



AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB NEWSLETTER

November 1998

Don't they say that life is a series of stages? I thought it would be appropriate this month to consider the stages of a kayakers development.

Novice This is pretty much where we all started, unless you were a kayaker in a previous life, which might have given you a slight advantage, although the previous life was probably before the invention of kevlar. Novices are those of us who feel threatened if the water is moving more than a millpond, and who like to be surrounded by lots of other paddlers. We wonder why there is a lump at one end of the paddle shaft.

More experienced As we gain confidence we move into this category. We can go out in the wind and may even be bold enough to try a little surfing in Hobson Bay. We have worked out how to wash our polypro and we can automatically put on our sprayskirt the right way up. We are able to join in kayaking conversations and even understand some of what we are talking about.

Racer Having become so much more confident we suddenly want to show everyone else how good we are. We become obsessed with how fast we can go and how fast everyone else can go.

Dangerous This is when we reach a certain level of confidence that tells us we can happily surf down the middle of the Harbour in the wake of the Waiheke ferry and challenge the cargo ships for water space off the Viaduct Basin. We are happy to go out in a K1 in a howling gale and think of the Manukau Bar as a place to pause for a drink. Forget the life jacket, forget the paddle float - we are invincible, or at least immortal.

Explorer This is when life gets more interesting. Having survived innumerable dangers, not exactly unscathed but with the minimum of short term hospital stays and a maximum of long term ones, and ACC are quite sick of our name, we suddenly become wiser and realise that there are lots of quite safe places to go which may actually turn out to be interesting. We go to new places at new times of day or night.

Fisherman Now we are really starting to calm down. We need a fresh interest. We need a motive to continue spending all this time on the water. Let's provide food for the family. Never mind if it is cheaper and easier to go to the fish shop.

Chatterer And finally we have arrived. We are relaxed, casual, slow and wise. We have years of exploits up our sleeve. Every condition has been encountered before. We have sat in every type of boat. We know everyone. We can laze back and tell the world about it all.

Yours in paddling

Julia

Your Club Officers

President	Trevor Arthur 817 7357
Secretary.....	Margaret Thwaites 292 7883
Canoe hire/storage.....	Bruce Bugbee 570 1134(day)
Editor.....	Julia Thorn 575 3099
Sunday paddles.....	Matt Crozier 276 7049
White water.....	George Gerard 818 5066

CALENDAR NOV- DEC

18 November Meteor shower The spectacular Leonid meteor shower *may* shower meteors on us. A few are seen every year but every 33 years (astronomers think maybe this year) thousands can rain down in a meteor storm. The meteors originate from the constellation of Leo, which will be high northeast around 4am. Best viewing time expected 3.30am to 4.30am; the "old" moon rises 5.37am.

May be a good time for an early morning paddle. Personally I will almost certainly be in deep slumber at this time, but you may like to haul out your kayak and be out on the water to see the spectacle.

Brett Dyer has plenty more info about this so give him a call on 846 3198.

21 November Picnic with Neal Join Neal Wilson for another of his successful day trips, geared to the novice and intermediate paddler. Destination will depend on weather and participants. Bring lunch.

Neal can be contacted on 846 1429.

21 November Sea Kayak Race 5 km and 10 km courses. Meet outside our downstairs Clubroom (behind Fergs Kayaks on the ramp) at 8 am for registration, briefing and handicapping. Everyone is welcome, regardless of ability or type of sea kayak. There'll be a barbecue afterwards. Cost is \$5.

Contact Grant Stone 473 6658, Matt Grant 524 2108 or Roger Lomas 625 8924.

21 November Dinner date at Whitford Join us for dinner at the Settlers Cafe in Whitford. We're planning to paddle there from Cockle Bay which takes about 45 minutes, have dinner and then carry on a bit further up the creek. Paddling at dusk should be magic.

The restaurant has offered us a set menu at \$20 including entree and main if we provide a minimum of 15 mouths, and what's more we've been assured that portions are generous! The food is Maltese. (That's a country, not a chocolate ball with an interesting inside)

Meet at 5.30pm for a 6pm departure from Cockle Bay. Return will be in daylight or twilight so bring a torch just in case. Trevor has the details, on 817 7357. He would like you to contact him immediately if you intend to come so he can firm up the booking with the cafe. If you would like to drive to Whitford and join in the dinner that would be fine too.

ps The restaurant does not appear to object to polypro so you don't need to bring a change of clothes!

22 November First sea swim This is the first of the Harbour sea swims for the summer organised by Auckland Central Masters Swimmers, for which you may recall the Club provides a kayak escort service. We like to have as many boats out as possible, but at least 25, to support the swimmers so they don't go off their course, drown or have other mishaps. Club boats are available to members free of charge for this, and it is usually a convivial morning on the water.

The route for the swimmers is Herne Bay Beach to Curran St, a distance of 1.2 km. Kayakers are to meet at 9am on the water by the Curran St off ramp to paddle back to Herne Bay beach for the start of the swim at 9.45. You can either lift your boat over the sea wall and launch onto the beach or have a longish carry down the road from the car park; in the latter case wheels would be useful.

Please show your support by coming along. The Club earns good money for each boat that is on the water. Contact Trevor for more details on 817 7357.

22 November 100th Albatross Celebration Calling all Albatross. Come along for a 100th Albatross celebration at 9.30am at Okahu Bay, behind Fergs. Contact Grant Stone 473 6658.

27/28/29 November Tiri Tiri Matangi Island Join us for the legendary annual Auckland Canoe Club trip to this lovely island and stay in the 16 bed lodge (plus one extra mattress). First come best dressed, so register your interest with Trevor asap, tel 817 7357. The weekend is virtually booked out already so act quickly.

Three departures are planned: 9am Friday, 6.30pm Friday, 8am Saturday.

As you'll have heard the island is a Mecca for walking, birdwatching, rockhopping and photography.

29 November Weiti River Matt Grant is planning to repeat his gentle paddle along the Weiti River from Arkles Bay to Silverdale. Meet at Arkles Bay at 12.30pm for a 1 pm departure, and you should be back by 5 pm.

Contact Matt on 524 2108.

29 November Te Kapa River An ASKNET trip. Meet at 11am at the Auckland Canoe Centre Sea Kayak Dock at the Waiwera Holiday Park. Be on the water at 11.30am to take advantage of the 4pm tide.

Contact Peter or Mike at Auckland Canoe Centre tel 815 2073.

29 November Waitemata Canoe Relay 98 Teams of three members will be assembled on the day, to paddle six kilometre laps with a handicap start. Registration 2.15pm, briefing 2.30pm, start 3pm. Venue is end of Taikata Rd, Te Atatu Peninsula.

Contact Blair Roskrug for more info, tel 626 2066

3 - 6 December Int'l Fulljames Rodeo 98 See the full details further on in this Newsletter.

4 December Round Rangitoto by moonlight An ASKNET trip. Meet at Takapuna boat ramp at 6.30pm for 6.45 departure. Contact Kevin Jose tel 846 6796.

4 - 6 December Motutapu weekend Join ASKNET for a weekend at the lodge, including a pot luck dinner in formal dress. More info from Rebecca Heap, tel 473 0661.

5 December 5+10K Race 8am

6 December Chelsea Sugar swim This is the second of the Harbour sea swims and your support is warmly requested. We like to have at least thirty boats on the water for this one, as the swimmers have a tendency to drift off the course and into the channel.

Please be at Curran St by 8.15am. You will be jostling for launching space with the swimmers. As before Club boats will be available for your use free of charge.

12 December Picnic with Neal Join Neal Wilson for another of his successful day trips, geared to the novice and intermediate paddler. Destination will depend on weather and participants. Bring lunch.

Neal can be contacted on 846 1429.

13 December Crusoe Island via Browns and Motuihe This is the trip where you get three islands for the price of one. However for a change the plan is to start from Okahu Bay. All up it is a two to three hour paddle each way. It'll be a good full day of action.

Meet at Okahu Bay at 8am for 8.30 departure!

Contact Trevor for details on 817 7357.

13 December Motuora Island An ASKNET trip with not too much paddling. Meet at 9.30 for 10am departure. Contact Clive Hookham for details, tel 473 0493.

19 December 5+10K Race 8am

19 December Join us for **Christmas dinner on Rangitoto**. The idea is to paddle across for a shared dinner, including barbecue (the Club will provide sausages, chops and maybe even steak) and walk to the summit if you feel like it. Please bring a torch for the return, although there will be an option to return in daylight, and bring salads and deserts. Yes, bring wine too - Rona has offered to bring the corkscrew. I hope she doesn't forget this!

Meet at Okahu Bay at 3pm for a 3.30pm departure, and phone Trevor for more details, 817 7357.

Christmas is coming.....Do you need company over Christmas? Well this isn't a lonely hearts ad, but if you would like to do some paddling with other like minded paddlers Trevor would be keen to hear from you on 817 7357.

21 February Sea swim Fergusons Wharf to Tamaki Yacht Club. This is the third swim in the series.

7 March Sea swim Rangitoto to St Heliers. This is the final swim in the Masters series. Club members and other kayakers will be able to camp on Rangitoto overnight to be at the start of the swim on time. More details to follow, but pencil in the date right now as we'll want to have a super duper turnout for this one.

.....And soon it will be Easter The Club is thinking of having a trip to Matauri Bay up in Northland, based at the motor camp. It's a great location with many fine spots easily accessible. We would like to hire a 10/12 seater van and a trailer as the easiest and cheapest way of getting everyone up there.

If this appeals to you please give Trevor a call on 817 7357. He will need to know numbers well in advance so he can make the necessary bookings.

Saturday mornings on the Manukau Who is interested in joining Trevor for a paddle on the Manukau Harbour on a Saturday? He would love to hear from you, tel 817 7357.

Midweek paddling We've heard that there are a number of Club members who would be interested in a midweek daytime paddle, but it hasn't yet been possible to get you all together. So if this sounds like you, why don't you get in touch with your Editor and I will try to coordinate something or find you a suitable leader. I'm contactable on 575 3099.

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 Bruce Bugbee 570 1134. We try to have a Committee member there for these paddles, but excuse us if it isn't always possible.

Organised Club Sunday morning paddles from Okahu Bay don't seem to be drawing much of a crowd these days so we've decided to can them until the summer.

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

DIPS N DUNKS

Your Editor

My name is Julia Thorn and I can be reached at 14 Paunui St, St Heliers, tel 575 3099. Give me a call or drop me a line when you have something to tell or ask. How about a trip report or suggestions for improving the Newsletter?

Photos please

If you have any fun photos, incriminating or otherwise, but please only related to kayaking, that you'd like to share with Club members, how about pinning them on the notice board at our downstairs Clubrooms.

Club discounts

Just a reminder that Club members are entitled to a discount of 10% on purchases at Fergs Kayaks, Canvas City and Auckland Canoe Centre.

Happy birth day

Congratulations to Steve and Michia Davey on the birth of their child. Can't tell you any more about this I'm sorry.

For Sale

Wing Blade paddle 216 cm. Good nick - a steal at \$100. Call Matt Grant 524 2108.

SEA BEAR - a Ron Augustin built ply original. Being painted as you read this. New fibreglass hatches. Includes sprayskirt and paddle. A proven seaworthy tourer. \$950. Call Matt Grant 524 2108 or (w) 912 4311.

Matt also has access to a manufacturer of portable fish smokers, designed to fit in a kayak hatch, made of thick galvanised steel. Contact him if you are interested.

FASTRAK bike transporter - if you need to carry a bike on the back of your car and you don't have a towbar, this is the gadget for you. It hooks onto the back of the car and can carry an adult or child size bike. Only \$30 to a good home. Call Julia 575 3099.

The Clevedon Caper 98

Another successful year for our Club's race, with 35 bodies on the water and reasonable conditions, although apparently the slower paddlers had a bit of a problem fighting the tide on the last stretch. Many thanks to Laurie, Bruce and Lesley for their excellent organisation and tasty hamburgers, and to Carolanne for the timekeeping.

Results (the time in brackets shows how far out the paddler's estimate of finishing time was):

1. Glen Gray (8secs)
2. our own Trevor Arthur (24s)

3. Terry Newsome (32s)
4. Jed Rice (46s)
5. Andrew & Blair (1m07s)
6. Chris Jeanes (2m23s)

Looking forward to next year guys!

STOP PRESS!

Club sea kayak races Dec 5 and 19

Format is same as for November 21. See details in the Calendar.

International Fulljames Rodeo

This event will be held from the 3rd to the 6th of December this year. In December 1999 New Zealand will be staging the Rodeo World Championships at Fulljames. A large number of overseas paddlers will be taking part in the "Pre Worlds" in December and testing New Zealand's white water this summer. Entries for the International Fulljames Rodeo 98 will close on 21 November. New Zealand competitors will have to compete at a selection event at Fulljames on the 28th and 29th of November. Competitors for the selection event and the International Rodeo also have to become members of the NZ Freestyle Kayak Committee Inc. Entry Forms and Membership Applications are available from the Auckland Canoe Centre. For information please contact Andy Uhl, Secretary NZ Freestyle Kayak Committee Inc, PO Box 1160, Rotorua. Email: NZFKC@clear.net.nz. Visit the website <http://home.clear.net.nz/pages/NZFKC/>

We recommend active rodeo paddlers register with the NZFKC and enter the competition straight away. All other kayakers and supporters will be assured of a spectacular and entertaining weekend at Fulljames (sorry Ngaawapurua) on the 3rd to the 6th of December this year.

Peter Sommerhalder
Tel 815 2073 (w) 631 5344(h)

Picnic at the Manukau Heads

By Rona Patterson

It is now ten months since I first sat in a kayak! I started off very nervous and it has been a slow process gaining confidence, and I still have a real fear of **capsizing**, the **Manukau Harbour** and **white water**.

After reading the October newsletter for about the third time, the picnic at the Manukau Heads on Saturday 31 October sounded pleasant, but I still had a fear of the Manukau Harbour. I rang Colin Quilter the night before the trip (just making enquiries, hoping that it would be postponed). This was not to be, the weather forecast was perfect with only 10 knot winds expected. Still hoping that some other excuse for not going on the trip would present itself, I went to bed purposely not setting my alarm, hoping I would sleep too late to make it to Cornwallis in time for the 10am departure. Wouldn't you know it? I woke at 5.27am, giving me enough time to do the household chores **and** get to Cornwallis in time.

The day started off with the sun beating down, so I left home dressed in shorts and covered in sun block. But wait! I had only been in my car ten minutes when the rain was pelting down. Perhaps the trip would now be cancelled. Wrong again! By the time I had found my way to Cornwallis, the rain had cleared and the water was as smooth as a sheet of glass.

A group of thirteen set off at the appointed time. The glassy water only lasted for a short time, but the conditions to Whatipu were very pleasant. However, I was in for one enormous shock - one which I will never forget. By now we were all spaced into little groups and I noticed an enormous buoy come from nowhere and race towards the three men who were a little in front of Rosie and myself. They avoided it with ease, and turned around watching it. Then, the dratted thing turned and came hell for leather towards us. I will never know how we avoided it. **WOW!** Of course, all you experienced paddlers know that the buoy was not moving; the current was pulling us at a great rate of knots towards it. If ever I should be anywhere near that place again, I will give it a very wide berth.

We beached at Whatipu at the base of Paratutai Rock in gentle waves with only one person coming to grief. After a quick snack we climbed to the top of the hill where we could see forever.

Once we were in our kayaks again, we started off on the shortest leg of our journey, and the only time when some of us felt concern. We were heading diagonally across to South Head. The glassy waters had long gone and we now had waves hitting us diagonally and concentration was needed. Some of the waves were so good that some of the men were surfing. At one time Neil Wilson came flying across in front of me at a great rate of knots on an enormous run.

It was during this crossing that Colin caused a stir by going over the side. No, he didn't tip out, he very kindly showed me how simple it was to get back into the canoe if a capsize should happen. (It certainly **looked** simple) He then urged me to follow suit, but my fear is still very strong, "but Colin, I promise I will practice your technique on my shallow harbour".

Colin has all the secrets, and once on the other side, he took us to a little bay where even a raw beginner could beach with no trouble. He also knew the perfect spot for lunch, which was half way up a cliff face. At this time, three of the girls were a little slow to follow, so we don't know who to blame for making us climb vertically up where in some cases the footholds were as far apart as my head from my feet. On our way down, we found a perfectly good grassy zigzag path.

Sitting eating lunch and looking over at Whatipu, it appeared there were only 13 people in the world, but it was all too soon before we had to move on; some to climb to the top of yet another mountain and to descend an even more vertical face, the others to rest, or to have a run on the beach before returning to Cornwallis.

The return journey was hot and windy, and true to her reputation, Margaret caught two large fish. The day was finished off with tea/coffee on the beach, courtesy of Roger.

I learned:

- * not to go away without a back pack
- * to be wary of buoys
- * get myself a fishing line
- * teach myself how to get into my boat if I should fall out
- * have dry paper/twigs for boiling the billy