



# NEWSLETTER

October 2000

## First splash

Spring is here, and together with it come daylight saving – the promise of long paddling evenings – and a lingering post-Olympic fever.

I was lucky enough to pop over to one of the world's most beautiful cities for the Games and had a truly enjoyable experience along with hundreds of thousands of other people. At the risk of saying something pro Australian, I found the organization and convenience of the event to be great and it all left a lovely after taste.

There have been suggestions in the press that the Olympics should not be solely for high achievers, that there should be competitions for People Who Are Only Average. This could get quite boring. I think there should be contests for People Who Do Things Badly.

Who can make the worst mess of the hurdles? I know I couldn't get over a series of hurdles, even without going flat out. Who can manage to drown in the water jump on the steeplechase course? A contest between paddlers who can't get their K 1 to stay upright at the start line? How about sending sailors out in high winds and watching them be unable to return to shore? Prizes for whoever does the most false starts?

How mean. Maybe we just need to lobby for a few rule changes.

For example hurdlers should get bonus points for knocking over the hurdles. Pole vaulters should be rewarded for vaulting under the bar. Swimmers who are sufficiently organised to dive off the starting blocks before the gun should not be penalised. It would add some excitement into proceedings which are in danger of losing interest by their predictability. I think I'll practice my wet entries, just in case I get selected for that funny canoeing they do standing up.....

*Julia*

# Calendar Oct - Nov

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.

**20 - 23 Oct Tauranga Bay** Wally Gilmer is organising a trip for Labour Weekend. **Contact Wally on 832 3274. See the article at the end of this calendar for more details.**

**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.**

**3 Nov Rangitoto evening** Meet at Okahu Bay for a paddle over to Rangitoto, followed by a walk up to the summit. Then a nice night time paddle back. Remember a good kayak light and walking shoes. **Contact Wally Gilmer tel 832 3274.**

**10 Nov Dacre Cottage** Paddle to Dacre Cottage from Long Bay. Meet at MERC end of Long Bay at 6.30pm for 7pm departure. Paddle up to Dacre Cottage and return in the moonlight, followed by cake and coffee at my place which is just up the road. **Trip leader is Rebecca Heap tel 473 0661 or email [becks@fc.dt.co.nz](mailto:becks@fc.dt.co.nz)**

**12 Nov Kayak rally** We postponed this last month due to bad weather; let's hope for better conditions this time. Meet at Okahu Bay at 9am for 9.30 briefing and start; you will be sent in small teams to solve devious puzzles at unknown destinations. The prize will go to the cunning and not to the swift. The rally is over a moderate distance in sheltered waters and is suitable for paddlers of all abilities. There will be a barbecue provided at Okahu Bay afterwards, around midday. The entry fee is \$5 per person. If the weather is doubtful **phone Colin Quilter 630 2219 on Saturday evening or Sunday morning to confirm.**

**18 Nov Round Rangitoto in a day** Meet at the Club rooms. Bring plenty of snacks, lunch, drinks and lots of energy. We'll explore parts of the island so bring something for your feet. Suitable for intermediate paddlers but not novices as this is approx 30km paddle of over six hours duration. **Contact Jonathan Jarvis tel 366 6805.**

**19 Nov First swim escort, Herne Bay to Curran St** Kayaks need to assemble at Herne Bay beach at about 1pm, as the swimmers head out at 1.45pm. See separate article in this Newsletter which explains what these swim escorts are all about. **Organiser is Trevor, tel 817 7357.**

**25 to 26 Nov Motuora Island** Leaving from Sullivans Bay on Saturday morning. Overnight at the campsite on Motuora and paddling back about 3-4 pm on Sunday. In between all that there should be time for some rock gardening, fishing or full moon paddling (weather and experience permitting) or just chilling out.

The paddle out to the island is in semi open water so can be a hard slog from time to time. You'll need to have a reasonable level of fitness and experience. **Contact David Poolman for full details tel 09 420 5199 eve or 025 597086.**

1 to 3 Dec Tiri Tiri Matangi Island See separate article about this magical trip.

3 Dec Second swim escort, Curran St to Chelsea Sugar  
Kayakers need to assemble at 11am at Curran Street, as the swimmers depart at midday.

## Labour Weekend at Tauranga Bay

COME FOR SOME OR COME FOR ALL OF IT. A WEEKEND OF CHOICE.

Please ring Wally if you are coming.

There are limited numbers of cabins available at tent site rates. The quick ones get the beds.

This is a beach front camp with great facilities.

There will be paddling options available for all skill levels.

If the weather blows up we drive 15mins. to Whanagaroa Harbour and it's sheltered waters.

With favourable weather we have fantastic caves and tunnels to explore at the harbour mouth, a day paddle down the coast to the Cavelli Is. and Matauri Bay, a paddle to Taupo Bay or a day paddle out to Stephenson's Is. where there is great snorkling.

It is truly a base offering amazing choices and the chance to catch breakfast from the beach.

RING WALLY ON ph 832 3274 .

## Club Night

\* 7 November\*

Our final Club Night for the season will feature a talk by Laurie Bugbee entitled *Adventures in Africa*

As usual meet at our Okahu Bay Clubrooms upstairs at 7.30 for 8pm start. Ann Schofield can answer your queries – tel 419 9223.

## Tiri Tiri Matangi Island Dec 1/2/3

We have 10 beds available for Friday night and 15 beds available for Saturday night at \$15.00 per night.

The lodge is fully equipped, just bring your sleeping bag and food.

Walk, explore, paddle or rest and enjoy the bird song of this very special place in our gulf paradise.

There will be an early Sunday return option for those of us who need/want to be at the swim escort at 11am.

Ring Trevor ph 817 7357 to book a bed BE QUICK.

Departure times will be 10am Friday

6pm Friday

9am Saturday

Secure overnight parking is available for \$5.00 per night at the departure point.

which is at Shakespear Regional park

## Useful phone numbers

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

Club kayaks – 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](mailto:juliathorn@extra.co.nz)

And my address for newsletter articles is: 447A Riddell Rd, Glendowie

Secretary – Rona Patterson – 834 3399

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

Do you know about Kayak New Zealand magazine? It covers whitewater, sea kayaking and multisport, and subscriptions are available from Canoe & Kayak Ltd, PO Box 100493, North Shore Mail Centre, Auckland. Or phone 0508 529 2569.

## Swim escorts ... it's that time of year again

Our role is to provide a corridor and guide the disoriented swimmers.

It is best to paddle on the breathing side of troubled swimmers so as to make visual contact.

Point or yell (some wear ear plugs under their caps) the correct directions.

If they need to stop instruct them to hold onto the bow of your boat. That way you can control what they do .

Raise your paddle in the air and an inflatable will come and take the the swimmer out of the water.

It is most important that any swimmer wanting to pull out informs the Coastguard of their decision.

The Coastguard need an accurate head count of finishing swimmers to avoid a search for unaccounted entrants.

For this simple and enjoyable task we get fed, watered and paid handsomely for every kayak on the water.

Club kayaks are available free for these events.

If you are bringing friends to help, they must be able to competently control a kayak.

Please ring Trevor on ph 817 7357. and let him know which escorts you can help with and whether you need a club boat.

# On Decklines and Rudders

By Ian Calhaem

It was some time ago now that there was discussion about the correct size for the deck lines on a Kayak. It had been suggested that the lines on the Pacific Kayak *Storm* were too thin.

I made the comment that I was very happy with the size of these lines but was more concerned with the potential problems associated with the loops that form in the rudder lines. Personal experience has shown that it is possible to get a leg caught in the loop during deep water re-entries. Several people new to kayaking have asked me about these discussions and this prompted me to investigate further.

I have researched both issues and had discussions with the folks at Pacific Kayaks, who have been most helpful.

Here is a summary of the results of my research... (I have included a brief outline of my experience at the end of this note).

## Decklines

I find that the existing arrangement of the decklines on the Storm and Squall ideal. The main advantage of using a thin deckline is that it can be fitted tightly and thus not get in the way during re-entries. On the Storm the deckline does not run past the cockpit and this also makes re-entry easier.

It had been suggested that the thin line would cut into the paddler's hands. Practical experience has shown this is not a problem. The Storm and Squall have been designed for a thin line and my advice is to leave it as is. A thick line is difficult to fit and cannot be tightened. (new Storms and Squalls are being fitted with thicker lines – I would fit the thinner one to my kayak).

## Rudder

I have designed a simple but effective fitting, which can be fitted to existing kayaks, or installed during manufacture. It consists of two pulleys and a short piece of shock cord. The shock cord is fitted so as to keep a forward tension on the foot pedals. Because the design keeps the tension constant independent of the position of the pedals, it does not change the feel of the pedals in any way.

I have prepared a sheet giving full plans and installation instructions.

1. The instruction sheet is available from the Auckland Canoe Centre, who also has assembled a kit of all the parts required. It takes about 15 minutes to fit.
2. Pacific Kayaks will be fitting this modification to all new Storms and Squalls. And they also have prepared a kit for retro fitting to Storms and Squalls.

These designs differ slightly in detail but follow the same principles. My Storms have been fitted with my designs (prototype and final). Members interested in examining the fittings are welcome to examine them during a Club outing, or ring me at home 579-0512.

Ian Calhaem  
24 June 2000

[I have been active in the outdoors for many years and have instructed in a wide variety of disciplines - bushcraft, abseiling, mountaineering, kayaking (river and sea), and *Risk Management*. The family currently has two Storms, a Breeze, a Freedom and an Imp. When assisting with skills courses I find the Storm a good all round kayak and it is this kayak that I use for teaching deep water rescues, etc. ]

# Fitting kit for pedals on Storm and

## Squall

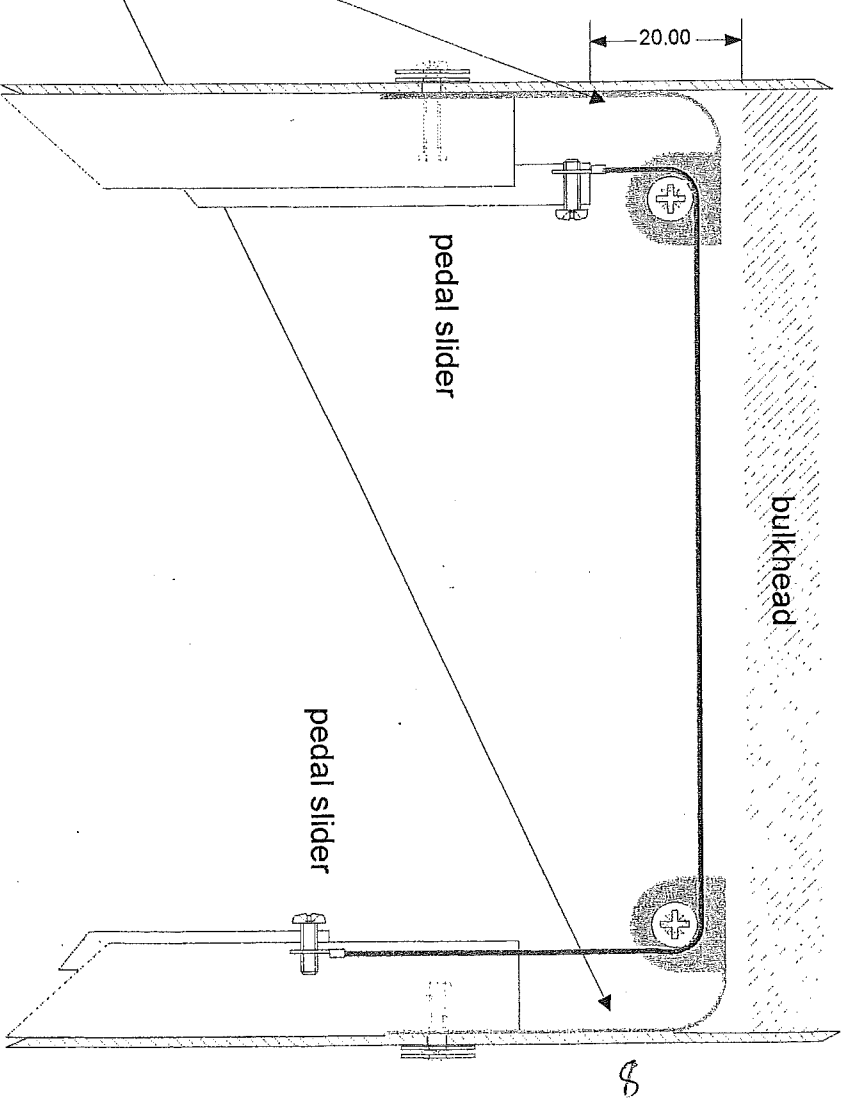
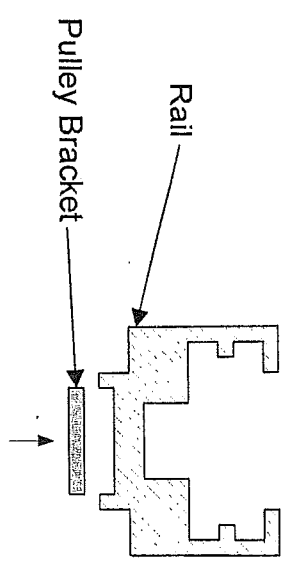
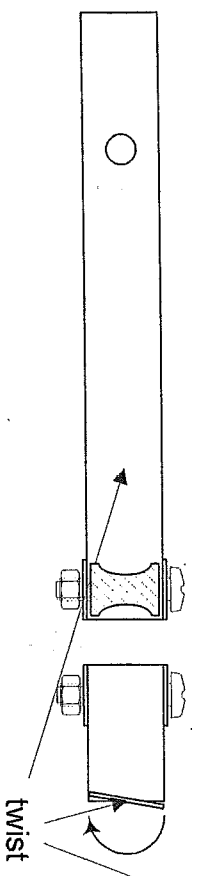
### Description

The basic Storm and Squall rudder systems consist of two sliders and rails to which the pedals are attached. The sliders are attached to the rudder by means of thin wires. A potential problem exists with these wires as the slider can move to the rear allowing the wire to form a loop. On deep water re-entry it is possible ~~get~~ *to get* your foot through this loop, making it very difficult to complete the reentry.

This kit consists of a dual pulley system which connects the front of each slider together via a shock cord. The cord prevents the wire forming into a loop when the rail moves back, by keeping a constant tension on the wire. The mechanical arrangement ensures that there is no change to the feel of the pedals.

To fit the kit after manufacture the pedal slider must be shortened by about 1cm. This leaves room for the pulley between the slider and the bulkhead. The pulley mounting fits into the recess at the back of the rail.

The Shock cord is attached to the front of each slider using the existing 1/4 in tapped holes. The pulleys are twisted to line up with the cord.





# LUCAS CREEK

By Denise Young

It was an early Sunday morning start for the 9 of us that met at Herald Island for the excursion up Lucas Creek to Albany. The day was overcast with a forecast for no rain but increasing winds.

The journey up the creek was carefully timed to take full advantage of the incoming tide. The creek narrows considerably along the way and becomes a mill-pond with the tall pines and natives sheltering us from the strong winds overhead. We were greeted with an abundance of kingfishers, tuis feeding on kowhai nectar and a variety of shags.

After an hour of relaxed paddling and chatter, we reached the magnificent Gills Reserve waterfall marking the turning point and high tide. The waterfall can only be reached in high tide and by performing the rumba under a fallen tree across the width of the creek. Was that the creaking of the tree or Yogi performing contortions to make his passage under the tree?

The return journey included a stop at Kell Park for morning tea that included some home baking of chocolate chip cookies and an impromptu flying fox ride. Watch out though, "it catches your ####" was the squeaky quote from Jonathan. The sun came out during our tea break and we couldn't think of a better way to spend a grotty Sunday morning.

What is now becoming a feature of any trip involving Ryan and Jonathan, out came the tennis ball for fun and frivolity on the journey home. Nothing is more resounding than the bonk of a tennis ball at full flight hitting the hull of a double sea bear.

The crossingback to Herald Island with the increasing winds and outgoing tide proved to be a shock in contrast to the tranquility of Lucas Creek. It was a great team effort to get the boats out of the water and onto the cars for lashing down.

The double sea bear took a turn East as we were heading South in the car trip home, losing one of the cradles in the process. The heart stopped for moment with visions of the two tonne monster launching itself airborne overtaking us on the inside lane.

## Late breaking news...

An alternative trip for Labour Weekend is to go to Motuihe Island, paddling from Okahu Bay on Saturday morning and returning on Sunday with overnight camp. This trip will depend on the weather. **Call Rona Patterson for details tel 834 3399.**

# Jim Mason on canoeing in Fiordland

A couple of months ago Jim spoke at our Club Night. This is an additional story which he did not tell on the night.....

The ACC / NZCA cruise of 1954 was planned to run from Milford down the fiords to the South. A Nor-westerly blow heralded disaster on the coast so after a venture into the white caps outside St Ann's Light we decided instead, to explore the 200 mile inland waterway down the Eglinton River to Lake Te Anau, the river reach to Manapouri and some 40 miles down the Waiiau River to the rail terminal at Tuatapere.

We camped the first night on Cemetery Point a pleasant grassy area at the foot of the falls. Next day we headed past Harrison Cove, the spectacular wind pump of Sterling Falls and out past Mitre Peak and the seal colonies to the boulder beach at Anita Bay with its welcoming cabin erected for shipwrecked seamen.

A rocky islet off the bay was used by early sealers and whalers as a post office for exchanging mail to England. Greenstone abounds and beautiful translucent pendants are found on the boulder beach naturally shaped and polished by the surf. A hermit lived here and grew vegetables for Milford Hotel. His stone cabin also remains, but needs a new roof.

After two nights in the cabin we headed back into the sound running before a strong Nor-Wester with heavy rain. We camped, again at Cemetery Point. During the night rain came down in buckets full. We knew the reputation for torrential rain but as it flowed through the tents forcing us to climb on top of our packs we wondered how anyone could survive here.

At first light of dawn we peered outside. The sky was blue. The rain had long since stopped. We were under the falls! The cupped dish on the 530 foot high rock face had plumed the fall out over our grassy flat campsite! The ballad about sleeping under a waterfall had real meaning!

For those who missed the film, we explored a spectacular gorge on the Eglinton and camped at Te Anau Downs Station. The three hunters in the party ventured through the swamps and just before dusk shot a twelve pointer stag to replenish our venison supplies. By the time the trophy head was removed and choice cuts selected it was too dark to find out way back across the swamp so the three of us slept on a pile of bracken under the deer skin.

Hope Arm of Lake Manapouri is a delightful spot. The Murrel brothers from the Pearl harbour boarding house had built a luxurious log cabin beside the beach with a track and log bridge crossing a lagoon to The Monument, a spectacular rock crag overlooking the lake. Even after two days at the cabin, it was a struggle to drag the party away.

The journey South then headed down the Waiiau. A large, fast, river with occasional rapids which could easily be avoided by cutting the corners if you didn't want excitement. It passes through beech forest with the Hydro station and Clifden Township with its spectacular rock towered bridge as places of interest.

It was fast. The 40 mile run to the train at Tuatapere was covered in four hours without paddling.

Auckland Canoe Club was formed from a Wanganui River cruise. For the first ten years we never missed arranging a Christmas cruise on the river, even when the bus loads with folding canoes headed to the south Island. This was a tradition of fifty years ago. What about reviving it?

Wanganui River guides and sets of slides showing the old pah sites, caves and places of interest, are still available from the N/Z. Waterways Association for cruise organisers 'phone 378 7839.

### 1950's Canoe Trip Reunions

Films of early Club trips such as Ladies Week-end at Mansion House or the first descent of the Clutha will be of interest to past and present members.

Jim Mason is anxious to record the present addresses of early canoeists. If you know of any please let the committee know or contact him at Box 1211, Auckland 'phone 378 7839 or [dj.mason@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dj.mason@xtra.co.nz).

Have you remembered?

Swim escort series kicks off on 19 November.....

Labour weekend trip to Tauranga Bay with Wally...

Tiri Tiri Matangi in December.....

Club Night with Laurie on Nov 7.....

Life's cool on the water.....

I'd like to hear from you.....