



# NEWSLETTER

MAY 2000

Don't they always say, in matters relating to getting out there and taking some exercise, that the first step out the door is the hardest. I've decided that one has to go further back than that and I've found an aphorism I prefer: the miracle isn't that I finished, it's that I had the courage to start.

It's all in the mind really. If you've decided to do something then the step out the door isn't too hard. But the decision to go could be very hard.

I present this, not as a means of filling up the blank canvas that is the front cover of the Newsletter, but as an apology for my lack of kayaking in past months. It is an embarrassment to me that I get out on the water so little.

But the truth is that I do spend a lot of time thinking about getting out on the water. I read all your trip reports and yearn to have been out there too. I read the trip calendar over and over and try to work out how I can come on trips. Sometimes I make it, sometimes I don't.

Recently I promised Roger I would come to every one of his Saturday morning races. Not too much of a commitment I thought, this is only once or twice a month. I thought that if I made such a promise I would be honour bound to fulfill it. You may ask Roger if I came to his first race the other week. But no, you read it here first: I did not go. Instead I went tramping near Nelson, risking frostbite, saturation, food poisoning, water poisoning and the possibility of being trapped on the wrong side of a washed away road. It was an exhilarating weekend, but the canoe race would have been easier and safer in many ways. I have now promised to attend the next race, and I am even contemplating paying in advance to make sure I go.....

So much for aphorisms. Yet I have no trouble deciding to eat a big piece of cake and getting on with it. Nothing seems to get in the way of a piece of cake. But when I want to go kayaking suddenly the kids get ratty one after another, my husband racks off to the Phillipines and ...oh yes, the wind comes up.

So this time I have gone to extraordinary lengths to make sure I can come to the race. I have hidden my passport. I have arranged for other people to take the kids to soccer, netball, parties, etc. I have done the grocery shopping. I have located my spray skirt. I have practised driving along Tamaki Drive to Okahu Bay. I'll be there. Trust me. I wonder if I can remember how to get into my kayak. I wonder if it'll be cancelled.....

Yours in paddling

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Julia'.

## 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 like to keep a store of articles to use in the Newsletter so please send stuff in when you have it rather than worrying about when my deadlines are. However my final deadline is always the day of the Committee meeting which is on the second Tuesday of the month.

### Subscriptions

If you've got this far into your Newsletter without realising that subs are due for the year ending March 2001, just check the front page as you might have missed something. Please try to pay your subs promptly as the income is important in keeping the Club on its feet to the standard that you've grown used to. **Please note** - this is your second and final reminder.

### For sale

Storm sea kayak in orange in excellent condition, with spray skirt and paddle. \$1500. Contact Mitchell, tel 277 9529.

## CALENDAR MAY - JUNE

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

**20 May Sea kayak race** Here's a chance to test out your fitness on the Harbour or just have a pleasant paddle with friends going a bit harder than usual for about an hour. Courses of five and ten kilometres are on offer, with timekeeper Roger to keep things honest. Roger has a good handicapping system to ensure a fair set of results at the finish.

After the race there's a bbq at 10am and a chance to catch up with friends for a chat. Cost is \$5 and non kayakers are welcome at the bbq too, ie your clan of supporters.

Contact Roger Lomas for more info tel 625 8924. There's no need to book, just turn up on the day, at 8am for an 8.30 start.

**21 May Cornwallis towards Waiuku & return** Meet at Cornwallis wharf at 8.30am for 9am departure. Carry the tide and see how far we get up towards Waiuku. We'll have lunch and return with the tide. high tide is at 12.19 (3.8metres) with lots of push to make use of. Back at Cornwallis around 4.30pm.

Contact Trevor tel 817 7357.

**3-5 June Administration Bay** For Queens Birthday weekend we've booked the hostel palace at Administration Bay on Motutapu Island. Come along for a weekend of fun and adventure. A chance to visit Rakino Island, Motuhoropapa Island, Otata Island and Oropapa Island. These are just some of the stunning islands waiting to be explored right on your front doorstep. Orcas and dolphins have been sighted in the last week.

The hostel is booked for Saturday and Sunday nights but there is also the possibility of staying Friday night. Limited to thirty people so book early. \$15 per head per night. We'll have a pot luck dinner on Saturday and a desert evening on Sunday.

Contact David Poolman, tel 09 420 5199 or 025 597 086. Please book by Wed 31 May.

**6 June Club night** Don't miss this. See full write up further on in this issue.

### **11 June (Sunday) Paddling/cycling trip at Clevedon**

Here's a trip with something for everyone. Meet at the roundabout in the centre of Clevedon village at 11.00am. Bring your kayak, a bike, lunch, and afternoon tea. We'll offload the bikes at Clevedon, lock them somewhere safe, and then drive out to the coast (15 minutes) at Umupuia Beach. Then it's away in the kayaks, around the shore of Duder Park to the east. We'll stop at a sheltered bay near the headland (Whakakaiwhara Point) for lunch. Once around the point we paddle south into the Wairoa River, and wend our way up to Clevedon with the rising tide beneath us, (HW 1505). At the village we'll haul out on the grassy bank for a cup of tea, then onto the bikes to cycle back out to the coast to our vehicles.

The paddling part of this trip is 12 km, mostly in protected water, and suitable for paddlers of all abilities. The cycling is all on the flat, and through pleasant countryside.

If you don't have a bike, please come anyway. We'll need a few non-cyclists to look after the kayaks while others cycle back for the vehicles. Non-cyclists should leave their cars at Clevedon in the morning and transfer their kayaks onto other vehicles for the drive out to Umupuia Beach.

Everyone interested in this trip please phone **Colin Quilter 630 2219** so that he knows who is cycling and who is not. If the weather is awful on the day, phone Colin on Sunday morning 7 -10am for alternative arrangements.

**16 - 18 June Whangarei trip** A weekend staying in a house at McDonald Bay on the Whangarei harbour. We have the option of kayaking across the bay on Friday night from Marsden Point (leaving our cars at the refinery). This option will save quite a bit of driving. High tide around 8 pm.

The house holds 18 people and cost is \$6 per night per head. It is comfortable and perfect for a large group - beats camping in winter. We will have a shared meal on Sat night.

There is some nice coastline to explore, the harbour to explore in the event of rough weather along with some interesting walking.

Contact Ann Schofield tel 419 9223 or Matt Crozier tel 817 1984.

**18 June Cambridge to Hamilton APCC race** This is an important annual event for our Club, a major race on the APCC calendar which we organise and run. Matt Grant is in charge this year, tel 524 2108. The distance is 23km but don't be daunted - the current does a fair bit of the work, and this event is by no means just intended for elite racers. So come along and have a go. There's always an excellent feed and lots of spot prizes afterwards, and medals for all placegetters.

More details from Matt Grant tel 524 2108. *Entry form on page 13.*

**23 - 24 June Overnight on Rangitoto** Spend the night at the scout hut on the island. Depart Okahu Bay at 5.30pm on Friday, returning the next day around midday. Please bring a torch/ light for the channel crossing. Limited to ten places.

For more details contact David Poolman tel 09 420 5199 or 025 597 086.

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

### Night paddling

With the ending of daylight saving we need to make sure we are seen.

It is everybody's responsibility to provide their own large lens flashlight and/or a fixed all round white light on a pole, approx one metre high. The flashlight is to be carried under the bungies, not nicely stowed in the hatch or cockpit keeping it warm and dry. Check your batteries have enough grunt to do the job properly and not just give a feint dim glow.

Be out there and BE SEEN.

### **Safety policy for club trips**

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 You must make a realistic assessment that your strength and endurance are sufficient for whatever is planned.
- 4 You must be able to re-enter your kayak (with help from another paddler if necessary) after a capsize in deep water.

# Winter talks series 2000

By Ann Schofield, organiser

Roger Lomas co-ordinated an extremely successful series of talks for our club during the winter of 1999, and we are going to do it again this year. Roger invited me to co-ordinate these sessions this time which I am delighted about as it's a great opportunity to get more involved in the club and meet the big names!!

My aim is the same as previously - some light entertainment with the central theme of "topics that are of interest to kayakers" on the first Tuesday evening of each month. I hope to invite a variety of speakers to make a mixed program. Ideas that I've had so far include inviting a representative from local coastguard, someone who can speak about the general management plan for the islands of the Hauraki Gulf, as well as hearing about fascinating places that people have kayaked to. So, there's lots to look forward to! If you have any ideas of people that you think would make a valuable contribution to this program, I would welcome your suggestions, preferably along with a phone number.

On these club nights, the club room doors will open at 7:30pm, and the presentations will kick off at 8pm. The evenings will be split into a formal presentation (speaker and questions) of 45-50 mins, followed by an informal session over refreshments where we can chat with the speaker in a relaxed environment and have a cuppa. There will be a small charge of \$2 to cover administration and refreshments.

There are a couple of other great spin-offs of having these get togethers during the winter. First, these nights are a perfect way to include club members in the running of our club in small ways. There are a number of small tasks that can be shared around on the night. If you feel that you would like to help out with any of these, I'd really appreciate hearing from you. If you would like to be responsible for a particular task at each session, that would be great. Alternatively, if you'd like to commit to just one night out

of the series, that's OK too. I will draw up a roster for the tasks, and you are welcome to sign up for one night only. The specific tasks that I would like to share around include: supper duty (getting the tea, coffee, biscuits ready), introducing and thanking guest speakers, and money collection on the door. I believe they will really feel like true 'club nights' if as many people as possible are involved - so please come forward.

Secondly, these evenings are an excellent time to mix and mingle with people either before or after the formal presentation and do some trip planning (or trip reflecting / photo viewing) .....

I really hope these evenings are of interest to you. I warmly welcome suggestions of any kind and can be contacted as follows:

e-mail: [anns@rangitoto.school.nz](mailto:anns@rangitoto.school.nz)  
Tel: 419 9223

Mayor Island, Great Mercury  
Island and the America's Cup Final  
Presenter: Justin Sanson-Beattie

Tues June 6th, 2000 7:30pm for  
8pm start  
Venue: Auckland Canoe Club Rooms,  
Tamaki Drive (above Fergs Shop)  
Justin is known in the club for organising trips that involve hiring a charter boat to get to various off shore destinations to begin kayaking trips. Of course, this takes Justin to many places that a lot of us never get to. He was also one of the crazy kayakers who took to the water on the day of the America's Cup final, and many of us will have spotted him on TV hobnobbing with names like Dean Barker. Justin was heard to say "instead of just cleaning salt water off my boat that day, I had to wash champagne off too!". Justin is a keen photographer and his close ups of the big boats and famous people will be fascinating.

# Focus on Courses

## Here's a rundown of what's available

**Auckland Wilderness Kayaking** provides independent instruction ranging from overnight sea kayaking courses to Eskimo rolling. Their instructors are all qualified and very experienced and have been running courses for over five years with success. AWK is not a retailer so will not push gear you don't want. Special Auckland Canoe Club training courses are run from time to time.

More info phone 813 3369 or 025 582 409, email [chris@nzkayak.co.nz](mailto:chris@nzkayak.co.nz)

**Canoe & Kayak Ltd** offer sea kayaking and white water courses every weekend including specialist multisport courses up to Grade 2 cert. They also run rolling clinics every Monday and Friday. They trained over 10 of the paddlers in this year's Coast to Coast including the first woman and first senior woman.

Contact tel 479 1002, email [rob\\_spence@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rob_spence@yahoo.co.uk)

**Fergs Kayaks** run a basic skills course every Sunday (min 2 people). In the course they cover paddling technique, paddle strokes, wet exits, self rescue, buddy rescue. All kayak equipment is provided. Cost is \$60. All Auckland Canoe Club members receive 50% discount on this course, and one on one instruction.

More details phone 529 2230, email [fergskayaks@xtra.co.nz](mailto:fergskayaks@xtra.co.nz).

**Auckland Canoe Centre** do the following:

1. Basic kayaking, capsize drills, rescues, basic strokes in 4 sessions on Tuesdays. First session theory and videos at the Canoe Centre shop 6.30pm to 7.30 then next 3 sessions at Henderson Pools 8pm - 9.30.
2. One on one rolling, 2 sessions, at Henderson Pool on a Tuesday 8pm to 9.30.
3. Sea kayak skills - one and two day courses from their base at Waiwera. 25 June Intro to sea kayaking, 1 day \$95; 6-7 May Sea Kayak Skills weekend including food and accom \$295.

Contact Auckland Canoe Centre tel 815 2073, fax 815 2074, email [acc@kayak.co.nz](mailto:acc@kayak.co.nz)

## Manukau Harbour to Whatipu By Rona Patterson

If you have never been out with Colin Quilter on his Manukau harbour trip to Whatipu and South Head, you don't know what you are missing. First, you need to be super fit, and it wouldn't hurt to pack your crampons, hatchet and leather gloves. Stakes and ropes wouldn't go amiss either.

Apart from a strong push up the channel in either direction, you have to be prepared for a surf landing at Whatipu. Not your ordinary surf either. When it looks perfectly safe to land, a sneaky wave whips around the corner of Paratutae Island and will knock any unwary paddler out of their kayak. Likewise, on launching from this same narrow, little beach, the waves come from nowhere and will knock you sidewise, and possibly cast you onto the rocks, as in last Sunday's launching when there was a loud snap and one unhappy paddler was left holding only half his paddle.

Once kayaks are moved up the beach so they are not likely to take off on their own accord, footwear is changed, drinks and nibbles brought out of hatches, and then the fun begins. At this time Colin will make an announcement to be back in one hour for departure, and then proceeds to lead the hardy to the top of the north head of the Manukau Harbour. This is when the hatchet and leather gloves will come in handy as in many places the footholds are quite awkward and rather high for short legs and the only thing available for grasping hold of appears to be gorse or thorns.

Once at the top of the hill you can see forever, but there lives a swarm of a new breed of insect which is intent of resting on anyone who is foolish enough to stand in one place for more than fifteen seconds. The return trip is easier, but the round trip was to take more than the allotted hour.

The next part of the trip is the journey over to South Head. This is done on the diagonal with the sea rolling in from Australia cutting across from the opposite direction. Interesting!! Not for the faint-hearted. It is with relief that Colin's safe little bay is reached, with only one person submitting to sea-sickness.

Now the real interesting part of the journey is about to begin. Hatches are delved into and footwear is changed once more. After a leisurely stroll along the beach an almost vertical climb begins. This is where the crampons and ropes would be most useful. The climb only goes up about as high as the top of a six storey building, but there is no luxury of a flight of stairs, but you do get to sit in the long grass and eat the hurriedly packed lunch which was put together six or seven hours earlier (unless you packed your lunch the previous night, in which case your lunch is most probably stale or soggy, or both, but because of the energy expended, you will eat it). Besides, sustenance is needed for the climb which awaits.

Just when you begin to believe you have died and gone to heaven with a cloudless, blue sky above and the sun shining down, ocean as far as the eye can see with only little specks which do not resemble the rollers coming in, Colin will invite fellow paddlers to come on a little walk with him. I must surely need to get my head read because I have accepted his challenge twice. The first time I was scared witless, the second time I was only terrified.

Don't let me put you off. The climb is simple. It just goes up and up, and if you are lucky there might be some bracken to grab hold of for support. Then finally, the top is reached and you can imagine you are in the film 'The Sound of Music' because the next ten minutes is spent meandering over some fields. Enjoy this because the next hurdle is an electric fence. Once again, short legs are a handicap and while wriggling through bottom wires, I managed to give John Maynard a jolt from the fence.

Now we are at the top of the cliff. Not your ordinary type of cliff. This one has a sandy face and for some reason, the men delight in running down the face. Even for those who ran a zig-zag path, there still appears to be times when they have to stop to consider the safest path.

I have to admit that after reaching half way on my first descent, I froze and would go no further, but on turning around to retrace my steps I realised that was impossible. So it was with my second descent, I knew that once I had climbed the fence at the top of the cliff, there was no turning back. This time was much easier - on a scale of 1-10 it scored 225. At least my mind knew that there were two choices, either I got to the bottom somehow or I remained on the cliff face forever.

I got to the bottom completely covered in sand (even on the brim of my hat), I have some enormous bruises and have scratches and grazes on my shins, my arms ache, my car and kayak are covered in black sand, but this is a trip not to be missed.



## AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB TEE SHIRTS

Yes, we've still got the club Tee shirts available in most sizes. They are top-brand Beefy Tees, guaranteed to put up with repeated wearing and washing. They are printed on the front with the design at left, and come in two colours: white design on navy fabric, and black design on light grey fabric. Four sizes are available: small, medium, large and extra-large. We are selling them at cost, \$30 each.

To order, contact **Colin Quilter**, (phone 630 2219 or email "[c.quilter@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:c.quilter@auckland.ac.nz)")



## The Ebb and Flow

**By Roger Lomas**

Wolfgang would like to thank the big contingent of club members who turned up at De Niro's restaurant a few weeks ago. It was another busy night for our famous Chef and he only wished that he had more time to relax and chat with the many friendly faces present. Our club wine and food connoisseur was there and blended unnoticed with the crowd. He reports that he was happy with the cuisine and was most impressed by the calibre of the club diners and the din they created. As well as the hoi polloi the occasion was graced by the presence of Sir Lauri, the Rt. Hon. Peter Sommerhalder with his wife Su, Lady Liz was there and of course the President and Sue were there with an entourage of minions. The noisy revelry at the banquet table seemed to be centred around one Anne of Cape Cod with the good Dr Quilter on hand to keep the conversation buzzing along with interesting topics. Remember to book early for our next restaurant outing, as some last minute arrivals were unable to be seated.

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*A quick roundup of Easter - Anzac activities . Justin Sanson-Beattie took another boatload of kayakers over to Mayor Island. Justin will be the guest speaker at the clubrooms on June 6<sup>th</sup>.*

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Nikki Wylder and Paul Buckley ventured south for a quick look at Stewart Island. They discovered that Margaret Thwaites and Ray Clark had recently been there done that.

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*F<sup>iii</sup> beckoned Martin Fedorski and Nicole Moorhouse and Martin said the weather was foul.*

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Rona Patterson took a small group across to Motuihe Island. Rona's kayak departed loaded with cake, Easter eggs and an assortment of fine wine. Tony Greaves who went away in a lightly laden craft returned with the Plimsoll line at dangerous overload level.

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*It was Philip Noble and Jane Robinson taking away the Canvas City Cups at the Club Sea Kayak event. Jane scored a spot prize as well and we all enjoyed a hearty mid morning breakfast from the BBQ with Harley Wilson making a return appearance at the grill. The Barracuda boys had the fastest time with Dave Poolman and Gordon Robinson trying hard but not quite catching Philip who was being harried by Roy Meehan and a fast finishing Ryan Whittle. It's all on again this Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May - 8.00am.*

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Steve Davy and Ryan Whittle used a mother ship for overnight accommodation when they paddled around Waiheke Island over Easter. Yes, it was a real mother ship with Steve's Mum on board to pamper the paddlers with dinner, bed and breakfast for two nights.

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*Last weekend a small group of club kayakers headed up the harbour to Stanley Bay. The old steam ferry Toroa is tied up at the wharf there undergoing a rather slow restoration. We were invited to go aboard for a cuppa and a look. The rusty old boiler was having a scrub down and the steam engine was partly dismantled.*

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Top secret Navy defensive weapon tested at Devonport. Paddling back from Stanley Bay we had to pass the Navy Base and a supply tanker and a frigate were berthed on the outer wharf. As we passed them a foul offensive smell reached our nostrils and we hurried away trying not to create any unnecessary splashes, as it was definitely something in the water coming from one of the ships.

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*There are still a few crooked kayakers out there and some of us know who they are. Quite a few have been reformed and have gone on to lead useful and productive lives. A club president and one of our leading kayak designers have already been straightened out after they were both directed to a North Shore reformatory where Roy Meehan has mended many a strained back or muscle.*

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Things to look forward to: - Queens birthday at Administration Bay on Motutapu Island. This is a superb coastal lodge with a well-appointed kitchen, hot showers, bunkroom accommodation and plenty of options for day kayaks and walks. Book early, this one will be a sell out.

# The Mokohinau Islands

## By Matt Grant

Even the name sounds mysterious . And the further away something is, the more exotic it becomes in our imaginations. Yet my pragmatic side wondered realistically whether this might turn into another 'barf - circus' like the infamous Mayor Island trip. Perched as they are, on the edge of the earth's horizon, it would only take a small breeze to whip up a nauseous swell, which would quickly dispel any notions of mystery. The weather deity smiled on us however , breaking my Jonah-like run of rotten weather luck on club trips, and behold !....the seas were calmed.

The 42 foot catamaran 'Diversity' ( pronounced 'diversity') is rigged for divers, but accommodated all 16 kayaks handsomely with room to spare. Being his first kayak expedition, our skipper Bill was somewhat bemused but impressed with the arsenal of colored craft festooned atop his davit and across the cockpit. The catamaran proved to be a smooth ride indeed, for the 2 hour trip right to the edge of the continental shelf where the Mokohinaus nestle, away from all but the most determined visitors.

The Moke's are split into two groups. We first approach Fanal Island. Those of a fertile imagination get a royal greeting from the King and Queen. Two rocks jutting from a point have been randomly chiselled by the waves into ornate chess pieces. It seems a good omen. Further around , several sea caves beg our exploration, but they must await a future trip (hint).... With travel time cutting into the day, we reluctantly cruise on, and finally disgorge amidst the nooks and crannies of Flax island, which alongside Trig and Burgess form the nucleus of the Mokohinau's.

My first impressions are of the similarities to the Aldermen Islands. They share the same squat robust vegetation, sensational clarity of water and occasionally the sharp eyed are rewarded with glimpses of beautiful, bright green parrots flying around.

As we paddle the depth is difficult to gauge as the water is so clear. Colin Quilter makes the best of it by rolling every few minutes to survey the other half of the Islands (the underwater half). In fact he seems to be upside down more often than rightside up . Aside from self preservation, this is another great reason to get yourself a reliable roll , or even a solid sculling support stroke. With a mask and snorkel handy you get to see twice as much. Several times we roll over in the midst of a swarm of aqua blue maomao, close enough to touch, it seems. A huge cloud of the more petite, dark blue demoiselles hover beneath them, the white badges on their flanks glowing in the sun. It has an ethereal quality.

The Islands offer a pick 'n mix of archways, sheltered bays, narrow passes , stacks and guts to navigate and play in. Even with the smooth conditions there is enough swell to generate some interesting play areas, where the water alternately surges over rocks, then seconds later seems to suck the water dry from across them like Moses at the Red sea. This is great fun if you have confidence in your timing, and a hired plastic boat. Roger Lomas is 3 feet above

sea level one moment , then disappears 3 feet below the next. He comes up dry and grinning mischievously like a naughty schoolboy who has got away with something.

Further around we explore a narrow gut so long and deep as to take us almost into twilight. The walls above us are etched in a brilliant tapestry of tawny browns, chocolate and white quite unlike anything I have ever seen. Jan Rivers and Graeme Bruce follow me in and end up playing the timing game with some rocks and the swell, but come out smiling.

On the eastern side of Burgess we stop for lunch and a walk. Burgess is the only Island on which we may land without a permit. It still boasts a lighthouse dating back to 1883 and which was not automated until the 70's. One of the early keepers apparently went insane with the solitude. It seems hard to imagine on the postcard perfect day we contend with but it seems to hint at a darker side to the Islands, that a strong gale and heavy swell might bring out... Other remnants of its history are in charming rustic decline. The concrete wharf, rusty bollards, , the rail tracks up the hill and the skeletal foundations of the old buildings are slowly being reclaimed, by the sea, the bush and corrosion. Skinks dart out of our way every few feet as we trek to the lighthouse-possibly the endangered Mokohinau skink. Atop Burgess the lighthouse still stands sentinel powered now by a somehow sterile solar array.

I muse that a generator and a crusty, weathered , oilskin clad keeper would seem more in keeping with the wild surroundings.

Nobody wants to leave after such a perfect day. Like tardy school kids, we drift back to the Divercity in dribs and drabs, just in time for a quick snorkel. The skipper seems anxious to set off . I assume there are sound nautical reasons for his haste, like the tide, the sunset, or some other peril to mariners. In the event, it seems he has placed his personal safety above the wishes of his punters for the most compelling reason of all - he has promised his wife he will be home by 6.... Nevermind, the early finish allows time for pizza at the Rusty Pelican on the way home. A perfect finish to a perfect adventure.

PS; Some photoes are available to view online at

For anyone keen to repeat this trip or lead another trip, Matt Grant has a list of several interested people almost large enough to fill another charter. Call him if you wish details, on 5242108.

From a recent ASKNET newsletter :

### **Sea Kayak Qualifications**

On February 29<sup>th</sup>, a meeting was held at the Auckland Canoe Club to discuss (the lack of) qualifications for sea kayakers. Eighteen people attended and it was a lively debate with everyone agreeing something needs to be done.

John Kirk-Anderson, Instruction Officer with KASK, was in attendance and he reported that at this stage, establishing a national qualification is not a priority for KASK. However he reported on the sterling work being done by the Wellington Sea Kayak Network and the leaders course it has been running. A key person in the WSKN initiate is Cathye Haddock who ran a risk management workshop at Coastbusters. It was decided that no further action would be taken until we had had a chance to talk to Cathye and find out first hand what has been happening in the Capital.

According to Cathye, the WSKN had had some near misses and when these were analysed, it was found that "leadership" was the missing ingredient. This finding encouraged the group to establish a leaders' training course which they did with the help of some sponsorship from Tranzrail. The weekend course was very successful so Cathye and he colleagues put together a proposal to establish a more formal training programme to be run on a national basis.

I have a copy of the plan and will distribute it to the people at the meeting plus other interested parties. It involves a National Sea Kayak Leadership Training Series to be run New Zealand wide between November of this year and the end of 2003. Simultaneously, a Sea Kayak Proficiency Training Series will be run and a Sea Kayak safety Video will be produced. The budget for all this is \$51,500 and the money will come from various sources.

The WSKN is to be congratulated for this initiative. It is long overdue and the only people who are going to do something about sea kayak training are sea kayakers themselves.

There is some more groundwork to be done on this important project however we will keep you informed on developments as they happen. The goal is to improve the quality of leadership and the number of leaders in the pool.

**Vincent Maire**

**THE AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB**  
**CAMBRIDGE TO HAMILTON A.P.C.C RACE**  
**SUNDAY 18 JUNE 2000**

**The Race**

Paddle the scenic Waikato river from the Karapiro bridge on SH 1 at Cambridge, 23 winding km to the Hamilton Harriers Clubrooms off Grantham street in downtown Hamilton. Juniors (<18) and novice paddlers take an 11 km course from the Narrows Bridge to the clubrooms. The race will use the classes and divisions as per the APCC calendar schedule. **Trophies** will be awarded and the **Auckland Canoe Centre shield** presented to the winning club. **Spot prizes** are available to all paddlers. **BBQ** and prizegiving held afterwards. There will be a division for Sea Kayaks and other recreational craft.

**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. Parking and briefing are in the carpark on river side of the road. Minimum of 6 entries required

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

**Times**

Registration from 10am-be early and avoid the rush ! Senior start times commence at 11.30am, Juniors & novice start 12.30 pm

**Equipment**

Buoyancy aids must be worn .Spray skirts optional. A safety boat will be there. Having fun is compulsory !

**Toilets**

Last toilet stop is in Cambridge by the cricket park !

**Entries / Fees**

Seniors \$15

Juniors and novice \$10

**Late fee**

**(till 11 am race day)** \$10 extra

Written entries to be received by Friday 16 June. Entries also by phone /fax or E Mail, with payment made on the day (no late fee)

**Entries/ Enquiries to ;**

Matthew Grant

4 / 729 Remuera Rd, Remuera

Ph 09 524 2108, or 021 610 604.

[mattgrant@clear.net.nz](mailto:mattgrant@clear.net.nz)

Surname .....

First name .....

Female /Male .....

Phone .....

Club (if applicable) .....

Class/Div (eg.K1) .....

Model (eg. Opus) .....

*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 race organisers and / or their assistants*

Signature.....

Fees included .....

Paid .....

**Race no** .....

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