



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2000

Last Sunday saw a beautiful calm Harbour for the last in the Masters swim series, the Rangitoto to St Heliers swim, with Club support to the tune of around fifty kayaks. What a great turnout for a worthwhile cause. Some of you had stayed overnight while others paddled across to the island in the morning. Thankfully it wasn't too much of an early start compared with prior years. This later start was more of a problem for the swimmers who had to cope with an increasingly strong tidal sweep that was not entirely foreseen by the swim organisers.

Anyway, as one of the 486 swimmers I was delighted to know there were so many support craft on the water. I was particularly grateful to the paddler in the white Puffin who directed me towards Kohi beach in the latter stages of my crossing; I had been battling the tide across the Browns Island channel for so long that I thought it was way past lunchtime and with no obvious signs that I was moving forwards at all I was beginning to get desperate, but swimming in a slightly different direction made a world of difference.

I did call out to this guy (no offence meant if you were a female - it can be hard to tell with fogged up goggles) that I didn't want to end up at Kohi, but he disregarded my fears and repeatedly told me to follow those other swimmers (whom I certainly could not see), and in hindsight I can see he was quite right because I did not end up at Kohi, and in fact the tide was so strong in the bay it would have been hard to get right along St Heliers beach to Kohi.

You see I was quite worried about the Kohi thing because a friend had told me that when she did the swim a few years ago a fellow swimmer had ended up at Mission Bay and had to swim against the tide along to St Heliers. One shouldn't really listen to these stories if one is at all of a nervous disposition; they are only intended to scare.

And another thank you to the paddler who directed me in towards Tamaki Yacht Club on the previous Harbour swim. I had been so enjoying swimming in an easterly direction blinded by the sun for hours and hours that I forgot about turning in towards the race finish. Otherwise I could have ended up at Browns Island. No, I don't think so.

So that's the Harbour swims over for this year. If you came along and helped, then a big thank you from all the swimmers, and from the Club as this is an important revenue source for us. If you missed your chance this year there is always next year. See you there!

Yours in paddling

The Ebb and Flow

By Roger Lous

Rona Patterson in her flash new Macpac jacket led a group of happy chatty paddlers out and around Browns Island recently. We stopped at Lingerie Bay for a swim and a snack and then back to Okahu Bay for a coffee at the Kayak Café.

Fancy a nice shark tooth necklace? Joe Scott-Woods was holidaying over on the Chatham Islands and reports that large fossilised shark's teeth are to be found in abundance around the lagoon. They hire Kayaks out over there as well, big white pointy ones.

A sign put up by the Outboard Motorboat Club near their base in Hobson Bay "No Jetskis, No Sailing, No Kayaks".

Peter Sommerhalder from the Auckland Canoe Centre went away to the Coastbusters weekend and left Su and Ailia to mind the shop. Su slashed quite a few prices and the sale is on till the end of this month.

Breathe in there's room for one more. Andi McNish counted 68 Kayakers and their craft crammed onto one small D.O.C. Campsite in the Able Tasman National Park.

A close encounter of the Orca kind for Noel Townsley on the Manukau recently. A quiet solo venture around Puponga Point was rudely interrupted when one of the big sea beasties decided to pop up and have a good close look at a petrified Puffin paddler. Later as Noel was giving his Polypro a good soaking he thought there may have been six others in the pod.

Spotted in Fergs Shop at Okahu Bay. A new Sea Kayak about to enter the market. Called "Raider X" it looks like a modified Artic Raider with a bigger cockpit opening and an extended bow waterline. It looks very fast.

The Maritime Safety Authority is breathing a sigh of relief now that Justin Sanson - Beattie has modified his Kayak. After a near mishap at Tiri Tiri Island recently, concern was raised about the very real threat of large quantities of steak and salami being washed ashore. This combined with the vast array of cooking condiments known to be carried aboard his craft could have severely disrupted the food chain along our coastline. Inspired by the design of the Titanic, Justin now has two bulkheads and hatches forward of the cockpit.

A couple of trip reports to look forward to. Wally Gilmer and Ryan Whittle who completed an Auckland to Mt Maunganui journey. Many have attempted this paddle but for various reasons few have achieved. Well done fellas.

Etienne DeBeer and Tony Greaves have just finished a Coromandel Township to Whangarei expedition that included three overnight offshore Island stops. These two energetic club paddlers have just about been there done that to our Northern Coastline now.

New Members

We on the Committee are delighted to see how this Club's membership is expanding. Although we can't mention you all by name, we would like to wish a warm welcome to all our new members, and hope you enjoy your Club.

Whau Creek By Rona Patterson

On a recent Sunday morning I met up with Jo Evans for a short paddle. It was a beautiful morning and Jo wanted to fish so we decided a run up the Whau creek with an in-coming tide might be helpful. It didn't help at all, but we were in for a much greater treat. As we neared the Te Atatu motorway over-bridge, I was intrigued to hear Jo whistling to a small moored launch which was badly in need of a good scrub. He hadn't gone mad, he had found a seal asleep on the deck. Actually it looked like a big piece of fur left out in the sun and I wasn't too sure that it was a living creature, so I circled the boat to get a closer look. It did move, ever so slightly, about every thirty seconds.

We carried on up the creek for a long way. Conditions were perfect and there was very little traffic. Then I remembered that I was already too late to be out for a short paddle, so we turned back.

Once we were back on the other side of the motorway over-bridge, we looked to see if the seal was still there. Exactly where we had left it, the seal was sitting up enjoying the sun. After preening himself for a while he gracefully entered the water, which made Jo hastily pull in his line. We watched for a few moments and then the seal decided he wanted to sunbathe again and after three attempts he managed to jump back up on to the deck. We were impressed that he managed with such ease because while he was the largest seal I have seen, the deck was higher than he was.

I would like to know where his friends and relatives are.

Our return was in much different conditions than our outward journey. Our trip out had been in glassy conditions, but now we were paddling into the wind against the tide.

This was one of the most magical paddles I have ever been on. My short paddle had turned into a much longer paddle than intended but the time just disappeared in a twinkling.

Rangitoto – St Heliers Bay swim escort

Colin Quilter

The long-distance swim escort from Rangitoto to St Heliers gives us the chance to sleep-over on Rangitoto the night before the race. At the Visitor Centre near Rangitoto Wharf there are clean floorboards on which to sleep, a dry roof and a pleasant view out over the rocky foreshore; so I always look forward to the trip.

A dozen of us met at Okahu Bay late on Saturday afternoon. It was dead low tide, and we had difficulty keeping our footing on the grass-green slime that covers the lower part of the launching ramp. Even the seagulls had trouble; one had a wet green patch on his white bottom where he'd sat down hard on the ramp.

At Rangitoto the usual low-tide expanse of mud awaited us. Mud between the toes is one of the sensual pleasures of life, but it's an acquired taste. Not everyone in our party had acquired it.

Under the visitor centre roof we picked our favoured sleeping spots. I was alarmed to see that Rona had brought a mosquito net. On previous trips all the mosquitoes had spent the night feeding on her, leaving the rest of us untouched. Now it looked as though their attention would be diverted more widely.

Rona looked around for help in suspending the net from a high beam. I saw this an opportunity not to be missed. "If I help you put up that net, can I sleep under it with you?" Her look made it clear that she would rather share the net with an anaconda. "No, you can't. But I'll give you a glass of my wine."

"Two glasses of wine, and some of that nice cake you've brought?"

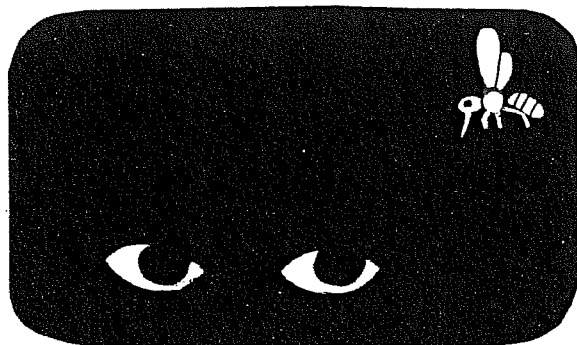
"Two glasses and one piece."

"Two glasses and two pieces?"

"It's a deal."

During dinner two separate platoons of paddlers belonging to Ferg's commercial trips tramped past; one group to a barbeque at the head of the bay and the other towards the summit. We thought sympathetically of both groups when the rain set in later in the evening.

The mosquitoes also set in. Rona found that their probosci were long enough to penetrate her net. Others found that towels, sheets, dishcloths and jerseys wrapped around the head were only effective if the wrapping was sufficiently complete to prevent breathing, so that was a short-lived strategy. It was, for most, a restless night; (but I'll bet that by the time the swim comes around again in a year's time all will be forgotten).



The morning was clear and calm. Trevor and I walked to the summit. I was disappointed to find that the straps of my sandals were tearing loose; they had made only three trips to the summit during their four-month life. However since they had cost \$4.90 in a sale at Hannahs, perhaps I won't demand a refund.

On the water we had the usual organised chaos at the start, with over four hundred swimmers trying to edge out in front before the starter's horn had actually sounded. The Coastguard radio which had been loaned to me was constantly active as the control boat tried to maintain a defensive screen of launches along both sides of the course. One exchange on the radio was particularly entertaining.

"Rebel to Control, there's a fellow in a tin dinghy who wants to cut through the swimmers. We've warned him off but he insists. What to you suggest, over?"

"Control to Rebel. Ram him. Over." Fortunately the tinnie had a change of heart, so the advice was not acted on.

Near St Heliers an interesting biological phenomenon occurred. Thousands of tiny midges (of similar size to sandflies, but non-biting) had formed mating swarms above the water. These swarms normally eddy and swirl around any tall object (a tree, lamp-post, hill-top, etc) but over the water kayakers and Coastguard boats were the only tall objects. The radio was alive with complaints about ravaging swarms of sandflies, and requests for insect repellent, despite the fact that sex and not human blood was uppermost in the midgey minds.

Everyone made a safe landfall at St Heliers. Thanks to all the club members who took part; this is an important fund-raiser for us, and the result will be new and better boats in the club fleet. See you same time, same place, next year.

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?

For sale

2 whitewater surf boats for sale. Need a plastic boat to play in the surf and sharpen your skills? Matt Grant has 2 for sale, tel 524 2108 or 021 610 604. Hurricane - an excellent all rounder for beginner to intermediate paddlers \$600; Whiplash - good boat for most paddling and more manoevrable than the Hurricane, mint cond. \$650.

FOR SALE

Two Puffin sea kayaks, one blue, one white. \$700 each (without paddles or spray skirts). These boats have been in our club fleet for some years; they are well-used but in serviceable condition. The Puffin is an older design but an excellent one; we will be replacing both these boats with new Puffins. Contact Trevor Arthur 8177357.

AGM 18 May

The time has come again to think about who you want and doing what on the Committee. If you wish to put forward a remit you must have it published in the next Newsletter which will be the last one before the AGM so people can discuss it.

Time: 7pm, Tuesday 18 May
Venue: Clubrooms, Okahu Bay.

Please bring a plate for supper.

Swim escorts

The Club would like to thank all the Members who turned out for these paddles. We had 29, 31, 35 and 55 paddlers for the four swims. Your efforts boost our finances and enable us to keep our subs as low as we do plus keep our kayak fleet up to date.

The positive exposure with the Coastguard and public, not to mention the swimmers, are invaluable. Well done.

Lost Property

Trevor still has odds and ends left over from the New Year's Eve party. Phone him if you are missing something tel 817 7357.

Rounding Cape Brett

By Peter Sommerhalder

Etienne invited "experienced" paddlers to join him over Anniversary Weekend. We learned that he and Tony had done this trip before in difficult conditions. Having to paddle well offshore to avoid swells and bounce backs, they missed out on seeing much of the coastline on that earlier trip. Hence an opportunity for us others to join them to experience this part of the Bay of Islands.

Nine single kayaks left from Bland Bay heading for Whangamumu Harbour. We paddled into a strong wind with swells hitting from starboard. Between swells the waves were dancing all over the place. Avoiding the bounce back we kept well out, heading for the green paddocks on the horizon, where our lunchstop was to be. We were told suitable landing beaches were far between, and paddled for Taupiri Bay. Again not a chance to explore the shore line. After the first hour, Ryan rafted up with Chuck. Chuck's Puffin cockpit was full with water to the top, as his spraydeck was leaking. One hour on Ryan and Bianca suffered from seasickness. We paddled on, with short rests, and made it to Taupiri Bay. This was the last stop accessible by road on our route. Bianca, Ryan and Chuck disembarked and made their way back to the Bland Bay camp to collect some of the cars and hopefully to meet up with us in two days at the end of the trip.

Six paddlers later rounded the very choppy headlands leading to Whangamumu Harbour and surfed BIG swells into the sheltered harbour. From the camp site we walked over to the old whaling station, or what is left of it, had a clean up near the water fall (fresh water!) and filled our water bottles. Next morning we obtained a weather forecast from the VHF radio by climbing the hills behind us. Tony announced that we are not going anywhere today. 30 knots Westerlies at Cape Brett! We lazed around in the morning. The heavy rain stopped in the afternoon and we went for a short paddle in pleasant sunshine. The swells had somewhat receded. We were on our way the next morning before 8am. Passing a few yachts sheltering in the harbour, we got another weather forecast. Cape Brett 30 knots westerlies! This side of the peninsula leading to the Cape it was incredible calm. Blue sky over the sea, but rain laden heavy cloud over the bush-clad hills beside and behind us. Let's go on. We rafted up in the last sheltered bay before reaching the Cape. Drinks, putting on paddle jackets and putting aside possible fears of what might be hidden around the corner.

Then it was all on. We paddled past a few steep-sided small islands and followed the tall cliffs on our left. The top of a coloured light house appeared on the cliff and Piercy Island straight ahead confirmed that we were at Cape Brett. Two to three meter swells coming straight at us. Riding the crest of the swells gave us a splendid view, next moment sitting in a through, all my mates around me had disappeared for a while. Keep paddling, every man for himself. We managed to stay reasonably close together. Turning around the Cape heading for the Bay of Islands did not make things any easier. The rollers were pushing in from North West, sometimes braking on starboard a

paddle length away with crests above our heads. First landfall was Deep Water Cove, about three and a half hours after leaving Whangamumu this morning. After lunch we headed in a straight line for Albert Channel, leading to Rawhiti, our final destination. The swells still made paddling hard work, but by now we were used to it. Approaching the sandy beach at Rawhiti, we were guided in by our three companions. They kept watching us from shore, and Chuck welcomed us with a cool beer. Thank you, Etienne, for leading and sharing this adventure with us all.

On this trip were: Etienne DeBeere, Ryan Whittle, Tony Greaves, Dave P (from Northland Canoe Club), Steven Davis, Bianca Ranson, Peter Gendall, Peter Sommerhalder, Chuck Carpenter.

Auckland-Kayakers Discussion List

The email or Web based discussion list 'Auckland-kayakers' introduced last month in this newsletter is proving to be quite useful and popular. Already, there have been some impromptu trips organised through this system. For instance, Steve posted a message asking if anyone would be interested in a half day paddle, early morning start, to the noises and back - and, yes, he *did* get a reply (Ryan, typically :-).

As well as that, some topics of discussion have been on, for example, deck lines, requests for info on far away paddling destinations, pictures from recent trips (the Alderman Islands and front row seats on Americas Cup victory day), and a photo caption competition. At the moment, the list is hitting between 2 and 3 messages a day. If you have Web access and you would like to have a preview, then check out this address

<http://www.egroups.com/group/auckland-kayakers>

If you are not registered already, you will need to register with eGroups.com first. This is just to get you initialised, it costs you nothing.

I've been getting very good feedback on the automatic event reminders. We post all Canoe Club and ASKNet trips on the Auckland-Kayakers calendar and a reminder is sent to all list subscribers typically three days before the event. You can also see a list of upcoming events at any time at this address

<http://www.egroups.com/cal?md=u&listname=auckland-kayakers>

Remember that to post a message onto the discussion list, you have to first subscribe. If you don't want to receive the discussion messages in your email inbox, just let me know (auckland-kayakers-owner@egroups.com) and it can be turned off. To subscribe, you just need to send a blank email to this email address

auckland-kayakers-subscribe@egroups.com

See you on-line,
Matt Crozier

CALENDAR MAR - APRIL

Just a reminder Please can you make sure to contact trip leaders before you pack up your stuff to go on a trip.

Our safety policy for club trips

The level of difficulty of most trips is difficult to categorise because so much depends on the weather. A trip which in calm weather is suitable for novices, may require expert skills in rough weather. Therefore **any club member who has some doubt about whether or not their skills are sufficient for a particular trip MUST contact the trip leader ahead of time** to discuss safety issues. The trip leader will always try to include you under safe conditions, but if the weather forecast is for wind then the leader will make a decision about your participation in the trip. That decision will be final.

You must make it easy for the leader to ensure your safety. It is your responsibility to wear a buoyancy aid, to be suitably dressed for the conditions, and to carry any other personal safety equipment necessary for the trip. You must make a realistic assessment that your strength and endurance are sufficient for whatever is planned.

Finally, you must be able to re-enter your kayak (with help from another paddler if necessary) after a capsize in deep water. **This is an essential skill.** Do not join a club trip unless you have practiced this and are confident of managing it in realistic conditions. If you need to gain this skill, ask any experienced club member for help or enrol in one of the excellent kayaking skills courses run by commercial operators.

25/26 March Wet 'n' Wild Waiwera An annual event in its second year. Features a selection of long and short courses to be raced on the first day, followed by a day of sprint races. Starts at the Waiwera holiday park. There will be excellent spot prizes and medals for race placegetters.

Entry details are included with this Newsletter. You can contact Auckland Canoe Centre for further details tel 815 2073.

26 March Cheltenham Beach swim escort Any paddler looking for a gentle jaunt at Cheltenham Beach would be most welcome as support for this swim event. Just turn up on the morning and introduce yourself. The race starts at 10.45am.

31 March Rangitoto Meet at Okahu Bay ramp at 6pm for a paddle to Rangitoto and walk to the summit. A night light and torch are essential.

Contact Wally Gilmer on 832 3274.

1 April Mokahinau Islands These islands are 25km northwest of Great Barrier Island and consequently rather exposed, so conditions will dictate what areas are paddled on the day.

A fast launch leaves Leigh early Saturday to take you, your snorkelling, fishing, kayaking and camera gear in comfort to this fantastic spot.

Entry limited to 16, and we're almost full. Be quick if you are keen to go, or be on the waiting list in case someone cancels. Deposit required to secure a booking.

Contact Matt Grant tel 524 2108.

2 April Motuihe Island Meet at Okahu Bay ramp at 7.30am for an 8am departure. This is an all day paddle so bring plenty of drink, food and warm clothing. Paddlers must have a reasonable level of fitness and confidence in case the weather turns nasty.

Trip leader is David Poolman tel 09 420 5199 or 025 597086. Please ring David to let him know if you are going.

8 April Surprise come out for a morning's paddle with Rona. Meet at the bottom of Beach Road, Te Atatu Peninsula, at 8am for 8.30 departure. This is a morning trip, with a stop for morning tea at Point Chevalier and you'll be home for lunch. Ideal for the kayaker who doesn't want to go too far.

Contact Rona Patterson, tel 834 3399.

9 April, Sunday. Fishing and walking at Rangitoto. Here are two trips for the price of one. Meet at Takapuna Beach boat ramp (north end of the beach) at 8.45 for a 9.00am start. We'll cross to Rangitoto; then some can tow a lure for kahawai among the reefs and channels near the lighthouse, while others land at McKenzies Beach and walk to the summit. Everyone meets back at the beach for lunch; we'll return to Takapuna in the early afternoon. Bring drinks, snacks, lunch and fishing or walking gear. This trip is suitable for novices in calm weather; if it's windy phone **Colin Quilter 630 2219** on Saturday night or 7.00 – 8.15am on Sunday morning.

16 April Narrows to Hamilton Race Starts from jetty at Wellington St Beach Hamilton. There is a 10km event and a 20km event which includes 2 portages. Contact Scott Gemmill for details, tel 07 834 3957 or 025 285 1884.

Easter and Anzac Day at Mayor Island Friday 21 to Tuesday 25 April.
Depart Mount Maunganui Thursday night at 8pm. Return to Mount Maunganui Tuesday afternoon. Space is limited and a deposit is required to secure a booking.

There are fantastic bushwalks, fishing and snorkelling not to mention the awesome kayaking scenery to be enjoyed. Don't miss out on this one.

For full details and bookings contact Justin Sanson-Beattie tel 278 8090.

CLUB NIGHT PADDLES remain unchanged - Tuesdays and Thursdays at Okahu Bay at 5.30pm.

Rangitoto - the good, the bad, & the ugly By John Hieatt

I recently experienced two very different moods of Rangitoto and its surrounding channels. The first one was a Tuesday night paddle and the second was an overnight club trip.

Tuesday

There had been suggestions that we should paddle over to Rangitoto. We paddled into a moderate chop as far as Bean Rock where it was decided by the group to push on to Rangitoto. By this time the chop had built up a bit more, but it was no problem going into it head on. I thought to myself, this is going to be an "interesting" trip back.

Having not had much experience paddling down hill in these conditions I must admit I was more than a little bit apprehensive. Me and my little spectrum carefully eased our way down the waves. I didn't dare surf them through fear of losing control. Every time I picked up too much speed in the wrong direction I hit the brakes (or should I say brace). To make matters worse, we were getting the odd wave from side on as well.

This made steerage even more difficult. We finally arrived back at Okahu Bay and I must say I have never been more glad to set foot on the ramp as I was that night. Although I survived the trip without mishap, it was certainly a lesson learnt the hard way. Hopefully before encountering these sort of down wind conditions again I will have done a surfing course.

I believe the expression I use on the night was being scared Willyless.

I definitely recommend to newish paddlers that if they do not feel comfortable with a situation or the sea conditions, to sing out to the group leader or another paddler.

My next adventure to Rangitoto was an overnight club trip. On the Saturday afternoon our group of 12 paddlers departed from Okahu Bay. There was a bit of wind around but the sea was fairly calm and it was quite pleasant paddling. About a third of the way over my right - hand rudder pedal popped a rivet which happened to be the one the rudder was attached to "Bugger". We had quite a bit of tide to contend with, so I seemed to be putting in 9 out of 10 strokes on the left hand side. The wind had come up a bit too. Lesson number two: practice paddling with one's rudder up because you never know when it may pack a sad.

After negotiating an intense fleet of racing yachts we finally arrived at our destination. We stowed our kayaks up on the concrete platform and proceeded with our gear to the scout batch. After organising our gear, we sat down and relaxed with an entree of chips, salsa's, exotic dips etc, followed a bit later on by dinner. A while after dinner we decided it was time to ascend to the summit.

This was a good walk and the view from the top was awesome, We had a good break, enjoyed the outlook and then we set off back down the track in the dark, thankful for our torches to guide the way over the rugged rocky bits. When we got back down a few of us went down to watch Fergs group depart.

In between all this and thanks to Ryan's fishing nylon reinforced with a tie tab from Janis, I managed to make a temporary repair to my rudder pedal. The plan for the next morning was to continue around the coast via Gardeners Gap. The tide was still fairly high and getting under the bridge was like doing the Limbo and being a contortionist, my nose was touching the base of the bridge.

We stopped for morning tea at the bay just to the right as you come through the gap. From here we pressed on to Mackenzie's Bay by the lighthouse for lunch. We then proceeded to Cheltenham. A few of our group were a bit stuffed by the time we arrived at Cheltenham and after we had a break, we embarked on the last leg of our journey back to Okahu Bay.

A thoroughly enjoyable weekend, thanks to Ryan and the rest of the gang. I definitely recommend the Rangitoto overnight trips. It is not far from the city but you feel miles away. So there you have it, the good, the bad and I was only kidding about the ugly.

Final swim escort

Rona's view

On Saturday evening 11 March, a team set off for Rangitoto in a light drizzle to spend the night with the mosquitoes. Colin Quilter had greeted me with delight saying he was so pleased I was going on this trip because with me there, the mosquitoes would not bother anyone else. (He is not wrong)

After a superb crossing we were faced with landing on a dead low tide and had to carry laden kayaks through mud. Not a pretty sight! After the kayaks were lifted to safety it was time for each to find a corner to make their bed for the night.

Two of our new members had arrived without anything to sleep on so took their gear up to the scout bach, and as I was busily settling into my little corner, I happened to look up and couldn't believe my eyes. These two were wheeling two mattresses down the road on top of what can only be described as a wheel-plank. Goodness knows where the contraption came from but it had a wheel, two handles, two legs and a plank across the top where one might expect to find a barrow.

It didn't take long before the majority of the party decided that a comfortable mattress might indeed be better than the common bedroll, so it wasn't long before the wheelie thing was doing more trips up and down the road.

It was then time for the serious part of organising a communal meal, which was enjoyed sitting on the veranda while watching night fall. What a magnificent sight. It is hard to imagine that such a magic spot can be so near to Auckland and it was free!

Throughout the evening no less than three parties arrived in kayaks to do the walk to the top of Rangitoto to eat dinner before returning to Auckland. Those who didn't get wet on the trip over, most certainly did on their hike because it rained heavily most of the night. I did feel sorry for one of the groups who were changing out of wet clothing so they would be dry for the hike, only to get even wetter.

The morning arrived, and while some were happy to remain in their beds, for the most of us it was a thrill to sit eating breakfast watching the day arrive. Absolutely magic.

It wasn't long before the swimmers started to arrive, and among them were our own editor, Julia Thorn and club member Simon Bridger. At one time I was paddling along side Julia, and I did see Simon on the beach at St Heliers looking as fresh as a daisy. I must congratulate them both. The crossing was as smooth as I have ever seen it and the rain had disappeared.

This was the last swim escort for the summer and I think, the most enjoyable.

WAIWERA WET n WILD

SEA KAYAK CLASSIC

SATURDAY MARCH 25th 1999

&

AUCKLAND CANOE CENTRE

ADVENTURES

SEA KAYAK SPRINTS

Sunday March 26th

Classes for Sea Kayaks. Surfski's. Outriggers.

WAIWERA WET n WILD

SEA KAYAK CLASSIC



Auckland Canoe Centres Composite Classic: 32km

Quality Kayaks Plastic Fantastic: 32km

Waiwera Holiday Park Double Trouble: 32km

Moana Nui Outrigger Classic: 32km

Canoe Sports Surfski Classic: 32km

Pacific Kayaks Ladies Challenge: Short Course: 17km

Perception Cruise Cruisers: Short Course: 17km

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

Bring your Chardonnay, Silver Service and Glad Rags!

Te Wharewaka Outriggers: Short Course: 17km

Trophies awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in class.

New Zealand's Richest Sea Kayak Race

AUCKLAND CANOE CENTRE ADVENTURES

SEA KAYAK SPRINTS

One design, 500 metre sprints. Penguins, race Penguins, Storm's race Storm's. Carolina's race Carolina's. Heats, Repercharges, Semi's & Finals.

Trophies awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in class.

New Zealand's Richest Sea Kayak Race

Entry Forms from Auckland Canoe Centre

Phone 09 815 2073

Fax: 09 815 2074

Prize Giving

"Waiwera Holiday Park" Naturally Hot Marquee and Bar.

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Accommodation

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Cabins, Caravans, Caravan and Tent Sites available.