



AUCKLAND NEWSLETTER

CANOE CLUB

December 1999

Don't expect
anything too profound
in this Editorial, because I am devoting
all my extensive talents to getting this into the shape of a

Christmas tree,
and the actual content may
well have to go by the board. Anyway I, like
everyone else, am suffering from severe pre millennial stress,

along with severe
anticipation of post millennial stress
when the millennial event turns out to be less stressful
than anticipated. Add that to three hyped up children who are concerned,

may frantic, that they
may not receive from Santa every single item
that is being advertised on the telly. Add to that my inability to
decide what brand of crackers have the best jokes inside. And you have Christmas.

However, in among all my
Christmas shopping, or should I say my hunting for a
spot to park the car among all the other parked cars, I managed to find time
to do the first two sea swims in the Masters series which the Club supports with its
kayak escort service. I must say that as a first timer swimming in these events it was
a real pleasure and comfort to see all you kayakers out on the water. Thank you very much for

your support. I apologise for the adverse
weather conditions you had to endure, with a hailstorm
for the Herne Bay swim and rain and a choppy Harbour for the
Chelsea Sugar swim. You are much appreciated, and many a swimmer has
a tale to tell about being helped by a friendly kayaker.

I also managed
to compete in
the Peak To Peak
race in early
December, which
featured a 10 km
run from One Tree
Hill to Okahu Bay,

followed by a paddle across to the lighthouse beach on Rangitoto,
followed by a run to the summit on the cindery track from
Mackenzie Bay. It was a neat race, with only a handful of
competitors, and Brian Crump from the Club took line
honours in one hour 56 minutes. On a fairly windy
day, Brian was the only one of us game to take a
multisport boat out on the Harbour but it served
him well. Hope to see more entrants next year.

*Happy Christmas
from
Julia*

Welcome new members!

The Auckland Canoe Club is pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined over the past few months:

Kirsten Coffey, Pamela Cowie, Dominique Crikemans, Bryan Crump, Tamarra Dunlop, Christine Farmer, Matt Feary, Deborah Hinde, Dennis & Yan Huang, Cheryl & Warwick Lowe, James Lowe, Nancye & Robert Lucas, Alister Maclean, Karen Malcouronne, Jane McEntee, Philip McKay, John Newton, Elizabeth Parsons, Abby Phillips, Elaine Ruis, Ann Schofield, Nigel Smart, Andrew & Louise Tunnicliffe, Michael & Audi Wake/ McNish, David Walthall, John Ward, David Wardlaw, Richard Wesley, Denis White.

We also say welcome to those members who have rejoined after a short break!

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

White water..... George Gerard 818 5066

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. If you want to tell us about a change of address or phone number please inform Colin Quilter, tel 630 2219, as he maintains the data base for the Newsletter.

Hireage of Club kayaks

Here are the charges for Club kayak hire:

Tuesday & Thursday nights - members \$3, non members \$5

Half day - \$5

Full day - \$15

Guest of member, with member present - \$25. This hireage is extended once per guest, after which we encourage the guest to join the Club.

No member shall disclose the lock combination to a non member for purposes of using their own or a Club boat.

Please hose down Club boats after use. Some have been put away with sand clogging the

rudder and foot slides, accelerating wear and tear.

Note: No Club boats are available for hire on Feb 20 or March 12 as they are all reserved for the swim escorts.

Buoyancy aids

The Club has added another small and two medium buoyancy aid jackets to the selection. Please ensure your buoyancy aid fits snugly as it is not a lot of use to you if you slip out of it

once you're in the water.

Padlock time...

You will notice a nice new black top quality German padlock on the door - same combination.

Here is a **news flash**: It is meant to be LOCKED. That's what a lock is for. **SOMEONE DIDN'T LOCK THE LOCK ONE FRIDAY**. We don't know who it was because there was no entry in the ledger, so it could have been a boat owner or a hirer.

How would you feel if your boat, your friend's boats, your Club's boats were stolen because you forgot to lock the lock? Please be more careful about this. 99% of the time everything is working great. We are on top of the maintenance now that damage actually gets reported. Hireage money is coming in nicely. Let's get that last 1% for the new year.

Thanks for your efforts and cooperation. Your President, 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?

Club Kayaks and savings...

A decision has been made by your Committee to purchase another Storm and Squall as these are clearly the two most popular craft at the moment.

A very tempting offer has been made by the Auckland Canoe Centre * **Members save big dollars** * If we can put together a fleet purchase the prices will be greatly reduced to Club members. This has to be the cheapest way for you to buy a boat.

If you have been contemplating a purchase of your new family member - yes, you are allowed to name her - now is the time. We need to know within two weeks so we can proceed with our order.

Phone Trevor to discuss this 817 7357. Act now and SAVE.

Rangitoto bach

Trevor is in the process of arranging to hold the key to the bach which we are allowed to use on the island. If you wish to paddle over and stay the night give Trevor a call. If you feel like going across but want some company Trevor is also willing to coordinate groups of less confident or solo paddlers who are looking for companions.

Peak to Peak

By Julia Thorn

This was an exciting race, made more so by the blustery conditions on the day. Fortunately the wind was a southerly, and a bit of pushing from behind made things move along smartly on the run. The wind made for a bit of a swell on the Harbour too - having put up with a fair bit of wind all week we'd been hoping it would die down by Saturday - it did, but only in the evening.

So we started out from One Tree Hill, five of us keenies - I guess everyone else was still in bed recovering from the night before, or out doing their christmas shopping. We practically sprinted down from the summit, then realised we still had a fair way to go to reach Okahu Bay and slowed down to a comfortable pace.

Surprisingly for a Saturday morning close to Christmas the traffic wasn't too heavy and our route along Greenlane, Ascot Ave and Orakei Road was unhampered by congestion. In fact I'd been relying on having a break to catch my breath at the major road crossings we had to make, and I found myself not having to wait for a break in the traffic at all. Most disappointing. I made it down to Okahu Bay all in one piece only being spotted as I learnt later by about a dozen friends.

We launched at the beach, which was lucky as it was low tide and I didn't fancy running down the slippery ramp. As soon as I got out on the water I was satisfied with my choice of a plastic sea kayak in place of my trusty Intrigue, as the water was quite rough. I focussed my eyes forward and concentrated on not diverging from a direct route to the Rangitoto lighthouse. The Harbour was fortunately not too busy, and the major event of interest was watching some of the America's Cup boats being towed out towards Rakino. Not to race, surely, it was far too windy.

Eventually I sighted the reefs around the lighthouse and navigated through to the lovely sandy beach where we were to disembark. What a welcome sight. One of the support crew, who had brought our timekeeper over to the island by runabout so she could be at the summit to time our arrival, helped pull my kayak up onto the beach and then I was off up the track to the summit.

This last stretch, all two and a half kilometres of it, was pure hard work. The track was all crushed scoria, hot underfoot, black and steadily uphill. There wasn't anything to look except the glimpses of the peak's vegetation, which seemed impossibly far up in the sky. But after a while I reached the boardwalk and knew the summit wasn't that far away. Making a lot of noise thumping on the wooden steps and breathing heavily I passed several groups of walkers, and then our timekeeper, who was only to make it to the summit after four of the five competitors had finished the race!

It was a great feeling to finish, with those fantastic views on a beautiful sunny day, and got even better when our timekeeper arrived with lots of Powerade and chocolate.

Tiri Tiri Matangi Island

By Rona Patterson

On Friday December 3, in sunny and windy conditions, six club members filled their hatches and launched their kayaks at Shakespeare's Bay at 9.50am heading for Tiritiri Matangi. The laden boats fairly flew through the water with a strong following wind. The crossing took 50 minutes. Sue Gilmer had opted to cross on the ferry. Her timing was perfect, arriving only a few minutes prior to the kayakers.

We were about 15 minutes out from the Tiri wharf when I noticed what looked like the DoC house on the top of the hill. My mind was wondering how many trips would be necessary for me to carry all my gear up there. Even more worrying was how was I going to manage to land. We were being blown along quite nicely, and waves were breaking around the wharf and on the rocks, how could I possibly land safely with a laden kayak in the surf. Both worries were needless. Once we had rounded the wharf, the water was much calmer, and a DoC trailer was brought to the wharf for us to load our gear and ourselves on for a ride up the hill.

Kayaks were manhandled onto the wharf and lashed to the railing, for safe keeping. What an impressive sight!

After bagging a bunk, putting gear away and eating lunch we took off on a walk around some of the tracks where we could stop, look, and listen to the birds. We met up with Justin during our walk, so now there were eight of us.

The following morning kayaks were untied and carried to the water for a trip around the north/eastern side of the island. The wind had not dropped overnight, which made for an interesting trip around the head of the island. The sun was hot and the sky was blue. Our boys showed just how adept they are at darting in and out between the rocks on the ocean swell. A few fish were caught, but the prize for the biggest fish went to Justin. It was also Justin who paddled up to a rock about the size of his kayak. He climbed out, lifted his boat up and sat it precariously on the top of the rock and proceeded to collect a sack of mussels. He then lifted the kayak down the other side and climbed back in. He managed this while the swell continued bashing the rocks. If I hadn't seen it, I doubt that I would have believed it was possible.

After a leisurely lunch on a little sheltered beach, Roger and Dave departed for a cruise around the island on their way home. The rest of us returned to the wharf where our second group had just arrived. Once they had settled in a large group found a beach for a swim, some went fishing, while others remained at the house.

The DoC house had the most amazing outlook and it was possible to see the Americas Cup yachts racing, but impossible (without binoculars) to know which yachts were out there. The following craft were ant sized around the huge spinnakers.

All too soon the weekend came to an end, with perfect weather for the duration. Some returned in the morning; others remained until later in the day. This was an awesome weekend, at a magnificent location, with wonderful company, and I count it a privilege to have been part of it.

A Kaipara Cruise

By Roger Lomas

The challenge of something new enticed Ryan Whittle, Trevor Arthur and I to journey North to rendezvous with Dave Poolman and embark on an exploration of the Southern reaches of the Kaipara Harbour. Squally showers swept in from the South West but they looked like they might ease up as the day went on.

We launched into a small creek just out of Kaukapakapa as a steam train came chuffing past. We waved to the excursionist and as they headed North behind the old AB under a cloud of smoke we turned into Kaukapakapa River and headed downstream. After only a few bends in the river someone mentioned morning tea and there was a flurry of paddle strokes as we raced ashore for a coffee and cake break.

Feeling much better we continued downriver passing the Kewpee Two. This is one of the original old Fullers cream trip boats ex the Bay of Islands and now based at Helensville for Kaipara excursions. It looks a bit like a scaled down Mississippi River boat with it's long boarding gangway pulled up vertical.

The Kaukapakapa joins the Kaipara River at Mt Rex where the big Atlas Concrete sand dredges are moored. The tide was now ebbing strongly and we made rapid progress down the ever-widening river. Mangrove Islands crowd the delta of the river mouth and then the broad expanse of the harbour opens out.

In the distance we could see the red clay cliffs on the headland near Shelley Beach and we aimed for them. Spray from the bow as we crashed through the choppy SW Squalls kept us alert and we soon closed in on the cliffs. We saw a long jetty jutting out into the channel as we rounded the headland and a sandy beach invited us to land. This was Shelly Beach and our lunch stop.

There is a camping ground here with a small café and shop. At the boat ramp a posse of honorary fishery officers lay in wait for any errant anglers but alas we had nothing to declare. After a short stroll we had lunch at a sheltered picnic table and Ryan had to have a siesta after our very early morning start.

The tide was well out when we launched after lunch and below the sandy beach was mud. We crossed the channel to Jordans Island, which only just manages to survive above the high tide. The centre of the Island is a large Mangrove lagoon with abundant bird life. As we stood on the highest point of the Island scanning the vast vista of mud and sandbanks around us we decided to try and find the

channel leading into the Makarua River. This was no easy task and we incurred the curse of the Kaipara and logged up many extra Kms, as we snaked our way around huge mud banks.

We eventually located the elusive channel and paddled into the mangrove mouth of the Makarua past huge rock piles that were jettisoned ballast from logging scows. With a tidal range of over 4m, it was at first a bit like paddling up a big muddy ditch. The tide had now turned and as we wound our way upstream hills and trees came closer to the riverbank. Around a few more bends and a most welcome sight appeared. A small wharf with a concrete boat ramp. No muddy landing to end our Kaipara Cruise.

Sea kayak Racing

With Roger Lomas

An early start did not deter another big entry for event No. 20 our last Sea Kayak race for the year. The queue had formed for a seat in one of the big Barracuda Doubles but they were away down South for the Southern Traverse.

Roy Meehan and Grant Stone took line honours in the Albatross but it was a big effort from Trev and Jane in the old plywood Seabear that won the prizes once the handicap adjustments had been made. Johnathon and Denise put in a plucky performance for second in a Packhorse Express with Roy and Grant ending up third.

BBQ time and Jane and Denise decided to show the boys how it's done. A superb display at the grill had the thirty or so hungry racers and supporters well catered for with bacon, eggs and burgers. Thanks girls and we would like another demo next year.

It was interesting to hear that the fastest time in the Kayak leg of last months Head to Head Multisport event was set by a Sea Kayak. Ian Fergusson and blind multisporter Jenetta paddling one of the big Barracuda Doubles left all the sleek multisport racing craft wallowing in their wake. There were quite a few capsizes in the choppy harbour conditions. Put a Sea Kayak in its true element and it's second to none.

Well that's it for Sea Kayak racing this century. I think we have all enjoyed it and I know we all feel a lot better after our serious Saturday morning workouts. Thanks to Ferg's Kayaks, Canvas City, Deep Creek Kayaks and Barracuda Sea Kayaks.



CALENDAR DEC - JAN

Just a reminder Please can you make an effort to contact trip leaders before you pack up your stuff to go on a trip. **There are several reasons** for this:

- We can compile a list of names to leave with a shore based person in case of an incident
- We can tell Coastguard how many people are on a trip and their competency level in advance of departure
- We can see the skill level and assess how many leaders and sub groups will be needed
- the leader can ring you if the weather is rubbish and bed seems a better option for the morning
- if nobody is interested, why should the trip leader be sitting on the beach on his own waiting for nobody to front up
- circumstances change and sometimes a trip has to be cancelled if a replacement leader is not available

Coastbusters 2000 an advance notification of this event which will take place 17 to 19 March 2000 at Puriri Park, Orewa. On the Friday and Saturday the event will be based at Orewa and the Sunday will be spent paddling on the Mahurangi .

31 Dec/1 Jan The last & first - Y2K -Y not paddle ? with champagne breakfast and bbq bangers. The Clubrooms will be open and available for use. Come and see in the New Year with friends.

See the fireworks display, maybe cruise into town, then catch some zzzzzz on your thermarest or non squeaky camp bed before gliding onto the water at 3am to paddle out and meet the waka and flotilla coming from the North Shore.

We will arrive back at Okahu Bay at 4.30am to the haka welcome and four hours of celebration at the Okahu domain. Back at the Clubrooms the bbq will be fired up and appetites satisfied . Bring your own food and drink so we are all self sufficient with no one person having to carry the load.

Tamaki Drive is to be closed between 4am and 9am from Ngapipi boatsheds to Patteson Ave Mission Bay, hence the reason for bedding down at the Clubrooms.

What better way to start the century? You can even opt for a chair on the balcony, a glass of bubbly, don't stir a muscle and see the whole lot from a grandstand position.

PLEASE if you are coming paddling. bring your night light on a stick and large lens flashlight.

We want a fun, incident free night so **NO TIDDLY PADDLERS WILL BE WELCOME ON THE WATER.**

Please contact Trevor so he can get the picture on interested numbers, and check www.dayone.co.nz

16 Jan Club picnic at Sullivans Bay Bring the family not just the kayakers. This is a day for the toys so if you've got it bring it: volleyball, cricket, softball, frisbees, water cannons. We will try to resurrect the ancient game of sack racing. There was a murmur from some corners about egg throwing competition - let's wait and see...

The keen bods could paddle on Saturday, camp over and get in some training for the three legged race. The Club will provide sausages, sauce and bread. You can byo flash meats and salads.

Please ring Trevor 817 7357 so we know how much food to buy.

22-23 Jan Rangitoto bach Meet at 3pm at Okahu Bay to cruise over to Rangit. Share a meal after the obligatory walk to the summit fo sunset. chat away the evening and see what we feel like on Sunday.

Phone Trevor 817 7357 to secure a bed.

29 Jan (Sat) Mahurangi regatta at Sullivans bay, 9.30am start. This is a great event each year and provides a fun day on the water. Only limited details available, sorry.

29-31 Jan Trip for experienced paddlers at Whangamumu

I am planning a kayaking trip over Auckland Anniversary weekend (29 - 31/01). The idea would be to meet at Bland Bay for a Saturday morning departure, and do a two day paddle up the coast to Rawhiti, spending a night at Whangamumu. Due to the exposed coastline, likelihood of big seas and distance involved (about 25 km on the first day and 30 km on the second), the trip would have to be limited to experienced paddlers only. Whangamumu has no road access, and the camping area has water, but no other facilities. Bland Bay and Rawhiti both have motor camps with good facilities. At this stage it looks likely that when we arrive at Rawhiti there will be someone there to meet us and provide transport back to Bland Bay. However, if this does not eventuate, we could do a car shuttle between Bland Bay and Rawhiti (20-25 km apart by road) before starting the paddle.

Trip leader is Etienne de Beer, tel 445 3117, email e.debeer@xtra.co.nz

5 Feb Manukau Meander Meet at French Bay boat ramp at 9 am. We'll depart on our coastal cruise exploring the upper reaches of the Little Muddy Creek past Laingholm and Big Muddy Creek to the Nihotupu Dam tail race, or paast the sleepy settlement of Parau for lunch at Cornwallis.

Depending on time and conditions we could meander elsewhere or just cruise home.

Contact Trevor 817 7357.

11,12,13 Feb Alderman Islands Meet at Tairua at 8pm Friday to catch a launch and spend Friday/ Saturday nights exploring these great islands.

Cost is \$165 for the two nights and days on the launch. Limited places.

Contact Justin tel 025 868 177 or 278 8090. First in first placed

20 Feb Swim escort number three from Mechanics Bay to Tamaki Yacht Club. Meet at Okahu Bay clubrooms at 6.45 am. Yes it's early but you're needed.

We are on the water at 7.15 am to paddle up to meet the swimmers at Fergussons Wharf. We will escort them down to Tamaki yacht Club then paddle back for a barbecue (any excuse will do) and a latte at Fergs cafe next door. See, we're getting civilised.

Please please ring Trevor with numbers available and hire boats required. Tel 817 357.

25/26/27 Feb Alderman Islands encore Please contact the leader for information - Justin, tel as above.

12 March Rangitoto swim escort This is swim escort number 4, biggest and best, from Rangitoto to St Heliers, and over one thousand swimmers anticipated.

We need over 60 kayaks. Beg or borrow an extra kayak and bring your competent friends along. Trevor is sure there are doubles sitting under houses and catching plums as they drop from trees. We need them on the water.

Option 1: Saturday. Meet at Okahu Bay at 5pm Saturday 11th. Paddle over to Rangi bach for a shared dinner. Sleep in the mozzie free zone of the bach or opt for the great outdoors and be treated to the sunrise for an alarm clock as you snooze on the kiosk verandah.

Option 2: Meet at St Heliers beach western end at 9 am Sunday for a 9.30 departure for a group crossing, or come earlier for breakfast.

Please ring Trevor 817 7357 to confirm numbers and placement of extra bums in seats. Also let him know if you have a spare kayak with no bum in its seat yet.

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. Please remember to pay your fees.

Our Fleet

At present the following boats are available for hire:

- 1 Storm
- 1 Squall
- 2 Puffins
- 2 Breezes
- 1 Sea Bear double
- 1 Corsica
- 1 Pirouette

These last 2 are whitewater boats.

This space is
available for
trip reports

Write **yours**
NOW

P.S. There is no January Newsletter -
Editor takes a rest !!!