



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2000

Gee it has been getting cold these last few mornings. I look out at the Harbour and it looks sparkling blue. Then I look at the people in the street all rugged up in parkas and scarves and boots and it makes me think how cold they are. So I deduce the water, blue though it is, must be cold too. And I stay on the land.

Most of the time anyway. Last weekend I went for a short swim in the sea just to see how cold it was. Ironically it was the same day Christchurch had a severe snowstorm, which made the swim seem quite comfortably warm in retrospect. Actually the water was fairly cold but not breathtakingly so. I stood in the sea up to my knees until my legs were numb then braved it with rest of my body. My husband says I did this just to be able to tell people about it, and indeed I am doing so at this very moment. I have told just about everyone I meet but mostly they are not interested. Still it's handy to have these stories up your sleeve when you bump into friends and they ask what you've been up to.

Those of you who follow these pages will be pleased to hear that I joined in Roger's race last month and had a good time.

My last kayaking experience was on the long weekend when it was terribly windy. I got stuck in a little bay at the eastern end of Onetangi Beach on Waiheke and had difficulty getting out because of the force of the wind pushing me back in. Some people idling on the rocks got fed up watching my struggle and when they left I felt truly abandoned. Then when it started to rain and I could see people deserting the beach in droves I felt even more lonely. But all those hours on the rowing machine have not been in vain: I muscled out eventually.

It was good to see so many of you at the AGM last month. In case you didn't make it, we discussed several topics including luring, or should I say encouraging, more young people to join the Club; sending this Newsletter out by E-mail rather than snail mail for those members who are switched on and enjoy looking at computer screens rather than hearing a thud in the letterbox; possible uses for the Club's accumulated funds; making the Club constitution available for members' perusal.

The new Committee was elected as follows:

Patron.....Laurie Bugbee
President.....Trevor Arthur
Vice President.....Colin Quilter
Commodore.....Matt Grant (Trips officer)
Treasurer.....Matt Crozier
Secretary.....Rona Patterson
Editor.....Julia Thorn
Gears officer.....Bruce Bugbee
Hireage officer....Jonathan Jarvis

Committee members: all the above plus Peter Sommerhalder, Ken Marsh, Wally Gilmer, Roger Lomas, David Poolman, Ian Cotton, John Hieatt, Gordon Robinson.

Yours in paddling



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. My E-mail address is juliathorn@xtra.co.nz - at the moment I cannot accept text by e-mail, only messages.

Club's postal address

The Club has a new postal address which is PO Box 45020, Te Atatu Peninsula.

CALENDAR JUNE - JULY

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

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.

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.

Rangi return On the same Friday night, June 23, Wally will lead a group of kayakers

across to Rangitoto and return the same evening. Before returning you'll have the opportunity to climb to the summit and enjoy a partially moonlit view.

Departure details as for overnight trip. Contact Wally Gilmer tel 832 3274.

2 July Waiau Pa Come wave surfing at Waiau Pa. Meet at high tide at 11am. Sea kayakers can paddle up from Waiau Pa boat ramp, and whitewater paddlers can meet at the Karaka motorway exit. bring supplies for a shared picnic lunch.

Trip leader is Ken Marsh tel 828 0701.

4 July Club Night Gerry Maire will talk on "Cruising the Turkish Mediterranean coastline". A while ago Gerry spent three months cruising this coast on a summer holiday, in a meandering sort of way, covering 1500 km and enjoying the good life. Gerry is a long standing Auckland canoeist who travels with a cruising spirit enjoying the scenery and company of local people.

Format is as before: \$2 cover charge which includes supper half way through the 45 minute presentation. Venue is our Clubrooms at Okahu Bay, time is 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

For more info contact Ann Schofield tel 419 9223.

8 July Mixed doubles 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 per seat 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. Roger will sort out the pairings.

9 July Waiake Bay to Dacre Cottage Meet at Waiake Bay at 9am for 9.30 departure to explore Okura Estuary and Dacre Cottage. High tide is 1.11pm. Suitable for all levels if winds are moderate. Bring lunch and goodies. We'll be back by 3pm.

Trip leader is Trevor. Please ring him before the trip, tel 817 7357.

14 July (Fri) Browns Island An evening paddle from Okahu Bay. Departure time is 6pm for a full moon paddle to Browns Island. Should be back by 11pm.

Contact Wally tel 8323274.

16 July Motuora Island Depart Sullivans Bay at 10 am for a paddle across to Motuora Island for lunch. Then return to the mainland and possibly stop off at the Waiwera hot pools. If conditions are deemed unsuitable for this we'll paddle around in the Mahurangi Harbour from Sullivans Bay.

Trip leader is David Poolman, tel 09 420 5199 or 025 597 086.

July 22 Karaka Bay and Panmure Meet at Okahu Bay at 8.30 for 9am departure. Paddle to the Tamaki River estuary for morning tea at Karaka Bay at 10.30, followed by an onward paddle to Panmure for lunch. High tide (3m) is 11.15. Return time will be around 3pm. In a couple of weeks we may do this trip in reverse.

Trip leader is Rona Patterson, tel 834 3399 (h) or 302 1355 (w).

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

Night paddling

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**.

Kayak hire arrangements

There have been some changes to the kayak hire process that will take effect from this newsletter. The changes are; kayak identification, hire cost and booking procedures.

Our fleet

At present the following kayaks are available for hire:

<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Model</i>	<i>Kayak number</i>
3	Storm	1, 2 and 3
1	Squall	4
2	Breeze	5 and 6
1	Sea Bear double	7
1	Corsica	10
1	Pirouette	11

(the last 2 are whitewater boats)

Kayak numbers have been assigned to each kayak and appear on both sides at the rudder end of each kayak.

Club night hire

For evening club paddles on Tuesdays and Thursdays the charge is **\$5.00 per kayak**.

Normal hire rates

At any other time the daily flat charge is **\$20 per kayak** and **\$30 per double kayak**.

Hireage register

The purpose of the register is to manage kayak maintenance/usage and reconcile usage with money received. The hireage register is required to be completed before and after the use of a club kayak.

It is located in the club shed on the table and must be completed along the following lines:

1. use the page dated on the day (or first day) of hire with:
 - your name
 - kayak number
 - duration of hire (in hours or days so others know when next available)

2. upon return from your trip complete the register with:
 - any repairs required to the gear
 - \$ amount paid
3. Place money in the plastic seal-easi bag hanging on the wall before leaving

Booking a kayak

Club nights are on a first come first served basis. At any other time you can book a kayak.

To hire a club kayak, members are required to visit the club's shed and complete the hireage register themselves.

Amending a booking

Members are required to go to the club's shed and amend/cancel the hireage register

Gear cleaning

On your return from a paddle, please hose down your kayak/paddle/spray skirt and empty water from the kayak and return gear to the club's shed

Gear condition

It is important to record any repairs required for the safety of other paddlers and to ensure our kayaks last as long as possible. Jonathan Jarvis will regularly review the register to note any repairs required.

For any queries on kayak hire please call Jonathan on 3666 805.

Windy weekend at Motutapu By Rona Patterson

With the most appalling weather during the week prior to the holiday weekend, and an even worse weather forecast for the weekend, I was living in hope that the 'powers-that-be' would cancel the proposed trip to Administration Bay. Late on Friday afternoon I tried to contact David Poolman to see if the trip was to go ahead, but could not get a reply. Later in the evening, I phoned Trevor Arthur, and his reply was "well Ken and I are going anyway". I now had two options - I either became a wuss and stayed home in the warmth and comfort, or I put on a brave front and turn up at 7.30 am the following morning.

So it was that I fronted up at Okahu Bay at 7.30 am for the 8.00 am start. Six brave souls were ready to leave at 8.00 am, when another three people turned up to make the number nine. Five paddlers had gone over on the Friday - in two groups, and therein lies another tale.

We headed off in calmer waters than we expected and with the support of the out-going tide. However, it wasn't long before the wind and tide got the message that we were on our way. By the time we were at the lighthouse we were in full battle. I even managed to have my fishing line snatched from my deck while negotiating rocks on this point.

Heading around the back of Rangitoto was quite a struggle and it was not long before we were in two groups with four paddlers well ahead, and like a sheep I followed. It was some time before I realised that the other half of our people were not directly behind me, but were keeping close contact with the shore and the group in front were heading out to sea. Trying to get back towards land was not easy because of the rollers with white caps hitting me side on, and it was not long before I had lost contact with both groups, apart from the occasional glimpse of Ken Marsh whose new, blue boat was like a beacon. Once I realised I might be quite some time all on my own, I decided that as nothing picks one up better than a feed of chocolate – I had a feed of chocolate, and it worked too. Soon after, I was to sight two of our Friday paddlers on their way to meet up with Roger and David, whose kayaks somehow did not get to the island with them on Friday night.

Seeing other paddlers gave me a huge lift, so I braved the waves and surfed in. This was the best part of the trip and I should have done it sooner. All of a sudden, I was back with the close-to-shore group who were looking for a place to stop for a warming cup of tea and chocolate bar. From here, we were very close to our destination, and were only just in time to negotiate the rocks before the tide was too low. We arrived in heavy rain and our wonderful club shuttled everyone out of the water in super quick time.

Alison Wagstaff was suffering with a cold, and had decided that there was no point in being miserable at home when she would be less miserable with friends, so she had travelled over to the island on the ferry on Friday. She had booked the 'girls' bunk room and bathroom, had the kettle boiling, and helped everyone in with their baggage.

By the time everyone had warmed up with a warm shower and eaten lunch, the rain had stopped. Those who didn't need a sleep after their hard work, spent the next three hours climbing over the hills.

As darkness fell, concern set in for Gordon who was coming from Gulf Harbour and had not yet arrived. Our dinner was almost ready at seven o'clock when the call went out that he had arrived, saturated and very cold. The only person missing now was Alex, but Gordon assured us that he would have turned back once he knew how strong the winds were. Wrong! Herein lies a real horror story!!

The table was set for 16 and a superb meal was eaten. On the journey home, Colin Quilter was heard to say "when I looked around the table last night, I thought that life doesn't get better than this". He is right.

Once daylight arrived the following morning, it was obvious there would be no paddling around the islands that day, so half the group decided it was time to go home. Once on the water at 8.00 am, the battle began. I heard Gerry Maire say "we are in for a real hammering". It was quite testing getting around the point into Gardener's Gap area, but here the water was dead calm. It remained quite calm in Islington Bay and was still manageable all the way to the wharf at Rangitoto.

It was a delight to meet up with Alex who was also at the wharf when we stopped for yet another cup of tea, and he came home with us. On leaving Rangitoto, the wind was not as strong as expected, but that was soon to change. I have never had such a head-on struggle, and once we were close to shore, we were also hit by a strong squall. It was a relief to reach shore and change into dry clothes.

While I never felt out of my depth, this trip was certainly a testing one.

..... and for another view or two

Queen's Birthday weekend at Motutapu

Colin Quilter & Trevor Arthur

Colin: Queens' Birthday weekend will be remembered for its wild weather, and also for a really enjoyable club trip to Administration Bay. The weather had been accurately forecast on Friday: a wind warning for the harbour and Gulf, strong northeasterlies on Saturday changing to northwest, then to 30-knot westerlies with the passage of a front on Saturday night. Ten of us set off from Okahu Bay at 8.30am on Saturday expecting a hard slog to windward, and that's exactly what we got. At first progress was excellent in spite of the freshening breeze, because the ebb tide (at springs) carried us swiftly out to the Rangitoto lighthouse and then along the seaward side of the island. However as the wind gained strength and the tidal stream slackened, we found ourselves making slow progress even though Admin Bay was in sight only a couple of miles away.

As the weaker paddlers began to struggle at the back, and the stronger paddlers maintained their speed, our party began to spread. Eventually the leaders were at least 500 metres ahead of the tail. The few strong paddlers who had stayed behind to look after those at the back were of course completely unable to contact the frontrunners. At the back, Ken suggested that in view of our diminishing progress those of us in the rear should head for the Motutapu coast short of our destination, just to gain a landing if it became necessary. The frontrunners were too far away to see us change course. Soon Rona, who was mid-way between the front and rear groups, found herself paddling completely alone. She looked back, alarmed, and decided to run downwind to rejoin the rear group. By this time the rear group had one kayak under tow, and we eventually found a sheltered landing for hot drinks and chocolate before hugging the shoreline for the last kilometre to Admin Bay.

During this last leg we saw other paddlers following us. They included Roger and David, who had come out from Auckland the night before. They had left Okahu Bay later than intended so that by the time they reached Islington Bay, with a few kilometres left to travel, darkness had fallen. Despite the protection offered by the islands, heavy squalls, rough seas and nil visibility had convinced them to beach their kayaks and complete the trip on foot; an excellent decision. In the event, a lift from the DOC ranger had saved them a long trek across Motutapu. We met them on their excursion to retrieve the kayaks next day.

During lunch a heavy squall crossed the island, but the afternoon cleared. We had a pleasant walk over the paddocks to a point overlooking Rakino Island, and returned just before another mini-front brought more wind and rain. It grew dark early that evening. Outside the building the wind roared through the big pohutukawa and horizontal rain spattered the windows. Inside, we were a happy group. A shared supper was prepared; these have become a feature of Admin Bay trips.

At 6pm we received news by phone that a club committee member had set off alone from Gulf Harbour on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula at 4.30pm, heading for Admin Bay, 16km across open water with wind and sea on the beam. We calculated that this trip should take two hours, the last half of it in pitch darkness. The paddler arrived as predicted at 6.30pm, red-eyed and a bit pale, but otherwise in good condition.

The rest of the evening passed in the way we've become accustomed to: good food, good conversation and a great sense of shared adventure. I'm sure that among

nearly a million people in Auckland and its environs, there was no happier group than ours.

In the morning eight of us headed home early. Given the fresh westerly we expected a hard slog back to Okahu Bay, but in the event only the last 10 minutes seemed tough going. Half-way home, at Rangitoto Wharf, we met Alex who had attempted to reach Admin Bay the previous day on his own. He had met rough conditions on the seaward side of Rangitoto and had wisely decided to head for the beach, where he'd spent what I guess was a pretty cold and uncomfortable night in the shelter of the trees. On leaving the beach in the morning he had lost a hatch cover in the waves, which complicated his retreat towards Okahu Bay.

So there you have it; a memorable and happy weekend, with everyone home safely. I'll leave Trevor to tell the story of those who stayed on Motutapu until Monday.

Trevor: Sunday morning seemed like a mutiny as the early crew departed for home. Gordon and Dave were making noises about fishing and the rest of us decided on a jaunt across the island. It ended up being a thorough exploration of Motutapu and Rangitoto, including the summit. Time was spent at the old tennis courts and pavilion with Stephanie contemplating a Seakayakers' Ball in the impressive stone building.

On the way home it might have been the need to use different muscles or the thought of fresh fish that had Ken and Stephanie break into a jog and disappear across Motutapu homewards. Alas the fishermen were sitting where we'd left them all snug and warm. They must have been waiting for an audience because they proceeded to go out to the beach and return with some very nice snapper.

Pots boiled and an antique microwave whirred and clicked as another feast was prepared. No sooner was dinner downed than Kahlua-soaked desserts, brandy snaps oozing cream and other delicacies and fresh fruits tested our stomach's capacity. More wine and coffee followed by 500, Gin Rummy and a fast and furious game of "Speed" saw tired bodies with contented bellies waddling off to bed to the sound of ever-stiffening winds. The forecast predicted 35 knot SW turning southerly in the morning. Food for sweet dreams?

Morning dawned and it was no surprise to hear a healthy puff outside. A call to Met Office revealed 35 knots gusting 45 from the south-west. Yee ha! Play time!

The group discussion gave everyone the option of transporting kayaks on the caretaker's ute to Islington Bay, then the ferry home. No takers. As everyone was keen for the challenge we felt the trip was within our ability. We proceeded to carry out a full briefing and a thorough check of tow ropes, carabiners, split paddles, first aid gear, paddle lanyards, hats tied on, etc. It was agreed by all that towing would be used – no choices - if the group's progress was compromised. Lots of stretching and warm-ups were undertaken as Coastguard were contacted and given a full briefing of our skill level, safety gear, and Plans 1, 2 and 3.

Plan 1: paddle through Gardiner's Gap on the high tide and continue to Okahu Bay.

Plan 2: as above but catch the ferry from Rangitoto Wharf.

Plan 3: stop at Islington Bay and catch the ferry home. We stated that the group would not split. If one stopped, we would all stop. The Coastguard were happy and wished us well.

The 3km to Islington Bay took us an hour. The paddle was a solid slog into a large and messy sea with very strong gusts. We had two kayaks in tow fairly early on and one capsize – very efficiently re-entered within a couple of minutes. As leader

Dave did a fantastic job working his way amongst the group assessing the ever-changing situation and the progress of tiring paddlers. This proved to be a hard but rewarding, well-co-ordinated paddle in which most people learned something. Great fun!

It was fairly obvious to us all that Plan 3 was to be today's choice. Once at Islington Bay four of us had a quick paddle out to the point and among the sea of white caps there was a large yacht under motor going nowhere against the ever-stiffening wind. We pulled alongside the two Coastguard launches moored in the bay who stated we had a choice of three ferry times as all ferries were using Islington Bay, (Rangitoto Wharf being too exposed to use). Those ever-obliging guys contacted Coastguard base and relayed our plans to them. They then rang Fullers to check kayak loading on the Quick Cat. All OK.

It was a relieved group of kayakers who were feeding their faces with cakes, Moros, meusli bars and coffee topped off with Dave's can of whipped cream as we waited for a comfortable trip home. Pushing the limit is great fun at the right time. But we knew where the safety line was, and we intended to be on the right side of it.

A quick trip saw us in town, lowering the boats off the top deck of the Quick Cat and back into the water for a nice paddle back to Okahu Bay. We weren't charged for the kayaks, only \$8 per person. Great value, given the effort it saved us.

Another fantastic weekend was had by all, with great team-work. Thanks again to Dave for running this enjoyable weekend. Be out there, be safe.



Kayak Auction

Saturday 01 July 2000, 1pm

New, used, blemished, and
ex-demo, kayaks and
accessories.

Auckland Canoe Centre
502 Sandringham Road
Sandringham

Phone (09) 815-2073, Fax (09) 815-2074
e-mail Auction@kayak.co.nz

Goods accepted until 28 June 2000

Easter at Motuihe

By Rona Patterson

After three months of fabulous kayaking weather, Good Friday dawned with rain, rain, and more rain. The rain was accompanied by thunder and lightening and from my home, vision was almost non-existent. This was certainly not the kind of camping weather that I would choose, so our intended Saturday departure for Motuihi was postponed to Sunday.

However, Saturday dawned fine with the promise of the weather turning to custard on Sunday, so a quick ring-around changed our plans back to Saturday departure. By now we were down to three keen kayakers, with the promise of two others joining us on the way.

Roger Lomas saw us off on an out-going tide and a following wind. Our trip to Browns Island would have to be the quickest I have ever done, and the next leg to Motuihi was also undertaken in record time.

After lunch we carried our kayaks to the other side of the island and paddled over to Waiheke. Once again, the trip was done in double quick time. Not so, the return trip into a head wind. It was comforting to know that we were staying the night and that the wind was expected to turn around during the night.

Tony had found us a lovely sheltered camping spot where we pitched tents. However, we were told that we were on a patch which was out of bounds for campers, but we could go on the ridge just above where we were. While relaxing over our dinner, we were advised that once again, we were camped in another out of bounds area but as there were not many boats in the bay, we could stay for the night. Tony was to find out the following morning that if campers are seen on the flat landing, the yachties complain to DoC that their view of the island is spoilt.

We certainly had the last of the summer on Motuihi. Dinner was enjoyed on a communal ground sheet, with an evening so mild that we sat and talked until after nine o'clock. Looking out over the bay with Waiheke in the background, a glass of wine in one hand and a slice of carrot cake in the other and a candle flickering gently must make this the best eating space in Auckland.

We awoke the following morning with the wind now coming from NNW, with the promise of electrical storms on the way. After a hurried breakfast we packed and left into breaking surf in an endeavour to get home before the tide turned.

Again, we had a brief stop at Browns Island and then a very pleasant paddle home with the winds breaking on the starboard side of the bow. As we neared Okahu Bay just on high tide, we were met by Roger and Lyndsay who were watching for our return. Thank you boys - with the weather now about to turn really bad, it was very comforting to know that you had been watching for us.

This had been a thrilling two days, where I learned heaps about weather, winds, tides and the benefits of a wing blade paddle. I went home exhilarated that we had been lucky enough to get out and back with no problems and that we had avoided the worst of the Easter weather.

The Ebb and Flow

By Roger Lomas

What has the speed of a Sabre, the stability of a Sea Bear, the brute strength of a Barracuda and the aesthetics of an Albatross? Yes of course it's the Puffin and the club has splashed out and ordered two brand new ones to replace our older well-loved and used ones.

Just a few years ago this craft would dominate the fleet of any club outing. It is still the Kayak of choice by many a Seasoned Sea Kayaker and the club has secured two of the last ones to be made in NZ. The moulds are on their way to Germany after a production run that started here in the 80's.

The design originated in North America and a fibreglass version did find it's way over here. The question most often asked about the Puffin is - "How do they get the pod inside the hull?" This is a closely guarded secret known to only three people at the Quality Kayaks factory at Ashurst. We can speculate on the method used but one thing we do know for sure is that we can get you back into one if you come out.

The club is forming a trips committee with Matt Grant in charge. If you want to get involved, are an innovative thinker or have some interesting places to visit call Matt 524 2108.

Rumour has it that some likely lads from the club scaled to new heights on a well known harbour landmark recently. It has been speculated that one of our leading lights and some of the dimmer ones attempted to re-man the lighthouse, which was first manned over 100 years ago. If they had been caught by the loom it would have reflected badly on the club members but fortunately it didn't happen and we are still in the dark as to who they are.

The X Factor Sea Kayak has undergone another metamorphosis. A new deck with new rudder housing is to be followed by a new hull. Will it have a new name? Yes, why not the Y Factor.

If your Kayak doesn't have bulkheads fore and aft the club doesn't really want you out on club trips in it. John Hieatt is having his Kayak modified. At present John's Kayak has only a rear storage compartment and bulkhead. The installation of a forward bulkhead will make the Kayak more user friendly and safer. Gordon Robinson can give advice on this subject if required.

Our storage locker on the ramp is full up now that the container storage has gone. Johnathon Jarvis has taken control of the hire side of the club fleet and will assist Bruce Bugbee with the club gear. These two are big bad Bikie Boys so don't get caught messing up the boat shed or system. On a lighter note the club hopes to install fluorescent tubes in the shed shortly.

The club is about to purchase some V.H.F. radios to increase safety on club trips. A course run by the coastguard to certify operators for V.H.F. transmissions will be on offer at the clubrooms soon.

Gerry Maire from the North Shore Canoe Club joined us on our recent trip to Admin. Bay. Gerry livened up the day with some antics from the past. All good fun especially for those watching. Dave Poolman wet his pants, Ryan Whittle was elevated to new heights and yours truly blackened his image.

One of our club members had an all too close encounter with a large 'Gin Palace' recently. Restorative justice was swift and sweet. The offending craft berthed at the Orakei Wharf and on departure ventured straight into the path of a flotilla of big six man outrigger canoes. The natives were certainly restless and in the resultant exchange of pleasantries the Skipper was invited to participate as the after race hangi. An ancient tribal paddle haka was demonstrated on the side of his boat and the bruised ego and battered craft of Captain Pugwash limped away.

Our last club Saturday Sea Kayak event saw two club stalwarts heading home with trophies. Rona Patterson tasted victory at last and will no doubt remind us all of the memorable occasion. The other top performance came from our editor Julia Thorn who put in a strong paddle to hold out race long rival Jane Robinson. Well done to the ladies and we hope they all come back again for our next event on Saturday 8th July. This will be a mixed doubles event and the Barracuda and Packhorse Express doubles are again available at \$5.00 a seat. Come on down and we will mix you up into pairs. Meet at 8am and bring another \$5.00 for race entry and BBQ. The Canvas City Cups will be up for grabs along with some spot prizes.

Things to look forward to:- Lots of good trips from the new committee. Club Night on first Tuesday of the month. Ray & Margaret's return.