 11 am departure. Safe car parking will cost \$5.

The leader is Brett Dyer tel 846 3198.

**17 May ASKNET Herald Island to Riverhead** Take an easy trip up the Harbour to Riverhead and perhaps carry on up the river if tide and party mood allow.

Meet at Herald Island at 9.30 am for a 10 am departure. The trip leader is Justin Sanson-

Beattie tel 278 8090.

**19 May Club AGM** This is a major 'not to be missed' event, so please come along, with a plate for supper afterwards. You will NOT be press ganged into anything, the President assures me, and it's a great chance to chat to Club members and find out what the Club is all about. Time is 7.30 pm and location is the Multihull Sailing Club rooms, upstairs

next to Fergs Kayaks at Okahu Bay (same place as last year).

## **Sunday 24 May. Three islands for the price of one!**

A day trip taking in Crusoe Island, Motuhie and Brown's Island, and including what we guarantee is the Hauraki Gulf's smallest beach. We leave Buckland's Beach with the ebb tide to carry us out of the estuary, then out to Crusoe Island in the channel between Motuhie and Waiheke. Home via Motuhie and Browns with afternoon tea somewhere on the way.

Meet at Buckland's Beach at 10.15am for a 10.30am departure. Bring lunch and snacks. The trip is suitable for everyone in fine weather, but not suitable for beginners if there is a bit of wind about. **Contact Trevor Arthur 8177357.**

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**7 June Cambridge to Hamilton race** Hosted by Auckland Canoe Club, this is the one you are not allowed to miss. 23 km on the lovely Waikato and the current helps. More info from Laurie Bugbee tel 813 1223.

## **REGULAR EVENTS**

Evening paddles occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5.30pm from Okahu Bay. You can simply turn up for these trips, and if you want to hire a kayak you should phone Laurie Bugbee 813 1223. It is now getting dark so early that we may be starting a 4.30 group too, if there is sufficient interest.

Sunday morning paddles from Okahu Bay start at 9.15 to be on the water by 9.30, unless an

alternative time is stated here. Destination is usually by consensus and depends on the weather. You should be finished by lunchtime. These trips are for novice and intermediate paddlers.

There is no need to let anyone know in advance if you are coming. However if you feel better speaking to someone beforehand you are welcome to phone Matt Crozier for more info; if he is not going along he will put you in touch with someone who is. Phone Matt on 276 7049.

Kayak hire arrangements are as for weekday paddles, and Trevor Arthur can also arrange assistance with this. Phone 817 7357.

## A "Sorry I'm late" trip report

### From the trip report archives

By Trevor Arthur

Late last year we wondered just how far the Henderson Creek was navigable for. So with an incoming tide our group set off from Okahu Bay. As we approached Kauri Point Roger let us know he was going to depart to watch his son play cricket at the Coxs Bay Reserve. We felt it was our responsibility to check that Roger was aware of the social repercussions of a dad turning up in a wet skirt at his son's sports function; his address is still the same so he must have heard our friendly words.

With a solid headwind we rounded Te Atatu's Taikata Spit and made our way to Waitemata Multisports ramp for morning tea. Once out of the wind it was a cruisy meander up the creek, past residential areas, "Ahoy yachts" where the mega-dollar thirty metre plus craft are created (stay with your kayaks, those beauties have too much maintenance). What is that smell? Oh, that's the environmentally friendly baling station. Yeah, right! Onwards we go, and isn't this water clean!

Just then a broken off sign floats down the creek. It states *it is an offence to dump rubbish in this waterway*. Well, we reckon there are a few shoppers from the local supermarket who hadn't got to read that sign. The creek in its upper reaches is a veritable slalom course of shopping trundlers in varying stages of decay.

Near the town itself the creek is oak tree lined and largely scum free. This spot has the potential to be an absolute winner if the council can control the run off problem.

Time to put the feed bag on and find the coffee. After a nice break the tide obligingly turned and we set off for home. We got to Taikata in good time with a tail wind at the mouth of the creek and when we poked our bows around the corner to head for home, well, what would you expect - a screaming headwind from the New Lynn quarter.

Mike hadn't been able to use his sail on the way up so he made his way out to windward to pick up a run down the Harbour. We had a good solid slog down the Harbour, not bothering to stop for afternoon tea, which undoubtedly contravenes paddlers union rules, but why stop when you're having fun?

We think we covered fifty kilometres or so and it was great to see some new scenery, with the help of the tide and the hindrance of that fickle wind. For the record, you can paddle to behind Henderson Aquatic Centre up one arm and to the waterfall up the righthand arm. If you portage past the falls you could get a little further but it is quite obstructed with foliage and considerably narrower.

# DIPS N DUNKS

## Your Editor

OK OK you most likely all know this by now, but my name is Julia Thorn and I can be reached at 14 Paunui St, St Heliers, tel 575 3099. I'm always begging to hear from you, and this month is no exception, so give me a call or drop me a line when you have something to tell or ask.

## AGM AGM AGM

Very important social and business occasion: Auckland Canoe Club AGM is on 19 May at 7.30 pm at the usual place: Multihull Sailing Club rooms in the upstairs of the building adjoining Fergs Kayaks. Please come along to meet your Club officers, and to stand for office if the spirit moves you - no pressure applied, honest!

Bring a plate for supper after the business side of things is over.

## Subscriptions

Yep, it's that time of year again. Club subs are due now for the year ending March 1999. There's a membership renewal form at the back of this Newsletter.

You old hands probably remember Club policy but here's the story for newer members: you'll be getting two more Newsletters regardless of whether you have re joined the Club, but after that the supply is cut off unless you have paid your subs. Please please pay your subs as soon as possible, so the Club can continue with its good work.

## Trip accidents

We received an interesting letter from the Maritime Safety Authority of NZ the other day. It's purpose was to remind pleasure craft users to remember to report any accidents they are involved with.

Attached to the letter was the form that is required to be filled in when an accident takes place. Since kayakers/canoeists are included on the list of relevant recreational boat users, a copy of the form is appended to your Newsletter. Note that 'Type of accident' includes 'Capsize'. The MSA will clearly be hearing from our members quite a bit in the future.

Please DO NOT forward your forms to me for proof reading first. My mailbox is not big enough.

## A Newcomer Speaks...

*Editor's note: The author of this piece was reluctant to have her name placed alongside, but I am able to reveal that she paddles a white Penguin and goes by the alias of Rhona. There - the secret is out.*

Three months ago I knew all about kayaks and canoes. Kayaks belong with Fergie and MacDonald; canoes go with children playing on the shoreline.

After ten years of thinking it would be nice to join the children with my own little second-hand canoe, I wandered into the Auckland Canoe Centre, and from that day on, my life will never be the same.

It was there that I was met by Laurie Bugbee. Is there anyone who has not met his enthusiasm and drive, and been knocked over by his love and commitment to his sport? It was he who told me what I wanted and needed. He had boats off the racks, clothes off the shelves, paddles down from their holders, he had me sitting in a Breeze and the foot controls fitted to my short legs, spray deck fitted, and when he had me wishing I had never walked into the Canoe Centre, he suggested I meet him the following night at Okahu Bay and he would take me out for a trial.

What was I to do? I was knocked over that a perfect stranger would offer to introduce me to a new sport, but I was soon to find out that he had actually invited me to the Auckland Canoe Club!!! Had I known I would never have fronted up, but turn up I did, and have not missed a Tuesday evening since.

Poor Laurie - I am sure he was not prepared for someone as nervous as me. On the first two evenings I refused to go beyond the wind break, and I bet he cringed when I continued to turn up. In fact, on only my fourth night in appalling weather there was no other paddlers except Laurie and me. We paddled along the coastline and I learned so much. It was so wild that each time my left arm came up I thought the paddle was going to be blown away.

However, three months have passed and I have been on the harbour in some pretty wild weather, I have grown accustomed to being bellowed at from a white Sea Bear which always follows the weakest paddler, I have camped out on Rangitoto and followed ocean swimmers, and been in the Cavalli Island race (one of the things Laurie had told me I would do, even before I had sat in a kayak). I have learned heaps but am well aware that my knowledge of kayaks and water is still in its infancy.

I have been involved in some tremendously exciting events and now have a wonderful new life. I have no money, long grass, dust on all the furniture, unkempt garden, a new kayak, new friends, am on intimate terms with my insurance company, bruises in all manner of places, and there have been times when I have had aches where I didn't even know I had places.

Thanks to all the people involved in my introduction to this wonderful sport.

## Strange Tales of the Manukau: Part II

Colin Quilter

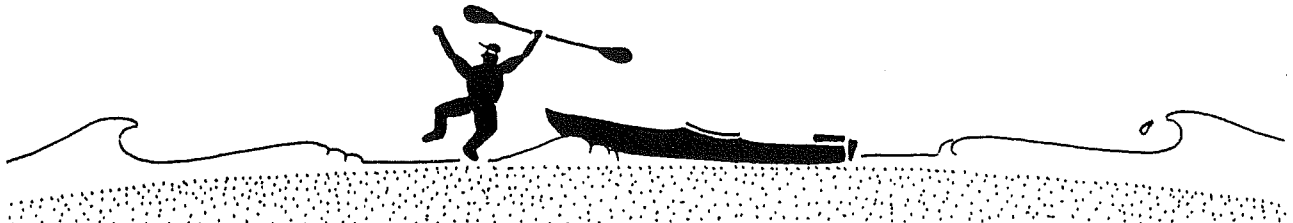
Readers of the newsletter might remember our previous attempt at landing on the Manukau Harbour bar: a windy departure at dawn, the dispiriting sight of grey breakers hurling themselves onto the bar with not even a glimpse of exposed sand, and during the return trip one of our kayaks left on the beach at Whatipu, holed in three places. I guess some would have found this mildly discouraging, but for Brett Dyer (the chief instigator of the trip), it seemed to have quite the reverse effect.

"Saturday the 28th of March is the next chance. One of the lowest tides of the year, it occurs late in the afternoon, meet you at the Little Huia boat ramp at 2.30pm." I confess to mixed feelings. On one hand I thought the chance of landing on the bar was a big fat zero; on the other hand, if somebody else was trying it I wanted to be there!

The weather forecast was ominous. A cyclone crossing the Tasman was expected to bring strong northeasterlies; but on Saturday afternoon it looked to be holding off just long enough to give us a chance. By mid-afternoon the four of us (Brett, Glyn Dickson, Rob Laery and me) were heading down the middle of the channel from Little Huia towards the harbour mouth with wind and tide at our backs. Destruction Gully passed on our right, then the heights of South Head to the left, then the deep South Channel. By now the surf could be seen and heard; a wilderness of breakers over the bank which forms the southern edge of the main channel. Leaving Whatipu behind, we edged over towards them.

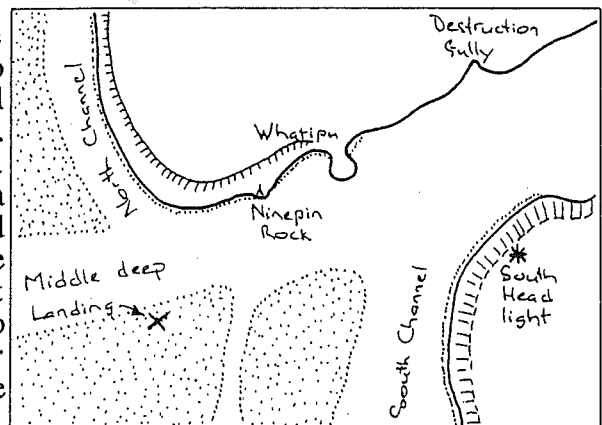
At close range the waves could be seen to form two bands. On the distant, exposed southern edge they were of impressive size, but on the sheltered northern face, along which we were paddling, the largest were no more than half a metre in height. But we hesitated to enter them; this was an exposed and eerie place, with an atmosphere of suppressed violence.

By now we were (by later calculations) 3.7 km seaward (due west) of South Head, and about 1.8 km southwest of the Ninepin Rock at Whatipu. A minor side-channel opened up on our left. Across it we could see that on the summit of the bank, between the lines of breakers on the northern and southern sides, there seemed to be a strip of calmer water. That was obviously the place to look for shallows. We penetrated the small surf on the northern face, ran inwards towards the calm area; and to our stunned astonishment, felt the thud of our rudders hitting hard sand. Fumble the sprayskirt off, out of the boats, and there we were, standing on the bank in calf-deep water.

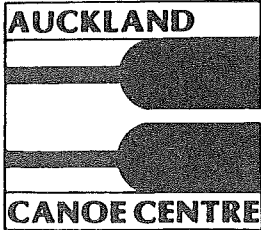


There was, as you might imagine, an amount of back-slapping and hollering. We were happy paddlers. There was time to take in the view. To the east we could see, through a haze of mist thrown up by the surf, the high land leading from South Head towards Port Waikato. To the northeast, Whatipu, with the fishermen appearing as tiny dots on the beach. Everywhere else, nothing but waves and sky.

There is little to tell of our return trip. We crossed the channel to Whatipu, landed close to Ninepin Rock for a cup of tea, and suffered the usual nasty exit from the beach into small dumping waves. Then back up the channel to Little Huia against a freshening easterly, which made us realise what a narrow window of opportunity the wind and tide had given us. Thanks, Brett, for a short but unforgettable trip. It reminded me once again of a tenet held by that famous mountaineer and sailor, Bill Tilman. "No matter how unlikely the prospect (of ocean or mountain), you'll never know whether you truly have a chance unless you go and rub your nose in it."







# AUCKLAND CANOE CENTRE LTD

502 Sandringham Road, Sandringham, Auckland 1003, New Zealand.  
Ph (09) 815-2073 Fax (09) 815-2074

## INTRODUCTION TO SEA KAYAKING

**A day course in the form of a guided trip for newcomers to Sea Kayaking.**

**Start with loading / tying your kayak to the roof rack, adjusting your foot braces, fitting your spray deck, packing and launching.**

**Learn paddle strokes, self and buddy rescues and stop on a quiet beach for lunch, a brew up and a lie in the sun.**

**If you're apprehensive about committing to that first Club or ASKNET Trip, this is the course that will set you up for that initial step.**

**Meet at Auckland Canoe Centre at 9:30am  
Return approximately 4:00pm**

**Cost: \$95.00**

**Auckland Canoe Centre will supply Kayaks and equipment if required.**

**Phone Mike or Peter at Auckland Canoe Centre Ph:815 2073 to book.**

# AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

New Member

Rejoining

Surname: .....

First Name (s) (IF FAMILY, PLEASE LIST ALL NAMES): .....

.....

Address: .....

.....

Phone (HOME): ..... (WORK): .....

Occupation: .....

Do you own a canoe?  Yes  No

If yes — please list type (s): .....

.....

Briefly state your experience in canoeing?: .....

.....

.....

.....

Please circle the branches of canoeing you are most interested in:

Slalom

Whitewater

Surf

Polo

Touring

Sea Kayaking

Flatwater Racing

Long Distance Racing

Nominated by: ..... Seconded by: .....

## FEES FOR YEAR ENDING 31.3.99 — PLEASE CIRCLE THE FEE BEING PAID!

Junior \$15    Senior \$25    Family \$30    Associate member \$15

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$** .....

*To comply with the Privacy Act 1993, the Club is required to get permission from members to gather and publish personal details such as names, addresses, phone numbers etc. This information will only be used in newsletters and published on the current member phone list. Therefore could you please read and fill out the form below.*

I agree / disagree to let the Auckland Canoe Club publish my name, address, phone number or any other information concerning me in the Club newsletter or to the National Canoe Association. I accept responsibility for correcting this information where applicable.

Signed: ..... Name (PLEASE PRINT): .....

Date: .....

Please return to: The Treasurer, Auckland Canoe Club Inc., P.O. Box 3523, Auckland.



# Pleasure Boat Accident & Incident Report

NB. It is a requirement under  
Sec. 31 of the Maritime  
Transport Act 1994 to report all  
accidents & incidents

Please forward to:

Maritime Safety Authority of New Zealand  
Box 27 006 Wellington

Telephone: 04-473 0111 Facsimile: 04-473 8111

Please tick as many boxes as appropriate

Date of Accident:	Type of Accident	<input type="checkbox"/> Grounding	<input type="checkbox"/> Explosion	<input type="checkbox"/> Machinery Failure
		<input type="checkbox"/> Stranding	<input type="checkbox"/> Capsize	<input type="checkbox"/> Flooding
		<input type="checkbox"/> Fire	<input type="checkbox"/> Foundering	<input type="checkbox"/> Person Overboard
		<input type="checkbox"/> Collision	<input type="checkbox"/> Structural Failure	<input type="checkbox"/> Other.....
Time:				
Accident Location:				
Owners/Skippers Name:		Skipper's Age:		Gender: M/F
Address & Phone number:				

Your Boat's Name:	Length (m):	Boat's Age (yrs):
Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Power <input type="checkbox"/> Sail <input type="checkbox"/> Row <input type="checkbox"/> Kayak/Canoe <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Watercraft <input type="checkbox"/> Raft <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminium <input type="checkbox"/> GRP/Fibreglass <input type="checkbox"/> Steel <input type="checkbox"/> Rubber <input type="checkbox"/> Other...	
What was the purpose of the trip? (Fishing, sailing, diving, picnic, etc.)		

What happened and why? (Please continue overleaf if necessary)

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How many people on board?       How many injuries?       Number of fatalities?

What was the extent of damage to the vessel?  Nil    Slight    Serious    Loss

Visibility:  Clear    Overcast    Squalls    Rain    Haze    Fog

Sea Conditions:  Calm (waves < 20cm)    Rough (waves 1m - 3m)    High waves (> 5m)  
 Choppy (waves 20cm - 1m)    Very rough (waves 3m - 5m)    Strong current

Wind:  None    Moderate (11-27 knots)    Gale (34-40 knots)  
 Light (4-10 knots)    Near Gale (28-33 knots)    Strong Gale (> 41 knots)

Was a weather forecast obtained?  Yes    No      Where from? .....      When? .....

What equipment did the boat carry?  
 Lifejackets    E.P.I.R.B    Compass    Knife    Alternative Power  
 Distress Flares    Anchor    First Aid Kit    Rope    Spare Fuel  
 VHF Radio    Bailer    Fire Extinguisher    Torch    Tool Kit

On average how often do you go boating?  
 Summer:  weekly    monthly    occasionally  
 Winter:  weekly    monthly    occasionally

Do you hold a boating safety qualification?  None    RNZCG    YNZ    Other...

What in your opinion contributed to the accident?  
 Inexperience    Inattention    Error in judgement  
 Weather conditions    Poor planning    Poor communication  
 Failure to check or maintain equipment    Medical condition    Drugs or alcohol intake  
 Failure to understand equipment    Unfamiliar with conditions    Excessive speed  
 Equipment failure    Insufficient training    Overloading

Skipper..... Date.....