



AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1999

I have to start with a rather sad tale. My husband this month parked his car in our garage in such a way that it blocked in my kayak. Then he went to England. And took his car keys with him. Husbands are like that. This put paid to any kayaking I might have had in mind.

So instead I am going to tell you about my recent experience doing some off road running near Nelson.

I went down that way for an annual race called 'Loop the Lake'. It's an opportunity to run around Lake Rotoiti in the Nelson Lakes National Park on tramping tracks, a distance of about 25 km. Because of the wear on the tracks caused by all this simultaneous activity DOC limits the number of participants to 250 so this is a small intimate event with a cult following.

However, out in the wilds things often do not go as planned. At the briefing at St Arnaud the evening before the race we were warned that there had been so much rain recently that the fording of the Travers River which was necessary at the head of the lake, half way through the route, may not be possible. If it continued to rain all night then an alternative route would have to be found.

Well it did rain for quite some while and most of us would have been awake at 2 am when the rain stopped. I think that is when the snowing started.

So the next morning there were considerable delays while race organisers liased with DOC rangers and some engineers who were in the hut at the head of the lake and we all awaited the weather forecast. Meanwhile we could all enjoy the spectacular views of fresh snowfalls on the mountain ranges and observe the snow clouds that were hovering extremely low. About round our shoulders.

It soon emerged that the Travers River was in flood and flowing fast with plenty of debris - that means rocks - and there was no way we could safely wade through it. I knew from tramping experience what this looks like, and I was happy when the race route was changed so that we ran out and back along the east side of the lake.

The race started only an hour late. Snow was falling as we stood at the start line. I started the race wearing polypro top and a rain jacket, and I would have worn polypro pants if I hadn't left them in Auckland. I told someone that I had never raced in polypro and a rainjacket before, and she looked at me pityingly - poor wimpy North Islander! Those guys from the south run in the snow all the time it seems.

The track along the lakeside is as beautiful as expected. Running through the beech forest with the water lapping gently at your side is a dreamlike experience, and you get frequent glimpses of Mount Robert and the other peaks that form the St Arnaud Range.

Of course much of the route was very wet and many of the streams opted to flow along the

track. After initial hesitation, I gave up trying to avoid getting my feet too wet and just ran straight through all the streams and puddles. It was quicker that way and meant less decisions about which side to pull over to.

Most of the way the ground was soft underfoot, with some bouldery stretches - slippery of course - and lots of that typical South Island gravel near the many creeks flowing into the lake. After a short while I didn't bother trying to jump over the creeks or try to follow the cairns showing the easiest crossing, I just waded through. My feet were soaked anyway, and if you're running wet feet aren't such an issue because they don't get so cold.

So a great day's running, in a place that would also be fabulous for kayaking.

Yours in paddling

Julia

PS Don't forget our AGM on May 18. See details in the calendar.

Free magazine

You'll have realised that there's a complimentary copy of *New Zealand Kayak* included with your Newsletter this month. We are grateful to Canoe & Kayak of Mairangi Bay for this, and in turn they hope that you will be encouraged to take out a subscription to their publication.

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 APRIL - MAY

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.

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.

25 April Manukau Heads Meet at Cornwallis wharf for a 10 am departure, with the intention of paddling to Whatipu or South Head for lunch and returning late afternoon.

Contact Trevor Arthur tel 817 7357. Please note that you absolutely must contact the leader beforehand in case alternative arrangements have to be made.

1 May Rangitoto tramp & paddle Paddle across to Rangi and enjoy a day of tramping, up to the summit and around the fascinating foreshores. Contact Ray Clark tel 818 9609.

1 May 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.

4 May Club Night (Tuesday) See details further on in this Newsletter

8 May Mahurangi day trip Meet at Sullivans Bay for a 9 am departure. Margaret intends to do some serious fishing.

Contact Margaret Thwaites tel 292 7883.

9 May Tamaki Estuary APCC Race Starts at Panmure Wharf, Kings Rd, Panmure at 12.45 pm. Distance is 12 km. Contact Hauraki Kayak Group.

15 May 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.

16 May Waiau Pa whitewater Spend a couple of hours frolicking in the whitewater either in a whitewater boat or a sea kayak. A reminder that whitewater boats can be hired from the Club. Meet at 9 am at the car park by the Karaka saleyards by the Papakura motorway turnoff, so that we can cross the farm together to reach the river. High tide is at 11 am. Bring lunch.

Contact Margaret Thwaites tel 292 7883.

18 May (Tuesday) Club AGM **Matt Grant says:** Those of you who came last year know that attending the AGM is a good time to have your say about your Club and get an overview of the Club's activities and plans for the coming months. You also get to help elect officers for the coming year.

While not quite as gripping as your average political election, the whiff of a good scandal is never far away (I did not have sex with that etc etc...). So come along for the action, put your 5 cents worth and enjoy a good brew & bikkies afterwards.

When: Tues 18 May at 7.30 pm

Where: Clubrooms above Fergs Kayaks at Okahu Bay

Have you thought about joining the Executive? We meet once a month to plan trips, keep things ticking over and catch up with what's happening around the traps. No hard work involved. Just put up your hand at the AGM and we will do the rest.

23 May 1999 Superdune race See flyer in this Newsletter.

1 June Clubnight Dave Inwood will talk about his experiences in Alaska. More later.

Queens Birthday Weekend It's creeping up on us again, and there are rumours afoot that we could depart from ol faithful Lake Tarawera (translates loosely as "lousy weather, lucky we have hot pools and plenty of Cab Sav").

So if you have a rich uncle with a seaside cottage and a spa pool that will fit 30 or so weary paddlers at a squeeze, let us know. Tell him to pretend we are not even there!

Otherwise we are open to suggestions, particularly if hot pools are handy. Call Matt Grant, tel 524 2108.

13 June Cambridge to Hamilton race This is our Club's race and we love as many of our members as possible to join in. See entry form attached to this Newsletter. Be there or be

ASKNET trips We usually list ASKNET trips in this Newsletter. Here is a summary of what they have planned: April 18 Tawhitikino Beach - contact Steve Melrose 536 5386; April 25 Picnic on Motuihe - contact Matthew Crozier 276 7059; April 30 Night trip to Rangitoto - contact Kevin Jose tel 846 6796; May 2 Circumnavigate Kawau - contact Kerry Howe 478 9952; May 7 Caving on Rangitoto - contact Kevin Jose; May 9 Motuora Island - contact Clive Hookham 473 0493; May 16 Port Waikato - contact Ian Thomas 235 3646; May 23 Riverhead Pub - contact John Hotham 378 9388; May 30 Watchmans Island - contact Kevin Jose.

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.

Night paddles

Now that *winter is almost upon us* and the bulk of this paddling is in **darkness** please remember that you must bring **good lighting with you**. This means all around light and a large lens light. **Hat and warm clothes are also advised.**

Trevor says:

The ideal light is an all around white light on a one metre stalk. As a minimum we require every paddler to have a large lens spot light, dolphin style or similar **ON THE DECK**, under bungees ready for use. It is of no use in your hatch or under your spray skirt if you need it in a hurry to flash an approaching launch or yacht.

The ideal is for a night group to have a fixed light at the head and tail of a group and on each flank if there are enough.

Every person should also have a whistle. It is alarming just how quickly you can lose sight of an unlighted kayak, and whistle contact is a good way to relocate people.

Let's see you out there is a phrase to be taken literally.

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?

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.

Subscriptions

It's that time of year again. Club subscriptions are now due for the year to March 2000. There is a copy of our newly redesigned subs/renewal form attached to this Newsletter so please respond.

Missing

There are a number of Club items missing from the Club container. These include 2 paddles, spraydeck, buoyancy aid, 3 throw bags. If you have these or know where they are please return them or contact Bruce Bugbee.

Rolling

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.

Club Nights

Daylight saving's gone away
It's time to head for Okahu Bay
Climb the stairs above Fergs shop
Ray Clark will meet you at the top.
He will take five dollars off you there
And point you to a comfy chair.
Stroll around and have a chat
A talk with Trev or our 2 Matts
No smelly polypro underwear -
It's time for proper evening wear

Wander over to the kitchen door
And see Rona busy cooking for
the crowds of people who will arrive
and make our Clubrooms come alive
Soon the show will be under way -
after you have tucked away
the food our Club is famous for

Club nights are relaxed and fun
They are run by us for everyone

I know this ditty will irk you
But I tell you what I'm going to do
If I don't see you at the Clubroom door
I'm going to come back and write some more!

Anon

This year's first Club Night is Tuesday 4 May at 7 pm. Venue is our upstairs Clubrooms above Fergs Kayaks. Cost \$5.

Guest speakers are Peter and Su Sommerhalder. Topic: Auckland Canoe Club trip to the South Island in the summer of 67/68 in the Club bus with 27 people and one dog.

Contact Ray Clark tel 818 9609.

Arrive around 7 pm. hot soup waiting for you on arrival, then hot roast beef sandwiches while you watch a kayak video and have a chat, followed by guest speaker and slide show. There's tea and coffee, the chance to talk kayaks, catch up on the gossip, look at the Club notice board, meet new Club members. Don't be a stranger - come join us.

Sea kayak racing

Roger Lomas

The Okahu Bay Saturday morning series

Some good times have been posted and a good friendly rivalry is apparent now that the revised handicap system is in use. With fair time adjustments for age, gender and craft we can all race together.

Race # 10 saw Gordon in the Bullet take line honours with new Member Mike Sexton in second in his new Slingshot. Our high speed Secretary Margaret put in a strong sprint cutting inside Roy Meehan at the final mark to take third. Thanks to Canvas City (where we can get 10 % discount) for prizes.

Our Saturday morning races are setting a new standard for post race cuisine, with bacon and egg burgers cooked to order by our Club burgermaster Alex. The roosters weren't working out West and the Kaukapakapakapakapapapa Kid - Dave Poolman - turned up late, but was he saving himself for something? Read on...

Waiwera Sea Kayak Classic 27 March

A new event to the sea kayak race calendar run by Auckland Canoe Centre and thank you to

Peter, Su and Mike for the huge effort that I know is needed to stage one of these events. A good entry came from our Club with some excellent results.

The Kaukapakapa (Ed: I won't do that silly typing again, promise!) Kid had rubbed the sleep from his eyes and fully charged on his Sabre to take up some of NZ's best and finish third outright in the men's race, and was first owner paddler home. Well done Dave. Wendy Jasper took second outright in the female in her Albatross and Racing Rona was out there on the high seas too. Ian Staples and Doug Walker powered up the big Barracuda in the doubles race to take line honours and also set the new outright record for sea kayaks at the race. Graeme Bruce showed what a powerful paddler he is by putting his Expedition well up the field. This is a Div 3 boat in our Saturday races.

Club races

We run 2 races a month on Saturday mornings, meeting out the back of the Clubrooms behind Fergs shop. If you're not quite ready yet or a little unsure about what we do, come on down and watch, and join us for a cuppa and barbecue. We keep it at a low key fun level and no matter what the weather there is always a course option available.

We all talk the same language down there - sea kayaks!

Easter at Matauri Bay

Trevor Arthur

I know Julia has a rule about no recipes in the mag but....A recipe for a great holiday must be:

1. A group of great people keen to relax paddle and mix
2. The most beautiful of surroundings - islands galore
3. Good weather (hey, we didn't get sunburnt)
4. More than the normal 2 day weekend
5. Top fishing spots

Well we popped all these in the holiday blender and out came a winner.

Sue and I were in awe of the beautiful Cavalli group of islands as we wound down the hill into Matauri Bay on a lovely Thursday afternoon. Graeme, Rona and Digby were already set up. Graeme, who had been there since Tuesday, had a prime beach front site in which to soak up the glorious beach vista.

We had a whole block of sites set aside for the Club and by Friday pm we had filled up nicely. A good group from our Club were joined by Vincent and some ASKNET paddlers as well as some Yakity Yak members. Numbers fluctuated around the 25 boat mark as people came and went. There was the best range of kayaks I've seen for a while including Jan's canvas decked home-built craft. A great chance to try out different boats.

A dozen of us decided to make the most of a magic Friday morning with an early morning paddle out to the islands. We arranged to be back by 10ish to meet the late arrivals, then head off for the day.

We found a neat little tunnel cutting through one end of an outer island. I confess I have trouble

resisting the temptation to play in rock gardens or caves and I ignored my mental picture of a sign saying *Don't even think about it*. The tunnel was tight but navigable BUT the swell and waves coming into the rock garden on the other side, around a corner, was definitely not too boat friendly. Exhilarating and fun yes, but in hindsight worth a recce trip around the headland before running it. The sound of kevlar smacking against rocks is not a nice one.

Once back out into clear water we tried to pump out my cockpit but water was coming in as fast as we pumped it out. It appears I had popped the seam between hull and deck mouldings and made another deck crack. Time for plan B. Back around the corner, onto the beach and out with the don't-leave-home-without-it-Duck-tape. Fantastic stuff. It's not keen on sticking to salt so use your drink bottle or thermos to rinse off the area and dry if you can. Splits, cracks, gaping holes can all be repaired by patching the tape over in a cross hatching fashion to give a good strong repair.

The other must have is a first aid kit. A couple of plasters took care of the other niggles and it was back on the water again - yee hah! afloat and back in action. Back to camp, have lunch then back on the water with increased numbers.

It was a different action this time. Lines out, and first up Steve hooked a John Dory just around the first point. What a great start and this was soon added to with kahawai and snapper destined for Matt Grant's smoker, which had a busy time through the weekend. When we got back to camp Lidsay's son Chris was straight across to the shop to get a line and spinner, keen to be in on this action in the Sea Bear double trawler.

Throughout the weekend we tikki toured up the coast past the beautiful Te Ngare Bay and other gorgeous spots to Flat Island, around most of the Cavalli Group, which are absolutely stunning and never to be tired of, and played in the waves coming into the main beach. The bar was a popular spot after dinner for a drink or 3, or in Graeme's case 3 am, but still up at 7am and ready to paddle - a keen man indeed, but beware the Irishman buying whiskies.

Sunday saw us driving the coast road to Tauranga Bay which gave us a different view of our playground. Whangaroa Harbour beckoned with its tremendous caves and stunning scenery. The kahawai were so thick it was catch and release time for Matt. The lucky lure was working well. After exploring all the caves at the harbour mouth Matt and I farewelled the group and headed back to Tauranga Bay and had lunch with Sue, just as a wedding took place on the grass above the beach; I don't think they reckoned on 20 plus cars lining their idyllic marriage spot.

Off to Cape Reinga we headed, catching glimpses of glistening sands and the isolated Cape Maria van Diemen. The view of the Tasman and Pacific meeting is a sight that never fails to impress. We checked out the Tapotupotu Bay campsite which is another top spot. Next it was off to Te Pahi stream which gives vehicle access to 90 Mile beach. A quick thigh bursting run up the sand dunes for a brilliant crimson sunset. Dinner at Waitaki landing could only be described as, well, different. Enough said.

The country darkness allowed us a canopy of stars for the trip home, until we got to the top of Matauri Bay hill and we hit the rain at 11.30 pm. Well it rained and rained and then it rained some more.

By Monday morning two tents that were pitched without due consideration for the hollows here and there gave an excellent advert for Macpac tents' tub floor - 100 mm or so deep swimming pool. Simply unpeg the tent and float your home to higher ground.

Most of us were packed and on the road by 10 am but Ray, Margaret, Jan and Rosie got smart and hired a caravan with a porch area and settled in for a dry day and another night.

We got home before the traffic bedlam started - lucky us. Well, what a truly fantastic destination. If you haven't been there, go.

Found: A yellow paddle float - hanging in a tree at the camp as we packed up on Monday.
Phone Trevor 817 7357.

Abel Tasman Nat Park

David Matthews

Fourteen paddlers left Marahau north west of Nelson on Easter Saturday, having kayaks, equipment and meals supplied by Ocean River Adventure Company. The group all had kayaking experience so we opted to go without a commercial guide.

Launching in two Sea Bear doubles, one Dobbe doble and eight kayak singles we paddled in calm conditions to Observation Beach where we had the DOC campsite to ourselves despite many kayaks on the water. After pitching our tents we swam and practised rescues in warm sunshine. Our meals had been prepacked and were hearty fare including stir fry, burgers, spaghetti bolognese and deserts of trifle and brandy baskets. That evening we watched a brilliant moon rise before turning in early.

After bacon and eggs for breakfast on Sunday we were on the water at 8.40 and paddled up Torrent River then walked to Cleopatras Pool and waterfall. The afternoon brought us a northerly sea breeze and a good paddle to Mosquito Bay. The park coast is quite tidal so it's important to secure kayaks above high water and launching often involves long carries.

The next day saw us visiting Tonga Island seal colony then a 45 minute beach and bush walk to Awaroa Lodge for lunch. That evening we received a food drop from Ocean River delivered by one of the local water taxis.

It was then time on the final two days to head back towards Marahau. With an easterly wind and swell we surfed across a small bar into beautiful Falls River and paddled upstream to a suspension bridge on the coastal walking track. That night was spent at The Anchorage in pouring rain but fortunately we'd pitched camp by the time the rain set in.

Our last day on the water was a leisurely paddle back to Marahau for lunch, showers and repacking before taking a bus back to Nelson where we had 3 days relaxing before flying back to Auckland.

Tasman Bay was explored in 1827 by French naval officer Dumont D'Urville who named Adele Island after his wife and Astrolabe Roadstead after his ship. The area is very popular with kayakers and trampers but our group was fortunate to find most campsites uncrowded. The bush, golden sand and clear water certainly make the park a paradise for kayaking. Ocean River Adventure Co did a fine job of equipping, feeding and briefing us.

THE AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB

CAMBRIDGE TO HAMILTON A.P.C.C RACE

SUNDAY 13 JUNE 1999

The Race

A division type race with medals for winners/placings within each division. Spot prizes available to all paddlers. A special spot prize will be for affiliated members (of any club)-so join a club! A club trophy will be based on placings in divisions. Entrants are put in divisions based on previous times, ability, kayak etc

Venue

Seniors start at the Karapiro bridge 1 km south of Cambridge- turn right off SH 1, *before* the bridge to access the reserve

Juniors and novices start at 'The Narrows'. Turn west off SH 1 towards Hamilton airport at Tamahere. Go over the river bridge. Carpark & briefing are in the carpark on river side of the road. If less than 6 entries, this will not be held.

Finish- at Hamilton Harriers Club in Grantham St (off Victoria St) Hamilton where a BBQ and prizegiving will be held.

Times

Senior start times commence at 11.30 am, Juniors and novice entries start at 12.30 pm

Senior Course

23 km, current assisted, from Cambridge to Hamilton. Sea kayaks & recreational craft are excluded from a 50 m portage section.

Junior and Novice Course

11 km, current assisted, from above the Narrows bridge to Hamilton Harriers. Junior is <18.

Equipment

Buoyancy aids must be worn by all participants. Spray skirts optional. A safety boat will be on the water.

Entries / Fees

Seniors \$15

Junior/novice \$10

Late entrys \$10 extra

(no later than 11 am race day)

Written entries to be received by Friday 11 June. Entries will also be taken by phone /fax or E Mail, with payment made on the day (no late fee)

Toilets

Last toilet stop is in Cambridge by the cricket park!

Surname
First name
Female /Male
Address
Phone
Club (if applicable)
Kayak model
Type (eg, K1)
Estimated time

Disclaimer

I / we accept full responsibility for any damage or injury to myself, team members, third parties or equipment arising from this race. I waive all claims against the race organisers and / or their assistants

Signature
Fees included

Paid
Race no.

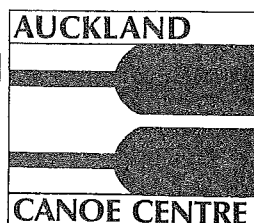
Entries/ Enquiries to ;

Race Commodore, Matt Grant

4 / 729 Remuera Rd, Remuera

Ph 09 52 4 2108, or 021 610 604.

Mattgrant@CLEAR.net.nz



Advance Notice!!!!

The 1999 Superdune Bethells Beach, Waitakeres. Sunday May 23rd.

The Event

This is the 15th running of the popular Superdune multisport race, an event that perfectly reflects the gritty beauty of Bethells Beach, where the race starts and finishes.

Entry is open to both individuals and teams of two or three competitors. For individuals the contest doubles up as the Auckland Multisport Championship. The race involves:

- ◆ A brutal 42km. *cycle* through the Waitakere foothills, including a double ascent of the killer Quarry Hill
- ◆ A 12km. off-road *run* that takes in sand dunes, farmland, bush and beach – a truly beautiful but tough course
- ◆ A 10km. *kayak*, made up of five laps of wild Lake Wainamu, nestled behind the giant black dunes that give the race its name
- ◆ A final 2km. run cross-country to the finish – but not before competitors have portaged their kayak over the dunes!

Entry forms will be out mid April and available from most bike and kayak shops or directly from the organiser.

Entries are encouraged from multisporters as individuals.

Enquiries are also welcomed from kayakers that would be prepared to make up teams with runners/cyclists.

Who to talk to

The event is organised by Waitemata Canoe & Multisport Club.

Contact Malcolm Law:

Phone: (09) 376 0149 (day)

(09) 376 1549 (eve)

Fax: (09) 376 7149

E-mail: mal@future-marketing.co.nz

or

Graeme Brown

410 8991 (eve)