

AUCKLAND



NEWSLETTER

CANOE CLUB

September 2000

First splash

Well here we are in Olympics month. Lots of medals, heartbreak, world records and near misses. It's a great time to have a TV set. Let's hope it rains for a couple of weeks on this side of the Tasman.

Of course this brings me straight to the issue of drugs in sport. As my husband pointed out, it is Mark Todd's horse that should be having the drug tests, not the horse's rider, who in such cases is a mere accessory. This alas is not the case for kayakers. Stuff your kayak as full as you like with drugs, even performance enhancing ones if you can't find any cocaine to lay your hands on. It won't make much difference to your performance on the water. But it will make your kayak a lot more unwieldy to carry about.

No, you have to stuff these things down your gullet. If everyone else is using drugs then why not join them. You don't want to be the self righteous one left standing at the start line. If you do capsize on the crossing to Rangitoto you do want to be able to swim the five kilometres back to Okahu Bay, don't you? If you're finally on your way to the Cambridge to Hamilton race, you want to be sure that you win, don't you? If you get stranded on the Whanganui you want to be able to run the three hundred kilometres to a safe haven away from the raging waters.

Now, I'm saying all this fairly tongue in cheek, so don't come and arrest me, and don't come round with a drug testing kit. Please. Just enjoy the Olympics.

Julia

Calendar Sept - Oct

Remember to contact the trip leader before you set out. This is important, and you must realise that the leader needs to know the capabilities of those who are coming and to be able to contact you if there are changes. **Please be aware that you paddle on a Club trip at your own risk. Read the safety policy below. If there is any chance that you may be a liability to the rest of the group or to the leader be sure to inform the leader of this 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..

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 Lucas Creek 7.30am for 7.45 start. Yep it's an early start to take advantage of the tide and witness the tranquillity of the morning up Lucas Creek where the kowhai will be in full flower and loaded with kingfishers. Meet at Christmas Beach, Herald Island. We will proceed up Lucas Creek to Albany for morning tea, then return with the tide and be back before lunch. **Contact Jonathan Jarvis tel 366 6805.**

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.**

Week beg 2 Oct Mimiwhangata during the week

Anyone got school holidays or leave to spare? A couple of days in the sun and on the water whilst others are still at their desks. Gorgeous campsite, beautiful scenery, great food and lovely people. **Contact Ann Schofield tel 419 9223 or Matt Crozier tel 817 1984.**

CLUB NIGHT

Ann Schofield organises this

Oct Club night: Oct 3rd, 7:30pm for 8pm start

Kayak DIY ideas

We will hear about a couple of practical topics this evening from invited speakers. The general theme is about how to make the upcoming paddling season even more fun for you and your little boat. There will also be a BYO session after supper for club members to do a wee 'show and tell' of their own paddling toys.

1) Rebecca Heap - Making a Sail for your kayak

Becks will share with us her method for making a "Heaps of Fun" company kayak sails. They are very popular amongst Auckland kayakers, and following this session you will be able to have a bash at making one for your own boat then you will be able to keep up with Becks when the wind comes out to play!

2) Grant Stone - Customising your Kayak

Grant will talk about ways that you can make your boat suit your needs better. Things like adding closed cell foam to the seat and knee area will be covered. How to do this, where to get the materials from and reasons why people do it.

8 Oct Whatipu and the Manukau Heads It's time to head out to the wild west again. Low tide today is 1.30pm so we can enjoy a favourable current both ways. Meet Cornwallis Wharf at 10.15 for 10.30 departure. Bring lunch, snacks, drinks and shoes or sandals. We'll explore the pohutukawa glade and caves at Whatipu so bring a torch too. Afterwards the itinerary depends on the wishes of the party – perhaps across to South Head and the now famous walk to the south which includes Rona's Leap. Plan to return to Cornwallis by 5pm. Suitable for intermediate paddlers but not novices. The trip requires good weather; if in doubt **check with Colin Quilter tel 630 2219 on Sunday morning between 7 and 9am.**

14 Oct Club sea kayak race The usual format. Be there at 8am, Okahu Bay that is, and enjoy a 10km or 5km race, followed by a convivial barbecue on the boat ramp. Cost is \$5 per person. **Roger Lomas organises this, tel 625 8294.**

Also cruise option with Rona – same time same place, come for a two hour or so cruisey paddle and join the bbq afterwards. **Contact Rona for more details tel 302 1355 or 834 3399.**

15 Oct A cruise up the coast Meet at Takapuna Beach boat ramp at 9am for 9.30 departure. We will paddle slowly up the coast to at least Rothesay Bay if not as far as Torbay. We will stop for lunch somewhere along the way. There are some good rock gardens to see and as the tide is in we will be able to get close to the coastline. This is suitable for people wishing to improve their skills but remember that unless you have arranged a car swap you will have to paddle back to Takapuna. **Contact Vincent Maire tel 09 424 2293.**

20 – 23 Oct Tauranga Bay Wally Gilmer is organising a trip for Labour Weekend. Details are currently under wraps, but you can **contact Wally on 832 3274**

27 Oct Riverhead Pub Meet at Christmas Beach Herald Island at 6.30pm for 6.45 departure. High tide is 8.20pm. You must bring a suitable night light for your kayak. This is in the interests of everyone's safety. You need to be seen to be safe. **Contact Wally Gilmer for details tel 832 3274**

29 Oct Cornwallis Beach A family fun day. Meet on the beach at the main carpark end, not the wharf end, at 10am, with kayaks and all the picnic gear. High tide is 12.30pm. I am going to enquire about booking a site with a fixed gazebo. Let's hope it is a nice day. **Contact John Hieatt tel 828 9673 H or 828 9834 work.**

LOW TIDE PADDLING?

In response to a recent Editorial, Nancye Lucas has this to offer:

What about Bucklands Beach? On a beautiful autumn day we decided we would love a paddle. High tide on the Waitemata 5pm and on the Manukau 7.53pm. Having been a yachting for many years previously I knew that at Bucklands Beach the yachts were moored in the channel very close to the shore and the beach was quite steep.

A grass verge right along the beach made for an easy off loading area for our double packhorse express to load up with fine food and drink (sandwiches and bottles of water). We were approached by a gentleman asking us to note the number on one of the moorings. We declined. He looked suspicious. In his hand he had binoculars. It was all of 20 metres from the shore.

The channel was close and quickly deepened. We had an easy paddle with the last of the outgoing tide and set a course for Browns Island. We had lunch and lazed in the sun on the northeastern side of the island after drifting over the nearly exposed reef. Our tranquillity was shattered by a noisy runabout arriving at our beach.

We circumnavigated Browns Island and returned on the incoming tide, drifting between the moored yachts back to our starting point.

NAVIGATION COURSE FOR SEA KAYAKERS

Run by Chris Gulley of Auckland Wilderness Kayaks

Session 1: Tues 17 Oct 7:30pm-9:30pm Club Rooms
Maps and Compasses

Session 2: Tues 24 Oct 7:30pm-9:30pm Club Rooms
Charts, Tides

Session 3 Thu 9 Nov Meet at club room for 5:30pm for a 6pm start (end approx 10pm)
On water around inner harbour

Maximum of 15 people

Cost: \$10.00 per session or \$25.00 for 3

Book and send money to Ann Schofield (Tel: 419 9223, 114 Coronation Rd, Hillcrest, Northshore, Auckland)

Useful phone numbers

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

Canoe Hire – Jonathan Jarvis – 366 6805

Trips officer – currently the position is vacant so if you have an idea for a trip please contact a committee member

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

Secretary – Rona Patterson – 834 3399

Treasurer(for membership detail changes) – Matt Crozier 817 1984

A LETTER FROM YOUR PATRON

Dear club members

I read that a proposal has been made to the club to train 'leaders'. With all due respect to the intentions of the proposer this club is not an extension of the military where orders come down from above, neither do we as a club need someone to blame if things go wrong on one of our trips. Personally I do not want to go paddling with a 'leader' whose qualifications are set out on a piece of paper and who has probably spent more time on his or her bum studying maritime rules and regulations than on that bum in a kayak gaining practical knowledge of the sea in all its moods and graces. I want to go paddling

with MATES. People I know who are capable of looking after themselves, people who are honest with themselves, know their capabilities and their failings. I want to be with good companions. I want to know that I can rely on them in an emergency and not them rely on me to tow them when they get a bit tired.

Kayaking whether at sea or on white water is a pastime for individuals. It is you, and you alone against the elements. If the A.C.C. was a 'white water' only club or a 'multi-sport' club built on competition there would be no talk of leaders. We would be encouraging our members to be good qualified instructors and competitors qualified by actions and ability in and on the water.

The Auckland Canoe Club has evolved into a sea kayaking club. The image of nice little boats out on the harbour on a lovely sunny day cruising effortlessly along is a wonderful attraction to dreamers and Yuppies. They say, "Let's buy a boat thingy and join them one weekend. Clubs organise trips and things you know, Might join one. They tell me its quite cheap." And what happens? Some idiot like me ends up towing them because they did not realise that you actually had to use the odd muscle, and not just spend money.

We do not need paper qualified leaders in this club. What we must have are grass root members who are prepared to carry out the basic fundamentals of the club's very existence, that is, to be out there on the water gaining experience, raising fitness levels, learning the ways of the sea and of the weather, gaining the confidence of fellow kayakers, and above all enjoying the experience!

To all of you who think you would like to paddle your own canoe GET OUT ON THE WATER. Do it yourself and sometimes by yourself. Learn not to rely on others for anything. Get it into your heads that you are responsible for your own safety and comfort. You are not someone else's responsibility!

If you do this, not just read about it, you will be on your way to becoming a trusted kayaking companion to many and in time perhaps a mate of mine. If you want to be led and protected, not get wet and smelly, sweat and get tired, I have only this to say to you

"---- and watch television or do what ever turns you on, but dont bother me!"

Laurie Bugbee

c.quilter@auckland.ac.nz

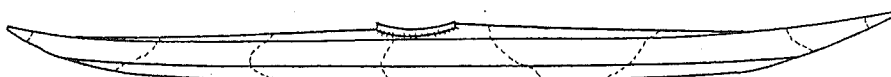
Hi Colin. I am very low on articles for the newsletter. Is there any way you could do me a short something?

Julia.

Dear Julia.....

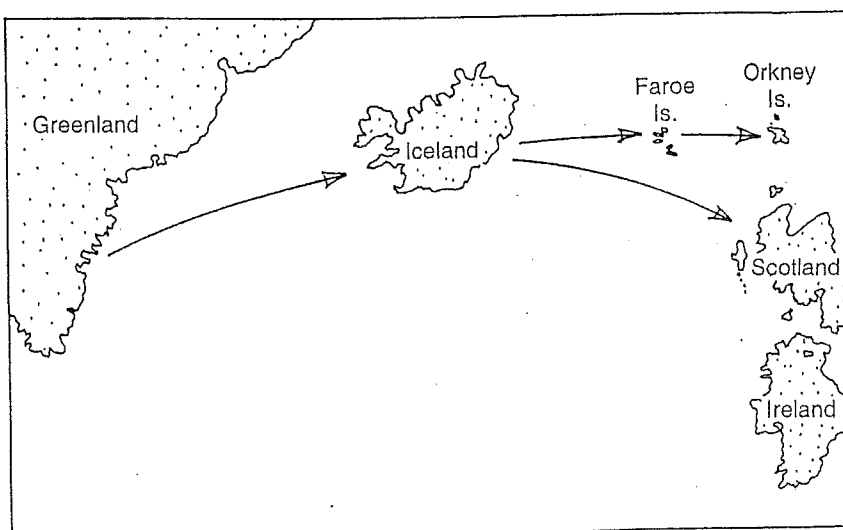
Sorry, but nothing springs to my mind. Nothing notable to report, no controversies, no epic trips. In fact the last paddle I had was with Roger Lomas, a 40-minute crossing of the Manakau Harbour to that little beach on Puketutu Island. It was early on Sunday morning, sea like glass, and thick fog. We got lost. After about half an hour Roger reckoned we were paddling in a circle, but I relied on a well-known navigational aid (the faint sound of machinery operating in the sewage treatment plant) and by taking a precise bearing on the noise (keeping it louder in my left ear than in my right) we eventually found the island.

The last time I was afloat in fog like that was sailing between the Faroe Islands and Iceland, many years ago. For three days we had winds at nearly gale force combined with fog so thick you could barely see the bow of the boat. Fog! The Faroe Islanders can tell you a thing or two about fog. In their harbours almost every craft (including open dinghies with outboard motors) is equipped with radar. In many cases I suspect the radar is worth more than the boat it is fitted on. But without it, navigation around the coast would often be impossible. Anyway, (to return to kayaking), while our yacht rushed blindly through the murk I passed the time reading Alistair Hardy's "The Open Sea" This has a fascinating account of several eskimos who reached the coast of Scotland, paddling alone in kayaks, in the late 1600s and early 1700s. One record describes ".....a canoe, taken at sea, with an Indian man in it, about the beginning of this century. He was brought alive to Aberdeen but died soon after his arrival, and could give no account of himself." Another account from 1701 tells of... "Finnmen seen here upon the coasts (of Orkney. His boat is made up of seal skins, or some kind of leather, he also hath a Coat of Leather upon him, and he sitteth in the middle of his Boat, with a little oar in his hand, Fishing with his Lines: And when in a storm he seeth the high surge of a wave approaching, he hath a way of sinking his Boat, till the wave pass over, lest thereby he should be overturned...."



These accounts can't be dismissed as fiction because some of the kayaks still survive in museum collections, and Hardy includes a photograph of the Aberdeen boat (like my drawing) which is unmistakably an East Greenland kayak.

Of course the great mystery is how these voyagers reached the Orkneys and Scotland. Presumably they were storm-driven off the Greenland coast and the journey was an act of desperate survival. But even if the shortest possible crossings were made from Greenland to Iceland, and then to the Faroes and Orkney, the four open ocean crossings are each of between 180 and 275 miles. How did these men paddle such vast distances? How did they stay awake, (since surely falling asleep would have led to an immediate capsizing)? The whole thing is beyond imagination.



The East Greenland kayaks (from which our modern sea kayaks are directly descended) are well described by Spencer Chapman in his account of the 1930 British Arctic Air-Route Expedition under the leadership of the legendary Gino Watkins. I hadn't read this book until recently when Jerry Maire loaned me his own copy. It is a rare and valuable work and I am very grateful to Jerry for lending such a precious possession to me. Julia, I suggest you ask Jerry to write an article for a future newsletter quoting some of the most interesting passages from this wonderful book. Just to whet your appetite, Gino Watkins (who it appears had never previously used a kayak) asked the Eskimos to build him one while the expedition was based on the Greenland coast, and he then learned to paddle it, to hunt seals from it using spear and rifle, and to eskimo roll using his paddle and later just a small throwing stick. Those of us who have learned to roll in a heated swimming pools will appreciate that learning in the patches of open water among ice floes must be quite a different thing; and what's more the East Greenland custom was to wear a waterproof parka made of greased sealskin which had its hem tightly fastened to the cockpit rim, so there was little chance of exiting the kayak if your roll failed. Either your companions came alongside and helped you up, or you drowned.

Mention of drowning seems a good time to end this letter. Sorry about the lack of an article; keep up the good work with the newsletter.

Cheers,

Colin.

HARBOUR SWIM SERIES

As many members will recollect, our Club plays an important role in assisting the swimmers in the Harbour swim series. We escort the swimmers in each of the four swims, and the Club receives financial benefit for each kayaker on the water. So it's important you make as much effort as possible to be there. Plus it's great fun watching the swimmers, and being out there on the water.

The dates to put in your diary for this season's swims are:

1. Herne Bay beach to Curran St – 19 Nov
2. Chelsea Sugar swim – 3 Dec
3. Ferguson Wharf to Tamaki Yacht club – 11 Feb 2001
4. Rangitoto to St Heliers – 4 March 2001

5 November 2000 Rodney Coast Challenge. This is a multisport event and ranges in competitors from ultra multisporters to the more relaxed yet mildly serious type, such as Ryan Whittle on his ten speed! The event commences on the West Coast (Muriwai Beach) and goes to the East Coast (Wenderholm) and is split into 4 disciplines namely a 10km run, 27km road cycle, 18km mountain bike and a 8km kayak. Entry is \$40 per team member. It would be excellent to enter a team/s from the club so if anyone is interested in taking part please let Jonathan Jarvis know by the 18th of October on 3666 805.

For the girls

Rona Patterson tells it like it is ...

When you first sat in a kayak, did you give a thought to what the sport of kayaking would do to you? Did you know that any semblance of femininity would be lost forever?

You can forget about a peaches and cream complexion. Your skin will fast become 'weather-beaten'. Your slender arms and shoulders will begin to bulge with muscles which would be the envy of any hardened labourer. The gentle, soft hands that God gave you to tend to babies, will grow calluses overnight.

You will start visiting dreadfully expensive outdoor shops and pay exorbitant sums for the most unfeminine clothing. When you dress up for a day out on the water, your family will disown you because of the way you look. (Imagine what you must look like to the uninitiated, with a skirt which hangs somewhere between your knees and ankles in the front and well above a decent level at the back. Beneath this skirt are legs which are covered either by baggy shorts or long johns which are probably striped in some ghastly mix of colours, with an ill-matching coloured ploy-pro shirt on top).

A buoyancy aid is essential and will almost certainly not match rest of your colour scheme, and there is bound to be various necessities dangling from (or within) this jacket (whistle, tow rope, carabena, VHF radio, fishing line, Swiss army knife, munchie bars, camera, binoculars). Whatever you choose to wear on your feet will ensure your feet resemble a pair of prunes at the end of your trip. Then comes the hat - you know what sun and salt water can do to your hair? So a hat is a must! The hat will not stop the damage but it will help keep out the sun and rain. Hats come in as many styles, shapes and sizes as there are heads - I have yet to see a good looking one. The whole lot may be topped off with a pair of glasses and gloves.

Can you imagine the terror such a sight might cause a young child when you are finally ready for a day out on the water. Perhaps it is just as well that your bottom half gets put inside the kayak and only the top half is visible.

Femininity apart, you are about to feel pain where you had no idea there were places. The garage which once housed your car and only the essential garden tools, will turn into a mini boat shed. Apart from your kayak (or two or three), there will be paddle(s), lights, jackets, cushions, dry bags, wheels, bins for carrying gear, cradles, and all the gear you wear while on the water will be hanging wherever there is a space for it to drip dry.

Once you have accepted your new way of life, there is a new language to learn. Can you remember when a **paddle** was what you did at the beach when you had forgotten your bathing suit, a **skirt** was an item of clothing you wore when not wearing trousers (certainly not worn by men), and a **cradle** was where the baby slept?

You can forget about comfortable holidays. From now on your holidays will be on some far-off island which you can only reach after a half day of paddling. You then get to sleep with the mosquitoes, inside a tiny bubble, quaintly called a tent. Meals will be made with the help of a tiny camp stove. Ablution blocks are either very basic (cold water tap and long drop) or non-existent, which explains why we call them 'public conveniences'.

This chosen sport of ours will become addictive. You will learn that this is a non-sexist sport, so that femininity is unimportant. You will accept damp clothing as normal, and you may even learn not to be repulsed by having to wear yesterday's poly-pros today because the rest of your gear is wet. You will make new friends, enjoy the fresh air, learn heaps about our beautiful coastline, and sleep at night because you will be completely exhausted.

KENDALL BAY TRIP

By Rona Patterson

I left home at 7.50am on Saturday 2 September to make certain I arrived at the end of Beach Road well ahead of the 8.15am meeting time. It takes only a few minutes from my home to pull my kayak to the launching area, so was surprised and thrilled to see about ten kayaks already waiting. There were 20 kayaks (21 people) headed off for Kendall bay at 8.30am. The water resembled a sheet of glass, there was no wind, and the sun was warm.

Half an hour into our paddle, the Waitakeres turned black with a beautiful rainbow covering the hills. It was not long before the squall hit us, but it was short lived and we had dried off by the time we landed at Kendall bay.

Roger Lomas was waiting for us at Kauri Point and Digby Nash was waiting on the beach at Kendall. Our fleet now numbered 22. Digby led a hike up through the bushes to a look-out with a million dollar view.

By the time we were ready to move on, the wind had got up a little but was far from uncomfortable. After looking around some of the bays we changed plans a little and crossed the channel and landed in Brickbat bay. Here we were completely sheltered from the wind and were once again warmed by the sun. The next squall didn't hit until half way across the channel on our final leg, but once again we had dried off by the time we had arrived safely back home.

The highlight of the day for me was seeing how much improved two of our very new paddlers were and each telling me how much they were enjoying their outing.

The Ebb and Flow

By Roger Lomas

A little milestone in the clubs history was passed last month when the clubs membership exceeded three hundred.

One of the hardest working committee members is our editor Julia Thorn, who is now well into her fourth year at the post. The newsletter is the most important unifying link for our ever increasing membership, keeping us informed on Kayaking events and trip reports. The ASKNET organisation pulled the pin on their newsletter earlier this year and the KASK magazine hasn't been published for over three months now. Our newsletter arrives on time each month thanks to the hard work of our editor and her family. Take a bow Julia.

After much deliberation and testing, Rosie Thom has splashed out and bought herself a brand new X Factor. Ray Clark has a shiny new Nordkapp sitting at home and rumour has it that it hasn't been unwrapped yet. Grant Stone took a brand new Albatross down to Okahu Bay and won our last sea kayak race and Quality Kayaks have just launched a new model sea kayak called The Torres.

New Materials create new products. Bamboo fibre has been pressed under extremely high pressure to make a very strong, very light and very cheap corrugated roof sheeting. One of our leading kayak manufacturers is just back from Asia after setting up a deal to make kayaks out of a new stronger material.

Just back from overseas is Mr Canvas city - Brendon Smith who has been checking out the Indonesian scene. Heading away is Jane Rouinson, off to trek and raft in Nepal. Matt Grant is bound for Mexico and Cuba and also planning a trip overseas is Rona Patterson who will be crossing to Devonport next month.

At our last mixed doubles sea kayak race, the ladies names were entered in a draw to see who would partner our famous neighbour Ian Ferguson in the race. Nicole Moorhouse now has an impressive looking paddling C.V. when she and you know who took line honours.

Our orienteering expert Matt Crozier is thinking about organising a kayak version of his sport. Watch out for this one.

The Great Auckland Sea Kayak Rally is on again next month. Bring your waterproof dictionary because club academic Colin Quilter is setting the course.

Remember the Gulf Busters, those great two-day sea kayak races run out around the Gulf islands a few years ago? Well the team that organised those bench mark events have decided its time to up the ante and raise the standards a bit higher. A new one-day event will be run on the 22nd September next year. It will be open to all sea going craft with divisions for single and double sea kayaks, surf 'skis', outriggers and ocean rowers.

A couple of German backpacker girls, Helga and Gisselle would like to extend their thanks to an unknown club member. Last Queen's Birthday weekend they were staying at a Bach on Rangitoto Island near the lighthouse. It was cold and windy and they couldn't get the old Kerosene heater to work so they went for a walk to seek help. They spotted a kayaker sheltering from the tempest at the beach and sought his assistance. Our Sir Gallahad was very helpful and insisted on staying the night in case he might be needed. Exhausted from his nights vigil, he set off next morning around the island and the girls didn't get his name but they said he was wearing an Auckland Canoe Club T-shirt and was paddling a Kayak with a fishy name.

Things to look forward to:- Labour weekend (Rumour has it that we are going to Tauranga Bay)

Wanted - a minnow

Anne Boere would like to buy a Minnow. If you can help please let her know, tel 4166486