



# AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

### JUNE 1999

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So we're almost up to the shortest day of the year, and from then on it'll be downhill to summer. What a relief, even though the worst of the winter is yet to come.

Another Club AGM has come and gone too, and I hope those of you who came enjoyed your evening. The formal proceedings were short and sweet, with most of the elected officers remaining unchanged from last year and a few new additions to our committee.

Some matters of interest to those who did not attend were raised at the meeting. I am including a list of all the Club's boats that are available for hire in this Newsletter, as some of you may not be aware of the size and extent of our fleet. Club hire is very straightforward - you simply speak to our Gears officer, and the boats are stored in the locked container at Okahu Bay.

We are constantly on the lookout for members to lead trips. Trips are what this Club is all about. You do not have to be a member of the Committee to lead a trip, you just have to let me or someone else on the Committee know the details. If there is a trip you would like to do but you feel you lack the confidence to be the leader, also please let a Committee member know and someone will help you out. New leaders mean new places to visit and fresh ideas.

We also discussed the possibility of designing a new Club logo, as the current one is quite old, and some people feel it is getting a bit tired. With a new logo we might set about having Club T shirts or polypro tops made up, or bumper stickers. What are your views on this?

As for me, I've been taking advantage of the spell of lovely weather we had recently to get out on the water. In preparation for writing about my favourite trip - see our new series - I've been to some places where I do not normally venture.

I went for a very pleasant paddle up the coast of the North shore, from Narrow Neck to Browns Bay, which is scenic all the way. It made me realise how small our Eastern suburbs beaches are when I saw how Takapuna Beach and Milford Beach stretch on forever. It was also a chance to see Rangitoto from a different angle and to verify that it looks exactly the same, only the position of the barges made me realise I was somewhere else. That was the day the Orcas were out in the Upper Harbour, and I met some kayakers looking for them, but they were some way from the action.

Another day I went to Point Chev to paddle around to the Harbour Bridge. It looked encouraging on the map. However I am not a local and I made the mistake of arriving at Point Chev, just off the motorway, at dead low tide. I could barely discern the water in the distance from where I parked my car. Do not go there at low tide. I had to portage - that's a fancy word for plain old uncomfortable carrying - my kayak for about a hundred miles across slushy sand filled with oyster shells and threatening to suck in my boots at every footfall. Not recommended. but when I did get out there the bird life was fantastic. So I saw lots of wading birds, and they saw me. Sorry about that!

Another day I set out to paddle around the Devonport peninsula from Narrow Neck and head up towards the Bridge. On my return it was quite choppy near the naval yards and I had some trouble in keeping on course for the tip of the Devonport wharf. Until I heard a loud noise and turned round to see the Devonport ferry bearing down on me about three inches away. Needless to say I got out of its way pretty quick.

Then another time I went for a drift up the Tamaki estuary to Panmure. But it wasn't very exciting - no rampaging ferries or man-eating mud. Just lots of boats to squint at.

Don't forget our Cambridge to Hamilton race this Sunday.

Yours in paddling



The Club's *official address*, if you need to write to the Club - but this does not affect the address for Newsletter material - is c/o Margaret Thwaites, Auckland Canoe Club, William Potter Lane, Karaka, RD 1 Papakura.

## CALENDAR JUNE - JULY

**12 June Morning tea on Rangitoto** Join Colin for morning tea on top of Rangi this Saturday, departing Okahu Bay at 9am. Home by lunchtime.

Contact Colin on 630 2219.

**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 April Newsletter, or available from all canoeing shops. There will be heaps of spot prizes and it's a great day for the serious or not so serious paddlers. Kayakers from all over the North Island are expected. Be there or be .....

**19 June 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.

**18,19,20 June Opito Bay** on the Coromandel. Graeme Bruce has kindly made his bach available to us. It's across the road from the beach with the Mercury Islands beckoning us to come and explore. There are other paddling options if a stiff nor'easterly blows up, so we'll still be on the water having fun.

Beds are limited to 8 but there is plenty of flat lawn for tents or vans.

Phone Trevor for details and to reserve a bed on 817 7357.

**26 - 27 June Camp at Shakespear** A choice of departure points for this one, either Okahu Bay at 9.30 am on Saturday or Waiake Beach around 1 pm. We'll be paddling from Okahu Bay up to Waiake, stopping there for lunch before continuing to Shakespear Regional Park to set up camp.

Following our arrival a local guide will take us to see the wonders of the park on foot, including a waterfall, a lake and a lookout. Bring your torch. Sunday will feature an easy cruise back to your starting point.

Contact Ray Clark for details on 818 9609. If he isn't in you can leave a message, and there will be a prize for the best imitation of the beep on Ray's answering machine (but you have to come on the trip to enter)

**27 June Explore the West Coast** with Colin and Trevor, weather permitting, launching at Little Huia and finishing at Muriwai Beach. Intention is to stay close to the coast, land often and try to locate places where easy landing can be made.

Paddlers will need to be reasonably fit and used to exposed conditions. trip can only go ahead if winds are light and coast swell is moderate to low.

We will meet at Muriwai beach carpark at 8.30 am, leave cars there and take kayaks and paddlers to Little Huia by car and trailer.

Please contact Colin Quilter 630 2219 or Trevor Arthur 817 7357 if you'd like to come.

**3 July Sea Kayak Race** As for June 19

**4 July Moturekareka Island** Leave from Sullivans Bay at 10 am for a paddle to see Moturekareka and Motuketiketi Islands. Bring lunch and fishing gear, and sandals for a walk around.

Contact Matt Grant tel 524 2108.

**4 July Puhoi Race** Wenderholm -Puhoi -Wenderholm. Contact North Shore Canoe Club.

**6 July Club Night** A double header this month with Pelham Housego getting things underway with a selection of slides from his famous collection.

Our main guest speaker is 1998 award winning underwater photographer Iain Anderson. Come and see and hear what perils of the deep lurk beneath the flimsy hull of your kayak. Iain's favourite haunt is Auckland's west coast.

7 pm at our upstairs Clubrooms. \$5 door charge that covers food and the talks etc.

**9-10 July Rangitoto sleepover** Paddle over to Rangitoto on Friday evening and

enjoy an overnight stay at the Scout bach before returning on Saturday morning, revitalised for your weekend.

Depart Okahu Bay at 6pm on Friday. Contact Colin Quilter for details and to book your space. About 10 paddlers can be accommodated. Tel 630 2219.

**17 July Sea kayak race** Details as for 19 June

**18 July Mangrove Meander race Whau River** Contact Waitemata Multisport Club.

**31 July Sea kayak race** Details as for 19 June.

**ASKNET trips** We usually list ASKNET trips in this Newsletter. Here is a summary of what they have planned: June 20 Matakana River contact Lou 425 7425; June 25 - 27 Kerikeri & Cape Wiwiki contact Etienne de Beer tel 445 3117 or Tony Greaves tel 07 827 2170; July 4 Puhoi River contact Vincent Maire tel 424 2293; July 17 & 18 Motuihe Island camping contact Kerry Howe tel 478 9952; July 30 Riverhead pub in moonlight contact Kevin Jose tel 846 6796.

## 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** and a whistle.

## Club Night

Last month saw a large crowd enjoy Dave Inwood's tales of endurance in Alaska on his bbbicycclycclye....bicyyyyyyccllee..byc...bycicllll....bicycycycycle ....something like that....

If you were there, you'll know what this is about. Roger Lomas.

## Our Fleet

At present the following boats are available for hire:

2 Puffins  
2 Breezes  
2 Sea Quests  
1 Sea Bear double  
1 Corsica  
1 Pirouette

We are currently making changes to the hire fleet, so watch this space , and don't miss the ad in Dips N Dunks.

The Club is considering purchasing a better sea kayak as part of the revamped fleet, possibly a Slingshot or X-Factor. What are your views on this? Hireage would have to be higher for this higher quality boat, but would it be a good move to have one? Let Trevor know your views, before our next Committee meeting in early July please.

The more 'ordinary' boats we are considering are a Squall and a Storm.

# 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?

**I know that lots of you have been out there paddling, or even if you have some thoughts on the subject please write and tell me about it. This Newsletter relies on contributions from Club members. So if you want a good read it is also partly up to you to help with providing some reading matter for everyone else. Fair?. You can send stuff to me any time and the content does not have to be current. It can be something you did three years ago or last week.**

## 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

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.

## New members

We are pleased to rewelcome Paul Buckley to the Club.

## For sale

2 Sea Quest sea kayaks. Ex Club use, now being replaced.

Price \$750 to any financial Auckland Canoe Club member

Contact Bruce Bugbee 570 1134 or Trevor Arthur 817 7357.

# My Favourite Paddle

## The Ports of Auckland

by Roger Lomas

Off early from the ramp at Okahu Bay. I'm heading up the harbour to explore the wharf area and soak up the port atmosphere. The tide has just peaked as I take the scenic and sociable route following the curve of Tamaki Drive. Just past the Ngapipi Rd bridge I duck under the fishing lines of a smoking Samoan and we exchange greetings. Further friendly nods and waves to early morning walkers. A throng of eager parents are urging on their prodigy in cycle time trials near the marine rescue centre.

It's now time to head out along the edge of the old eastern breakwater. This will shortly disappear behind further port expansion. Just before the kink in this old seawall 2 bollards are viewed - along this next section of wall is where tankers used to berth to supply the tank farm that was down this end of the harbour.

Off the end of Fergusson wharf is a large round mooring dolphin that the ebbing tide rushes past. I paddle up through this stream and under the bow of a Blue Star Line ship before heading into the calm waters between Freyberg and Jellicoe wharves. About 30 metres to the left of Jellicoe wharf on the sea wall is where the old car ferry to Devonport used to berth. 150 years ago almost a km inland from this point of the seawall was a beach at a place that was later called Mechanics Bay. Waka paddled into this bay to land with produce on this beach to supply young Auckland's food needs.

Of the vehicular ferry wharf little if nothing remains. A few rusty chains that may have links with the past stain the walls.

Time to move on up the Harbour under Jellicoe and Bledisloe wharves. A Russian ship is loading at the Bledisloe terminal and I can only guess at the contents of these colourful containers. 30 years ago a kayaker here would have seen boxes of butter stacked on a pallet or frozen lamb carcasses in a sling going aboard.

On around the outer edge of the Bledisloe reclamation and back in on the western side of the terminal paddling towards Quay St, the structure of the wharf changes to an older era. This was once the base of the old King's wharf. Just to the right of the King's low landing steps is an old tide marker set into the sea wall. 20 metres to the left of the steps and a few metres in towards Quay St was the tip of Point Britomart. This is as close as you can paddle to the original shoreline in the port area.

The next wharf is Marsden, former home and hub of the Northern Steamship Company and more recent fame with the Rainbow Warrior incident. The old cargo sheds are no more, and now imported Japanese cars lurk before they reach our carports. The pilot boats berth between

Marsden and Captain Cook wharves and the rest of the mooring area is used by an amazing collection of tugs, barges and old fishing boats. The 2 big port tugs Hauraki and Daldy are berthed to the end of Queens wharf, and then I reach the ferry wharves.

The old Kestrel is still there and the Fullers boats are as busy as ever. Red competition is there with Pacific Ferries. Their flagship, the former Sydney harbour double ender Lady Wakehurst resplendent in Qantas red is now joined by 2 large high speed sisters from Manila. Nice for Waiheke Island commuters.

The developers are busy on Princes wharf building cafes and shops with apartments on top, all with the hint of a ship's shape in the design. The new conduits and pipes of the wharf make for difficult travel underneath at low tide so I'm off around the end and back in on the other side. Past the old Lytelton Harbour Board floating crane Raupaki and down to a point just off the Maritime Museum cafe. Looking up now into the museum on Hobson wharf I am looking for a famous lady and there she is: Isadora. This is Paul Cafyn's famous Nordkapp sea kayak built by Graham Sisson in the 1970s. After many epic voyages Paul gifted the Isadora, NZ's most famous sea kayak, to a good home in the museum.

A good place to stop and head back. Out to the edge of Princes wharf to pick up a fast flowing ebb tide assisted ride back down the harbour. A short play in the tide race off Fergusson's wharf and then across to the old tide marker above the old compass dolphin. It's always nice to paddle down the line of the wave screen in Hobson Bay.

Built in 1939 this screen of timber piles stretched for almost a mile across Hobson Bay and Okahu Bay. The Harbour Board built it to create a new boat harbour to compensate for the loss of mooring space taken by the flying boat base at Mechanics Bay.

Back into my home port, the bustling Okahu Bay. After a quick wash down for the Barracuda it's time to sit in the sun and enjoy a cuppa and a chat with a fellow Clubbie.

## Internet Surfing

### **Topline Agencies**

<http://www.topline-nz.co.nz/frames.htm>

New Zealand distributor of a range of gear including Palm, Schlegal Paddles, Eskimo kayaks etc. etc.

### **Pork International Site**

<http://www.castlelink.co.uk/people/daniel/pork/default.html>

Hard case kayaking sight that is a good laugh.

### **ILENA Kayak Index**

<http://www.ilena.demon.co.uk/>

Excellent list of links to kayak gear manufacturers around the world

### **American Whitewater Affiliation**

<http://www.awa.org/>

Lots of safety stuff

### **Latest NZ weather observations**

<http://www.geo.vuw.ac.nz/meteorology/current/synops/>

Want to know the latest rainfall over the Tongariro catchment? This site has this sort of information plus satellite photos and stuff.

### **Surf Co.**

<http://www.surf.co.nz/>

Clunky site but if you can navigate through it the site will give a reasonably up to date surf report.

## **YOUR NEW COMMITTEE**

Well, our 42<sup>nd</sup> AGM has been and gone with a good attendance of members, and the feeling that the past year was a good one.

It's time to give a warm welcome to our eager and enthusiastic new Committee who have plans for a great year of paddling adventures.

We have some familiar faces as well as some newer members joining the committee ranks.

Here is a list of who's who and who to contact if you want to suggest some neat ideas or if you have any queries.

<b>Club Patron</b>	-	<b>Laurie Bugbee</b>
<b>President</b>	-	<b>Trevor Arthur</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	-	<b>George Gerard</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	-	<b>Margaret Thwaites</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	-	<b>Matt Crozier</b>
<b>Commodore</b>	-	<b>Matt Grant</b>
<b>Editor</b>	-	<b>Julia Thorn</b>
<b>Gears Officer</b>	-	<b>Bruce Bugbee</b>

<b>Committee Members</b>	-	<b>Ray Clark</b>
	-	<b>Rona Patterson</b>
	-	<b>Colin Quilter</b>
	-	<b>Peter Sommerhalder</b>
	-	<b>Nicki Wylder</b>
	-	<b>Wally Gilmer</b>
	-	<b>David Poolman</b>
	-	<b>Des Mathews</b>

As you can see we have a group of keen, capable people working for our club so we just need your participation and co-operation and we'll have another great year.

See you on the Water.  
Trevor Arthur.



# AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

- New Member  
 Rejoining

Surname: .....

First Names(s) (If family, please list all names): .....

Address: .....

Phone (home) ..... Mobile ..... Fax .....

Phone (work) ..... E Mail .....

Do you own a canoe / kayak ?  Yes  No

If "yes", please list type(s) .....

Briefly state your experience in canoing .....

Please tick the types of canoeing you are most interested in:

- Sea Kayaking  Touring  Flat Water Racing  
 Witewater  Surf  Sea Kayak Racing

Fees for year ending 31 March 2000 (Please tick amount being paid)

- Junior \$15  Member \$25  
 Family \$30  Associate member \$15

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$.....

To comply with the Privacy Act 1993, the Club is required to obtain permission from members to gather and publish personal details such as names, addresses and phone numbers. This information will only be used in newsletters and published on the current member phone list. Please read and complete the form below.

- I Agree (please tick one)  
 I 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 National Canoe Associations. I accept responsibility for correcting this information where applicable.

Signed ..... Date .....

Please return to: Margaret Thwaites, Auckland Canoe Club, William Potter Lane, Karaka, RD 1, Papakura