



NEWSLETTER

August 2000

First splash

Here's an open request to you all. I need someone to write an article for me on where to start a kayak trip at low tide.

The other day I decided that I was going to head out the following morning come what may. Then I looked at my tide table and saw that I would have no option but to leave at dead low tide. In my neck of the woods this is a bit of a blow.

Let's review:

1. At Glendowie there are miles of mud and oyster shells. You can hardly see knee deep water from the parking spot. All you can see are a couple of beached catamarans that sit there from one month to the next.
2. At Okahu Bay the ramp becomes so slippery that you are in dire straits unless you have advanced grade three in ice skating. The beach alongside is also rife with oyster shells, which you find out if you have managed to find a parking space within cooee – hard on a sunny day.
3. At Mission Bay the marathon walk out to sea is OK on sand, but parking is again a problem, and I don't like lifting my boat over the sea wall.
4. At St Heliers there is also a long jaunt out to sea, with lots of shells. There are reefs to negotiate as soon as you hit the real water.

So what did I do? I went in at St Heliers and had a fab paddle through the fog.

Julia

The Great Kayak Rally

A rolling fog enveloped Okahu Bay for the inaugural Great Kayak Rally with a promise of a brilliant day ahead. We were not disappointed.

26 members made up 6 teams that took part in the rally over a duration of about 2 hours. It was wonderful to see many new members participating. The rally took the teams around a course of clue-solving exploits with some interesting tactics. All teams competed with gusto and really, all teams were winners on the day!

Results

Team Members	Score
Colin, Mark, Nancy & Bob	890
Rona, Roy, Jill, Craig	670
Colin M, Peter, Joe, Craig & Sue	725
Trevor, Trish, Allisa, Nicole & Martin	740
Ryan, Ian, Philip, Stephanie	660
Jane & Arnie, Niki & Paul	655

The gauntlet was passed to the winning team of Colin, Mark, Nancy and Bob to organise and stage the next rally. Keep an eye on the newsletter for the next rally. In the words of a participant "it is an event not to be missed."

Some notable highlights were:

- Being a team-based event Rona, Roy, Jill and Craig were often seen scattered over the entire course heading in different directions, with Rona doing her best to distract other teams as only Rona knows how...by talking to them!
- Ryan, Ian, Philip and Stephanie received the award for the most long-winded answer, which probably explains why they arrived 30 minutes after everyone else.
- Jane & Arnie, Niki & Paul were the most imaginative with their answers, unfortunately there were no points awarded for thinking too hard!
- Peter, Joe, Colin M, Craig and Sue had to call the Council to find an answer, but unfortunately the judge knew better and couldn't award any points...that will teach them to rely on the Council for correct information.
- Rona (vacuum cleaner) Patterson set a new burger eating record of 4 raw egg burgers and they were only the ones we saw her eating.
- In future Trevor will take a leaf out of Colin Quilter's book and run his team as they always should be...a benevolent dictatorship.

Jonathan Jarvis

EASY PADDLE TO PANMURE

On 22 July 2000 we were to assemble at Okahu Bay at 8.30 am for a 9.00 am departure, but when I arrived at 8.10 am, one keen paddler was waiting, and two others followed me through the gate. Within ten minutes all those who had advised me they would be coming on the trip, had arrived, plus one other. I asked if anyone knew of anyone else who may be coming with us, but no-one did, so we launched at 8.40 am.

Des Matthews had come down (on his way to work) to see us off and to wish us well, and Jonathan and Denise also waved us off while they prepared for the up-coming rally.

We paddled over to the beach to collect Bob and Nancye who found it easier to put the double in from the sand than from the slippery ramp.

As we paddled alongside Tamaki Drive, we watched the blue sky get darker and the sunshine disappear. While we thought the squall would pass us over, we were not so lucky. We were to meet up with Jan and Gerry at Archilles point, but as we were early, we decided to have morning tea at St Heliers while we waited. The squall had whipped up enough surf to get a fantastic ride in. We did not have time to get our morning tea because just as the double was about to land, Jan and Gerry were noticed launching from the other end of the beach.

Back in our craft again, the squall disappeared and out came the sun and blue sky again. It was then a pleasant paddle around to Karaka Bay. Nicole and Martin met us before we landed and Digby was sitting comfortably in the sun with his cup of coffee waiting for us to arrive. We were now a party of 15.

The weather remained kind to us for the rest of the day, and we had a very comfortable journey to Panmure wharf. While eating lunch on the wharf, a dear old couple walked down the road to visit us and enquire where we had come from and where we were going. She was 82 and he was 84 and they were long time boaties. The husband was now blind and they told us how they had downgraded boats a few times, and now went out in a little rowboat. The wife seats her husband down, then pushes the dinghy out, then climbs in and takes them on tours. I was very humbled. There was another young man of about 8 years who was interested in us. He had come from a large craft with a motor, but our kayaks had him intrigued.

We pushed out into the channel on our return journey to take full advantage of the outgoing tide. The weather remained warm, but I was still surprised to see about ten nude bathers at Gentlemens Bay. We stopped for a whistle stop just before rounding the corner into Ladies Bay, then back into our kayaks for the final leg, and arrived back at 3.10 pm.

This was the only trip where all paddlers remained together (apart from the two who did not want to stop for a break on the way home because the rugby test was about to start). A very pleasant day out, with no trouble.

Rona Patterson

Crusoe Island and beyond

By Julia Thorn

On a lovely calm day 18 of us set out from Bucklands Beach under the guidance of Colin, who casually mentioned that we had the option of not only visiting Crusoe Island as planned but also five other islands, namely Motuihe, Waiheke, Motatapu, Rangitoto and Browns. What a prospect.

We took it gradually, with morning tea at Motuihe followed by the quick paddle across to Crusoe, which is that odd lump in the channel between Motuihe and Waiheke. Just as we arrived at Crusoe the wind picked up from nowhere and within minutes the coastguard was warning of strong southeasterlies ie straight towards us for the return trip.

We had a cool picnic on the rocks (cool because of the wind, but of course also because this is a trendy place to be) and then three of us decided to carry on to Waiheke, sort of just to be able to say we'd been there. Which we can say now. By the time we got back to Crusoe the others had finished their traipsing around on the rocks and most had started to head for home. Steven and I informed our faithful leader that we wished to return the long way round, that is via the north coast of Motuihe.

The north side of the island was delightfully calm. Stopping for a while on the beach, which was full of boaties, one old guy sauntered over to us to express amazement that we had been able to bring kayaks so far afield. We neglected to mention the three other islands we had deleted from our schedule.

As always the paddle from Motuihe to Bucklands Beach was a steady slog, but we were rewarded with a little bit of sunshine and the wind did not pick up as much as we feared it would.

So we got to three islands in a pleasant day's paddle, the longest I've done for some while.



Calendar Aug - Sept

Remember to contact the trip leader before you set out.

Safety policy for Club Trips

- 1 Any Club member who has any 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.
- 5 With night paddling it is everybody's responsibility to provide their own large lens flashlight or fixed all round white light on a one metre high pole, in working order and mounted on the outside of the kayak where it can be seen at all times..

19 August Club Race 10 km sea kayak race for doubles and singles. Meet at club ramp at 8am for 8.30 start. Entry is \$5, bbq afterwards. **Organiser is Matt Grant tel. 524 2108.**

19-20 Aug Motuora Island The DOC bach on this beautiful island in the Mahurangi is booked for Saturday night. This can accommodate the first 5 people who decide they are too wimpy to camp. The rest of us will be camping. We will meet at 9.30 at Sullivans Bay and paddle off with a picnic lunch to arrive at Motuora some time after lunch. Returning 5pm Sunday. **Contact Ken Marsh 828 0701.**

***DATE CHANGE* 12 August Browns Island for lunch** Meet at Okahu Bay at 9am for 9.30 dep. Cruise down to Browns Island for a walk and lunch before returning with the tide. We'll be home 3-ish. **Ring Trevor Arthur 817 7357. Sorry about the incorrect date in the July newsletter.**

26 August Pizza at Warkworth An easy cruise up the Mahurangi on an incoming tide, suitable for all levels. This should take about three hours. Meet at Sullivans Bay in the Mahurangi Regional Park at 12.30 for 1 pm departure. Tide is 4.15pm. Finish at Warkworth with a debrief at one of the local cafes. **Leader is Matt Grant tel 524 2108. Call in advance to enable shuttle to be organised.**

2 Sept Local bays of Te Atatu. Meet at end of Beach Road, Te Atatu at 8.15 am for 8.30 departure. Morning tea at Kendall Bay, then on to Onetaunga Bay, Fitzpatrick Bay, Soldiers Bay, Island Bay, Charcoal Bay, Beach Haven Bay. Across to Hobsonville's Catalina Bay, Bomb Bay, Brickbat Bay and Scott Point, then return to Te Atatu for lunch. There'll be a test on the names of all these bays. A quiet three hour paddle suitable for all. **Leader is Rona Patterson tel 834 3399 (h) or 302 1355 (w).**

3 Sept Riverhead Tavern Meet at Christmas Beach, Herald Island at 9 am for 9.30 departure. We'll travel as far as we can up the river before returning to the tavern bistro for lunch – buy or BYO. We should be back at Herald Island by 3pm. **Leader is Trevor Arthur tel 817 7357.**

8 Sept Tiri Tiri Matangi Meet at Shakespeare Bay on the Whangaparoa Peninsula at 10 am for 10.30 departure. Trip across the channel takes two hours and conditions can range from easy peasy to oh-my-god depending on the day. Call organiser if you are unsure. There will be a stop on the island for lunch and you can then wander the island or paddle around the back of the island. High tide is 4.20. **Leader is Matt Grant tel 524 2108**

15 Sept Rangitoto overnight Meet at Okahu Bay at 6pm for overnight trip to the scout hut on Rangitoto. Return Saturday around midday. There is also the option of paddling there and back on the Friday evening. **Leader is Trevor tel 817 7357 for the overnight trip and Wally Gilmer tel 832 3274 for the evening return.**

17 Sept Browns Island clean up and picnic Today is the Hauraki Gulf clean up day. Volunteers will be walking the coastline of many islands, rubbish sacks in hand. As always, kayakers are responsible for Browns Island. This will be fun, a chance to do something worthwhile and enjoy a picnic on the island afterwards. Meet At Okahu Bay at 8.45 am for 9 am departure or at St Heliers at 9.30. Bring lunch and walking shoes. The Club will provide rubbish sacks. We'll be back around 2 pm. **Phone Colin Quilter tel 630 2219 the night before if the weather looks doubtful.**

22 Sept Browns Island An evening trip to Browns Island leaving Okahu Bay at 6.30 pm. Have supper at Crater Bay before returning with half of the moon.

Leader is Wally Gilmer tel 832 3274.

24 Sept Westhaven marina Meet Raymond Road at 12 noon for lunch, then depart at 1 pm for paddle to Westhaven. Have afternoon tea at Curran Street, then return to Point Chevalier. **Leaders are John Hieatt tel 828 9673 and Rona Patterson tel 834 3399.**

30 Sept APCC Race : Canoe Showdown 15 km race at Warkworth. Contact organiser Jim Sonerson tel 025 997666 or 09 425 7371.

1 Oct Second kayak rally After the success of our first rally, organised by Jonathon and Denise, we've been inspired to organise another. If you thought that kayaking requires strong arms and no brains come along and be surprised. Meet at Okahu Bay at 9 am for 9.30 briefing and start. Entry fee \$5 per person. We will form you into small teams. The rally is suitable for all paddlers, over a moderate distance and at a gentle pace. There will be a bbq at Okahu Bay afterwards. **If the weather is bad phone Colin Quilter 630 2219 on Saturday evening or Sunday morning to confirm.**

STOP PRESS - 29 August Rangitoto overnight Be at Okahu Bay at 6pm for a paddle across to Rangitoto and an overnight at the scout hut. Return early next morning in time for work, play etc. **Leader is Trevor Arthur tel 817 7357.**

Useful phone numbers

You never know when you'll need us.....

Canoe Hire - Jonathon Jarvis - 366 6805

Trips officer - Matt Grant - 524 2108 or mattgrant@clear.net.nz (this means that he coordinates all the organization side of trips that are being planned and makes sure they get into the newsletter. Was that sentence in English? If you would like to be a trip leader and /or have a specific trip in mind then Matt is the person for you to phone.)

Newsletter Editor - Julia Thorn - 575 3099 or juliathorn@extra.co.nz

Secretary - Rona Patterson - 834 3399

September Club night: Sept 5th

7:30pm for an 8pm start.

Format: 2 films (each of approx 45 mins) - Whanganui starts at 8pm, Waikato starts at 9pm

Jim was one of the founding members of the Auckland Canoe Club. During his peak kayaking years, he was also a keen film maker. He will show two 8mm films tonight of what the Whanganui and Waikato rivers were like in the fifties and sixties.

Extra club night: Tues August 22nd

7:30pm for 8pm start, club rooms, above Fergs shop, Tamaki Drive

Martin Burgoyne - Adventures across the Himalayas

Martin is a Yorkshireman (UK) and has a passion for outdoor adventures. He will arrive in Auckland armed with slides of some of his favourite trips and is really keen to show them to us as well as to meet kayakers from the city of sails / north island. As he won't be in town for a usual first Tues of the month, we've slotted in an extra session. He is a particularly keen whitewater kayaker, and is keen to meet up with fellow paddlers for some paddling adventures during his trip. I also hope to arrange a low-key meal in a restaurant for the day after his slide show (Wed 23rd) if he still has it free then... see me (tel: 419 9223, 6205452) for details if you can join us on Wed, or if you'd like to meet up with Martin personally during his trip. Some comments from Martin to set the tone for his presentation follow:

1992 "Pakistan? - Now that sounds interesting! A bit remote though, and would we manage to do anything worthwhile in three weeks? I'm game if you are

1994 "Yes Nepal?"

" Too commercialised, too many people, too easy!"

" OK, but I'm going all the same! Should be all right with just a couple of us, and we can always do our own thing, so what's the problem?"

1996 "What, Nepal again?"

"Yes it was great last time, and I fancy a crack at the Karnali this time. Its supposed to be a superb trek in, and then some BIG water. And we might have time for some thing else as well"

1998 "India? OK and it won't be too commercialised for you! I have always fancied the Zanskar. How about meeting up with you in Delhi and then doing the Tsarap/Zanskar gorge up into Ladakh. I've seen somewhere it's a good grade 4 with a couple of portages, and a hell of a bus ride back"

Club nights

Thank you so much to many members for supporting the club nights so far this year. We have been delighted with the numbers of people people turning up for the evenings. These nights are only possible to run with the support of many people in the club. I would like to acknowledge help from the following people in particular for helping out with tasks associated with money collection, providing supper and looking after the speakers:

Roger Lomas, Ryan Whittle, Trevor (our president), **Ken Marsh, John and Gordon** (apologies guys, I don't know your surnames), **Chris Jenner, Martin Fedoski, Nicole Moorhouse, Michelle Scofield, Justin Sanson-Beattie, Colin Quiltor and Matt Crozier.**

Also of course, many thanks to the great speakers we've had so far this season: **Justin Sanson-Beattie, Gerry Maire and Paul Buckley.** They have all prepared presentations of very high standard for us. It was also lovely to see a panel of photographs out for display from a recent club trip at the last club night. This is a great way to share your photographs with others if you don't take slides.

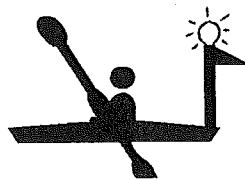
If you feel you can assist with even a small task during an upcoming club night (eg: door, supper), I am easy to contact: anns@rangitoto.school.nz, or: Tel: 419 9223

Ann Schofield

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Safety for sea kayakers?

Colin Quilter

An article in a recent newsletter about proposed safety regulations for sea kayakers caught my eye. Training courses are to be established, with a code of standards for trip leaders. On the surface this seems a good thing; how could any sensible person argue against it? But none the less I felt uneasy, and drifted into a little day-dream about what a "safe" future might mean.....

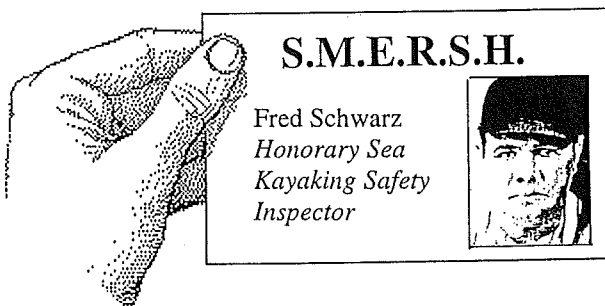
It was a summer afternoon in February, 2020. Since global warming had accelerated these days of late summer had become hotter than ever, and now the paddocks on the far side of the creek shimmered with heat. The brown water flowed slowly upstream; I guessed the tide must still be rising on the coast a few miles away. We had dragged our kayaks through the blackberry and long grass to the river bank; or rather I had dragged them, since my grand-daughter Laura and her friend Hine, both aged twelve, were too small for the task. The three of us stowed the sandwiches, the drinks and the tadpole net and were about to slide the boats into the water when the crunch of tires on gravel made us look back towards the roadside. A man of about my age, casually dressed, stood beside his bicycle.

"Hello. Going for a paddle, are you?" His question didn't seem to need a reply, so I nodded and turned back to the boats.

"Excuse me," he said. "There's a few things I need to ask you. Are you the leader of this party?"

I looked at Laura and Hine. "Am I the leader?"

"Yes," said Laura. "You know where the tadpoles are."



"Well then. I need to make sure that you have a Level 3 Trip Leader's Certificate from the New Zealand Sea Kayaking Safety Authority, and that your boats comply with the Inshore and Protected Waters Minimum Equipment Standard for Sea Kayaks." I could feel a sense of rising irritation. "And who the hell are you?"

He smiled benignly. "I'm an Honorary Sea Kayaking Safety Inspector," he said.

"There's hundreds of us, up and down the country. It's our job to make sure you enjoy your sport safely. Here's my Identity Card." The card he handed me was impressive; dark blue with a logo in gold lettering on the front: *SMERSH (Standards for Maritime Enjoyment, Recreation, Sports and Hobbies)*. Lost for words, I passed it to Laura.

"Mister, these aren't sea kayaks," she said. "And this isn't the sea. It's a creek. With tadpoles. You're not the boss here."

"She means you're exceeding your jurisdiction," I added.

He ignored me, and spoke to Laura. "Well young lady, if you look at what you call the creek, you'll notice that the current is actually flowing up the river, not down it. That means the current is affected by the tide, and according to Paragraph 3, Regulation 39 in the SMERSH Safety Manual, that means this creek, as you call it, is legally part of the sea!" An unpleasant note of triumph had entered his voice. "And that also means that your kayaks must meet certain minimum safety standards. For example, they must each have two bulkheads, pressure-tested to 35 kilograms per

square centimetre. And a maximum cockpit volume of 160 litres. Then there's the Personal Safety Equipment that each of you need to carry." He was reading from the Safety Manual. "Category 5 Buoyancy Aid, whistle, paddle float, 2 red hand flares, 1 orange smoke flare, Approved First Aid Kit."

He turned to me. "And for you, a Level 3 Leader's Certificate requires you to be able to eskimo roll, demonstrate two different types of assisted rescues, and be able to swim 100 metres wearing a buoyancy aid and sprayskirt, without losing your paddle."

"Mister," said Laura, "you've lost the plot. This creek isn't anywhere deeper than my tummy. And in the middle of it, you could touch both banks with your paddle. How can grandad eskimo roll if his head's in the mud on the bottom?" She turned to me.

"Come on, grandad. Lets go home and get a videodisk about kayaking instead. There's a cool disk called "Deliverance" which has got lots of canoes in it, plus a guy who gets shot right through with an arrow, and there's sodomy in it as well."

"What on earth do you know about sodomy?"

"We learned about it in sex education at school. Miss Jones told us it's when....."

"Never mind!"

The Safety Inspector was fidgeting; something else was on his mind. "Look" he said. "I don't want to spoil your fun. But even if I allowed you on the water, there's nowhere to go nowadays. This bank as far as the sea is Maori Land, and you can't land on it. And the other bank is part of Sir Russell Coutts' estate, the guy who made a fortune winning the Americas Cup for the Swiss twenty years ago. So you can't land there either."

The flat sense of stalemate hung in the air. Suddenly I felt tired and hot. Perhaps a canoeing videodisk was better than the real thing after all. Then Hine spoke. She'd been silent until now, but her brown eyes had missed nothing.

"Kia ora, Inspector," she said quietly. This is my land, and you are standing on it. I hope you don't plan to stay long. These boats look like kayaks, but they are not. They are waka. Paddlers of waka are exempt from wearing buoyancy aids because they are culturally inappropriate. Whatever "bulkheads" and "maximum cockpit volumes" are, waka don't have them. Nobody can eskimo-roll in a waka, and we don't swim in sprayskirts. Have a nice day, Inspector, and I hope you enjoy your bike ride."

So we ended up on the river after all. It may have been a bad day for the safety regulations, but it was a great day for the tangata whenua!

