



# AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

### MARCH 1999

The other day I went for a long morning's paddle and everything about the trip was perfect. I'm not being sarcastic or even witty. It was just one of those perfect days. For sure it doesn't make for the world's most exciting story - it's the chronic misadventures that make for the best reading. Turn the page now if you would rather read of being marooned on a deserted island for a week or capsizing in shark infested waters. (Oops, I hope someone has supplied a tale about these sort of things!)

Anyway, usually I'm in a daze first thing in the morning and do all the chores by rote without recognising what is going on in the world around me. But on this particular day I noticed that the sun was shining. Good start, that. Then I noticed that there wasn't a breath of wind. Getting better. By the time I realised the water was dead calm my mind was made up.

I cancelled all the other activities I had painstakingly arranged and knew that I just had to get out on that water. There are so many times that I've planned to go for a paddle and something has got in my way, like the babysitter not turning up or the weather changing real sudden.

I launched my trusty Intrigue at Glendowie yacht club and headed across for Musick Point. Heading up past Musick Point everything was really peaceful, with hardly any fishermen and lots of oyster catchers. I continued around the cliffs to Eastern Beach and paddled along the beach inside the reef. Again all was quiet, and in fact all morning I hardly saw any other craft out on the water. It was quite misty and very serene.

By the time I reached Cockle Bay I decided it was time to turn back. What if the wind came up, but I need not have worried. I had a slight tail wind helping me across to Browns Island, and by this time I realised I had got something else right too.

Browns Island was as lovely as ever. This has to be one of my favourite places in Auckland, just because it is so pretty and peaceful, and of course not generally crowded out with visitors and boaties. There was a bit of a chop on the north side of the island, but nothing life threatening, or even enjoyment threatening.

Things were busying up in the shipping channel as I crossed over to Karaka Beach - I guess others had realised what a lovely day it was. I even glimpsed a sea kayak crossing from Musick Point to Browns Island.

And then I had lots of tidal assistance making my short way up the estuary to Glendowie. As a final bonus, it wasn't quite high tide yet so I was able to disembark at the Yacht Club without too much difficulty, without crashing into the boat ramp and scraping my legs on the unseen rocks.

So it was a grand and wonderful day, as Pooh Bear has been known to say. A day for simple pleasures, easy paddling and lots of smiles. Sorry this Editorial has been so tame.

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

**Please note** that we have **changed** the Club's *official address*. So if you need to **write** to the Club - but this does not affect the address for Newsletter material - the new address is: c/o Margaret Thwaites, Auckland Canoe Club, William Potter Lane, Karaka, RD 1 Papakura.

## CALENDAR MAR - APRIL

**20 March 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, David Poolman 025 597 086 or Roger Lomas 625 8924.

**20 - 21 March Mystery trip** Depart Okahu Bay 2 pm, after Roger's race and barbecue. Head for places unknown (except to your leader).

Contact Margaret Thwaites tel 292 7883.

**20 March Tongariro Mountain Classic** five stage race around the volcanic plateau. Contact Greg Carlyon, Organiser Fairydown Tongariro Mountain Classic, RD 1, Turangi, tel 025 855 397 or 07 386 6934.

**21 March Dacre Challenge APCC race** Starts 9 am at Kayak Kiosk, Long Bay Regional Park. 12 km distance. Organised by Yakity Yak Kayak Club

**SURF'S UP! 26 & 28 March** For those who enjoy surf, want to enjoy surf or just want to **survive**. Combined Surf Picnic / Surf Instruction day on March 28 at 9.30 am.

Those with own boats (whitewater or sea kayak) can surf at their leisure. Those needing instruction can receive expert tuition as follows:

Who: Auckland Wilderness Kayaking

When : Friday 26 March 6 pm - Surf stroke technique - Okahu Bay

Sunday 28 March 9.30 am - venue to be advised on the day

Cost : \$20 hire whitewater boat, \$60 instruction

Instructor ratio will be limited to six participants per instructor so book early with Chris Gully on 09 813 3369.

This is a great investment in future fun, safety and paddling confidence.

For venue advice call on the Sunday after 7 am Matt Grant 524 2108 or Chris Gully 813 3369.

The venue will be no more than 90 minutes' drive from Auckland.

**27 March Waiwera Wet & Wild** Contact Auckland Canoe Centre, tel 815 2073, for more details. Also there's an ad for this event in this Newsletter.

**2 - 5 April (Easter) Matauri Bay** in Northland, based at the motor camp. It's a great location with many fine spots easily accessible.

It's up to you when you travel up there, but organised paddles will commence on Good Friday. We would like you to organise your own camping arrangements - there is a lodge there also - so here is the motorcamp phone number: 09 405 0525. The address is Matauri Bay Holiday Park, Matauri Bay, Kerikeri. We are advising the motorcamp that a group of kayakers will be coming, so they can position us all together. *Also motel / restaurant / bar available at Oceans Village tel. 09 405 0417.*  
Please register your interest with Trevor, tel 817 7357 or Bruce Bugbee, tel 570 1134 (day) or Matt Grant, tel 524 2108.

By the way if you were thinking of going up that way for the **Cavallis Race** it has been replaced for this year by **Waiwera Wet & Wild**.

**11 April Narrows -Hamilton APCC race** 10' km race starts at 11 am.  
Contact Hamilton Canoe Club, Paul Ewart 07 855 8425.

**17 April Moturekareka Island** A day trip from Martins Bay to Moturekareka and neighbouring islands. Meet at Martins Bay for a 9.30 am departure.

Contact Matt Grant tel 524 2108.

*stop press: sea kayak race  
17 April Okahu Bay, as for 20 March*

**18 April Track & Gorge triathlon** Long and short duathlon and multisport courses. Contact Track & Gorge Triathlon, 38 Langston Ave, Palmerston North tel 06 358 1908.

**18 April Meadow Lea Marathon APCC race** Starts at reserve end of Oakland Rd Drury at 2 pm and races 16 km around Bottle Top Bay. Organised by Manukau

Canoe Club.

**ASKNET trips** As you know we usually list ASKNET trips in this Newsletter. Here is a summary of what they have planned: 19 March Riverhead Pub - contact Kevin Jose tel 846 6796; 21 March Tiri Tiri Matangi Island - contact the Dunsfords tel 410 3696.

**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.

## 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** prefer novice kayakers to come on Tuesdays and tend to keep Thursdays for more experienced paddlers so the group can go further faster.

Please note that these are just **informal paddles** where you travel at your own risk and responsibility. We cannot guarantee that there will be someone there to hold your hand, although in practice there is almost always a **selection of well worn Club members** at these evening outings. We're not trying to put you off at all, but hey, things can happen out there on the water.....

**Destination** is by consensus and the group will usually appoint a trip leader and tail ender.

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

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## Swim escort paddles

Thanks to all participating members for a great turnout for the four swims.

As well as the fundraising aspect these outings raise our profile with the Coastguard and highly appreciative swimmers from Auckland Masters Swimmers and associated clubs.

Eleven of us keen, or silly, members didn't want to pass up our annual chance to camp on Rangitoto. In spite of the rain and a couple of mozzies we had a neat evening. We awoke to no wind, dead flat seas and perfect swimming conditions for 400 odd keen bodies, including our own Matt Grant who achieved a good time.

Thanks for your efforts.

Trevor

# DIPS N DUNKS

## Your Editor

My name is Julia Thorn and I can be reached at 447A Riddell Road, Glendowie, 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? Come on, you must have something that's burning to go into print. If you don't, then make something up. Don't let the truth get in the way of a good story.

## The storage shed - Trevor tells

Much discussed and long awaited.

Well finally the day is nearing when we will be in our new storage facility. Circumstances beyond our control have held things up a wee bit.

Club and private boats will be in a common shed, so it will be members' responsibility to secure their boats. This is easily enough done. Any input to our new area is welcomed.

Security and other details will be published once things are up and running, hopefully not too far off. Thanks for your patience.

## Wanted

Neal Wilson would like to buy a set of kayak wheels. Please contact him on 846 1429.

## 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. If you haven't seen the notice board, go and have a look at it now.

## 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. A reminder - we are no longer issuing Club membership cards.

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For those members who are not already aware of this, George Gerard is running paddle technique and rolling practice sessions every Tuesday and Thursday at the Glen Innes pools. Boats are available or you can use your own.

Give George a call on 818 5066.

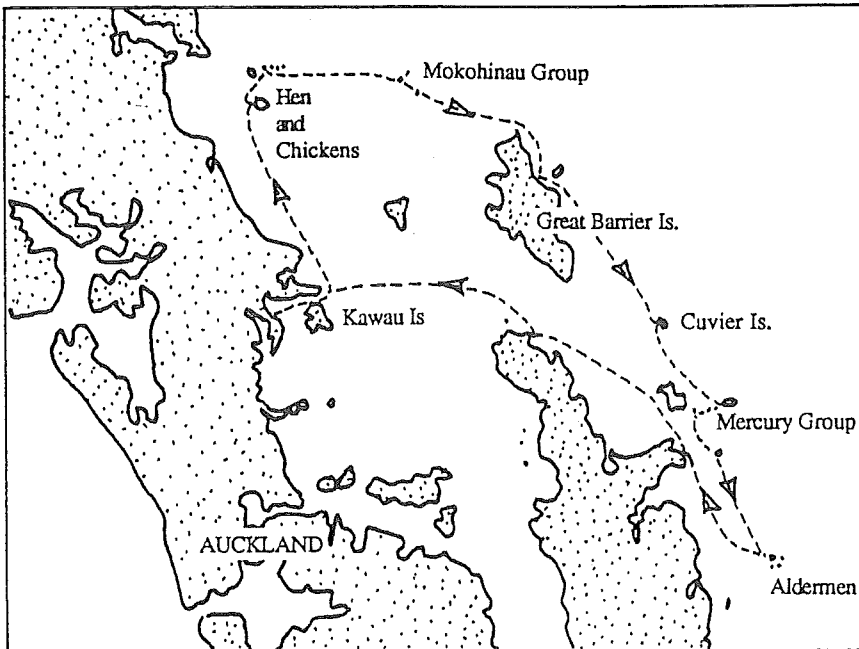
A good roll is something that needs practice, to make sure it's there when you need it.

## Sailing and kayaking the offshore islands

Colin Quilter

I've always wanted to explore some of the islands in the outer reaches of the Hauraki Gulf by kayak. Two things make that difficult: their distance from the mainland, and the fact that landing is prohibited on most of them. An elegant solution to both problems occurred to me when, about a year ago, Jon Nicholson invited me to crew for him on board his 11 metre racing catamaran. As we flew around Waiheke at speeds which occasionally topped 20 knots, I looked at the expanse of trampoline stretched between the two hulls and wondered how many sea kayaks one could fit there without impeding the operation of the boat. About four, I thought. So I broached the idea to Jon of a trip to the offshore islands combining sailing and kayaking, and received an enthusiastic response.

That is how Trevor Arthur, Glyn Dickson and I found ourselves loading kayaks and a week's food onto Jon's yacht "Energizer" at Sandspit on January 12. We hoisted sail while motoring down the river, and emerged into a fresh northeasterly at the river mouth. As the first gust hit Jon and I, knowing what to expect, held onto something; the others staggered backwards as the yacht sprang up to speed. The acceleration takes a bit of getting used to. Offshore from Kawau Island there was a lumpy sea and a fresh headwind, (conditions which were to be repeated for the next two days). That didn't deter us, since the boat goes upwind at 10-12 knots in those conditions. But not without a fair amount of leaping and falling, and plenty of spray.



By late afternoon we were anchored in the lee of Hen Island. Here we found that although I had volunteered to bring food for the whole party for the week, the others had (quite independently of each other) all harboured a secret fear that I might forget to bring wine; so each person had smuggled on board a couple of casks just in case. When we added up the total supply, it became clear that in order to consume the lot within the week a serious task lay ahead, and that each man must do his duty. Well, lying on the trampoline, wineglass in hand, watching the native pigeons foraging from tree to tree, I thought that, as duties went, it was not so bad.

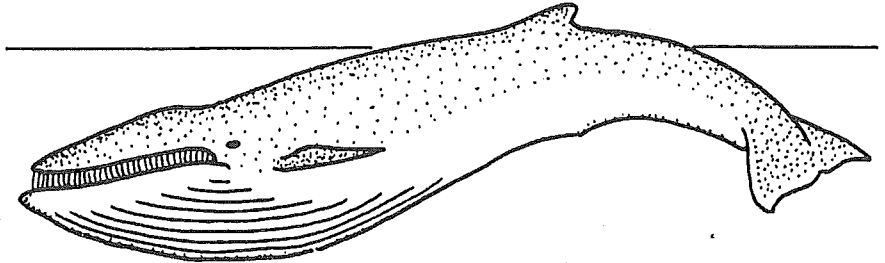
In the morning we moved eastward to the Chicks, put the kayaks overboard, and spent a few hours exploring the group. Jon amazed us. He had done very little canoeing, and this was his first day in an unfamiliar kayak. But where we went, he went. At the far end of the island chain it became clear that on the windward side, where the swell rebounded from the cliffs, we were going to meet some very rough water. Perhaps, I suggested, Jon might like to remain on the sheltered side instead? "What's the worst that can happen?" he asked. "You might end up swimming," I replied. "Well if that's all, let's go." So we bounced our way around the northern side, (passing two large sharks on the way) in conditions which would give many seasoned paddlers pause for thought, and he never turned a hair.

By lunchtime the next day we had sailed eastward to the Mokohinau Group which lie about 25 km NE of Great Barrier Island. Burgess Island bears the lighthouse and was farmed for many years, so landing is allowed. On our stroll to the summit we found the buildings are derelict, the lighthouse-keeper's gardens have gone to ruin, but skinks have reclaimed the grasslands and were everywhere beneath our feet. Once in our kayaks we found that the western islands in the group (Flax and Trig I.) are a real delight. Soft strata in the very heart of these islands have collapsed and eroded away, so that although from a distance the islands appear solid, they are actually a labyrinth of holes,

passages, hidden bays, archways and narrow clefts, many of them completely sheltered from the swell.

In the evening Trevor and Jon decided that they could manage a glass in one hand and a fishing rod in the other, which was unlucky for a snapper and a kahawai which happened by. We managed to land them without spilling anything. Then at 9pm Jon, flushed with success and a nice Australian merlot, suggested that rather than sleep we should go sailing. Why not to the eastern side of Great Barrier, 40km to the SE? So we did. The highlight of this passage was being joined briefly by phosphorescent dolphins which came streaking in towards us, each bathed in green light and trailing a vortex of sparks and flashes. After a few turns beneath the bow they lost interest and streaked off elsewhere. At 1.30am we felt our way into Whangapoua Bay, anchored at a guess, and fell into bed.

During the next morning, in sunshine and a light NE breeze we sailed south to Cuvier Island, anchoring close inshore at the SW corner. We anticipated white wine for dinner, and Jon thought a crayfish entree would accompany it well, so he and Trevor donned



SCUBA gear and returned with two crayfish large enough that they constituted a main-course in their own right. Then as we were reflecting on our good luck (no doubt the crayfish had rather different thoughts) we noticed the spouts of whales a kilometre or so offshore. So up with the anchor and out we went. The whales were moving slowly, and we had a great view as they passed close alongside and then beneath the boat. We identified them later as Bryde's Whales, part of a population which is apparently resident in the Bay of Plenty. The largest animals in the group would have been about 12 metres long; the smallest a juvenile of perhaps 3 metres which (like any other kid) splashed around with its head out of water several times.

Our paddle around Cuvier later in the afternoon took little time because the island is not large. Like the Chicks it is steep, well-forested and without any notable sea caves or rock gardens. We had grown to expect rough conditions on the windward side and certainly got them; especially in a passage at the eastern end where Glyn and I were picked up and thrown sideways by a big, breaking swell. The evening was a calm. To the west the mainland was hidden beneath a bank of dark clouds. Outlined against the gloom, at intervals of a minute or two, were the plumes of vapour from whales passing slowly northward. With no other vessel in sight the whole scene had a timeless quality; it might have been this century, last century, or a million years ago.

By lunchtime next day we were at anchor at Red Mercury, the eastern-most of the Mercury group, and during the afternoon Trevor, Glyn and I kayaked along the island chain to Koropuke Island, near Great Mercury, where Jon met us in the yacht. In one of the shallow passages between two of the islands I was startled by a great commotion in the water behind me, and looked back to see a school of perhaps 30 large kingfish jostling behind my rudder. They swam in a tight group, backs out of the water and yellow tails half-exposed. I have never seen them behave like this before, and nor had Trevor who dropped back level with my stern to have a good look at them. After a minute or two of following close behind they disappeared as quickly as they had come.

That evening was spent at Ohena, one of the outer islands in the group which borders the "Hole in the Wall" passage leading through to Mercury Bay. Here Jon and I went for a walk ashore to try and reach the lighthouse. Our walk mostly amounted to stumbling, bent double, through thick scrub. Jon claimed that any sensible island would have a track along its main ridge, and if only we could find the ridge we would surely find the track; but eventually we did, and there wasn't. Dinner: wine, smoked oysters on crackers, wine, chicken curry with rice, wine, Christmas pudding with cream. How much more of this can a person stand?

In the morning we motored south towards the Aldermen. Drizzle became cold, persistent rain, but as we neared the islands the clouds miraculously rolled back. This day was probably the kayaking highlight of our trip, because the islands have been eroded into a scattering of saw-toothed crags, many of them pierced by deep caves and tunnels. During three hours in the kayaks we explored every tunnel and cave which was navigable, and Trevor explored at least two which were not.

This marked the turning point of our trip. We turned north and spent one day reaching Stony Bay in light winds, then a second carrying a welcome easterly breeze right across the Gulf. Thanks Jon for one of the best trips ever. It is great to think that these islands will always be there, protected not just for the animals and plants which inhabit them, but for sailors and kayakers as well.

**Phillip Mark Stubbs**  
**16 March 1961 - 20 December 1998**

It was with utter disbelief that Peter and I received the news at 8.30pm on 20th December that a light plane had crashed on Karekare Beach two hours earlier and had been piloted by Phil Stubbs.

Phil became known by many people after his triumphant win, together with Rob Hamill, of the Trans Atlantic Rowing Race but he was also known to a lot of other people as a canoeist, dragon boater, surf life saver, policeman and friend.

We first met Phil at Auckland Canoe Club when his dad's cousin, Evan Stubbs, brought him along as a skinny eleven year old who had already saved enough pocket money to buy his first kayak. We took him to a race on the Waikato River. He won his race, the first of numerous awards he was to win during his lifetime. Even at that young age he was a very determined person and School and the lack of money got in the way of a number of his projects. Fortunately he was very bright so homework was kept to a minimum and money making schemes filled much of the rest of his time. He supplied a pet shop with guppies and mice, tendered at the age of 13 to paint his parents house and spent most of that summer completeing the task. But he did a good job and the money he earned was put towards his next project.

He always believed he could do things better and cheaper than other people. Once he was into building K1's. He built an extremely light one in a garage on the North Shore then intended transporting it across to his parents home in Epsom. On the way over, there was a torrential downpour of rain. As he came over the brow of the Harbour Bridge all the water which had collected in the kayak rushed into the bow. He arrived at our house almost in tears, his K1 had a nose like a Concorde plane prior to take-off. That kayak was never paddled. He owned at the time a very old van, the noise was so bad inside he had to wear earmuffs when he drove it.

He was like a cat with nine lives and if you talk to any of his friends you will hear many stories such as, when he "borrowed" the Paddy Wagon at 2am from Takapuna Police Station to moved his furniture from one flat to another. The door suddenly slammed shut, locking him in. He was very lucky that a little old lady passing by a few hours later believed his story and opened the rear door to let him out. Or the time his motor boat sank on the Manukau Harbour. Fortunately his girlfriend, also from Auckland Canoe Club, was an exceptionally good swimmer and she managed to get ashore and raise the alarm. Phil was found being swept towards the Bar, hanging onto a petrol tank. The stories could go on and on.

Some of us are not surprised he didn't live to an old age, but he fitted more into his short lifetime than most of us will into much longer ones, and he still had many ideas to fulfil. Such as rowing at the 2000 Olympics. Rowing the Atlantic again, solo this time. In fact the money donated at Auckland Canoe Centre last year when he talked about the winning crossing, was enough to pay his deposit on the next Trans Atlantic Race. He also hoped for a wife and family in time. Next time a Police car stops us, we won't be expecting Phil to pop his smiling face in the window saying "What's that new kayak on your roof"?

Phil's Dad probably summed it up best when he said "Phil was a great person to have with you when you got into trouble, the thing was, you probably only got into trouble because Phil was with you!"

Rest in Peace Phil.

Su Sommerhalder



# WAIWERA WET n WILD

## SEA KAYAK CLASSIC

SATURDAY MARCH 27<sup>th</sup> 1999

&

# AUCKLAND CANOE CENTRE

## ADVENTURES

## HISTORY RIVER CRUISE

Sunday thru Monday. March 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

**Race the Classic. Stay on to Kayak the Kowhai Coast**

Classes for Sea Kayaks, Surfski's, Outriggers.

### SATURDAY MARCH 27<sup>th</sup>

**Padding Perfections Composite Classic: 32km**

Separate classes for males and females paddling single, production line grp and kevlar Sea Kayaks.

**Quality Kayaks Plastic Fantastic: 32km**

Separate classes for males and females paddling single, plastic Sea Kayaks.

**Double Trouble: 32km**

Separate classes for males females and mixed crews paddling production line, double Sea Kayaks.

**Outrigger Classic: 32km**

Separate classes for OC1's and OC6's, male and female crews.

**Descente Surfski Classic: 32km**

Separate classes for males and females paddling single surfski's.

**Pacific Kayaks Ladies Challenge: Short Course: 17km**

Separate classes for ladies paddling single Sea Kayaks, OC1's and single Surfski's.

**Perception Cruisey Cruisers: Short Course: 17km**

Open to all laid back Sea Kayakers. Paddlers Union Rules specify a 60 minute lunch stop mid race!

**Te Wharewaka Outriggers: Short Course: 17km**

Separate classes for OC1's and OC6's, male and female crews.

## **New Zealand's Richest Sea Kayak Event**

### **Prizes in excess of \$10,000**

Sunday thru Monday. March 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

AUCKLAND CANOE CENTRE ADVENTURES, HISTORY RIVER CRUISE

Waiwera to Warkworth and return on the historic Mahurangi River.

Accommodation at the "Warkworth Inn".

All the Pizza you can eat at the Warkworth Pizza Company

## Contact Auckland Canoe Centre

Phone 09 815 2073

Fax: 09 815 2073