



*Newsletter*

*February 2001*

Hello Folks,

Well, I don't know what you lot have been up to but Ray and I have certainly had a paddling New Year. We have been sprinting from one end of the country to the other in order to catch some brilliant paddling trips. We went up to Puriri Bay with Ann, where we had a mixed bag of weather, but it didn't stop us from having heaps of fun. When the wind blew, we went tramping, when it bucketed down with rain, we made scones and pancakes, and when the sun shone, we paddled to Mimiwhangata, overnights at Whangamumu, and explored the giant mangroves. We missed Ryan's Opito Bay trip, after driving down to Whitianga Ray developed a migraine, but we were home in time for me to join in with Jonathan's Treasure Hunt. I thoroughly enjoyed the Treasure Hunt, and if Jonathan ever runs another one I would recommend that you be there. We found eggs up trees, Kinder Surprises in the kiddies playground, water bombs in the back of a cave, but couldn't find the fifty cent piece that was buried next to the rock that two little girls were playing next to! The "prize giving" was the best part of the day – we had a water bomb fight and I got Jonathan! Two weeks later, Ray and I were up at Aroha Island, Kerikeri, with Vincent and a lot of other people. We had excellent weather the whole weekend and were able to paddle around Cape Wiwiki and The Ninepin one day, the Black Rocks the next, and up to the Stone Store on the last day. The wildlife and "tame-life" made their presence known while we were on the island. Puke, the tame pukeko, tried to eat Doug's toes, a mob of tiny, fluffy ducklings cleaned up our bread "scraps", a kiwi visited the tents in the night, a soggy shag waded ashore and started sunning itself next to Ray's boat, and some ring-neck doves let us know when it was daylight each morning. The following weekend we were enjoying the spectacular scenery above and below water level at Lake Waikaremoana. The water was so clear that I spent more time watching the aquatic scenery than the land scenery. I even managed to get the group to do some bush-bashing up a creek (without a paddle!) to see a waterfall.

I am looking forward to some more great paddling this month and hope to see you on the water soon. Something to look forward to is the next barbecue run by Roger – he tells me that he has watched all of the "Ainsley's Barbecue Bible" programs and wants to try out some ideas at the next barbecue. So, there might not just be sausages on the next barbecue – be at the swim escort on Sunday to find out!

Cheers,

*Margaret*

### **In this issue...**

Hugh Oakley-Browne's account of a shark attack.

Letters to the Editor – Paul Caffyn's explanations on shark attacks and "yum yum yellow".

Trip reports for Aroha Island, Whitianga to Opito Bay, the Treasure Hunt and white water paddling on the Rangitaiki River.

## Useful phone numbers and addresses

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

**Club address** – PO Box 45020, Te Atatu Peninsula, Waitakere City

**President** – Trevor Arthur – 817 7357

**Secretary** – Rona Patterson – 834 3399

**Treasurer and Membership Detail Changes** – Matt Crozier – 817 1984

**Club Kayaks** – Jonathan Jarvis – 366 6805

**Trips officer** – Matt Grant – 524 2108

**Newsletter Editor** – Margaret Thwaites – 2927 883, 025 626 4786,

[m.thwaites@xtra.co.nz](mailto:m.thwaites@xtra.co.nz)

38A William Potter Lane, Karaka, RD1 Papakura

## Where can you go to get training?

### **Auckland Canoe Centre, phone 815 2073.**

Basic confidence course, Henderson Pool, Tuesday evenings - \$95 for four sessions.

One-on-One rolling, Henderson Pool, Tuesday evenings - \$149 for two sessions.

Sea Kayaking intro skills, one day at Waiwera

Sea Kayaking skills weekend at Waiwera – rescues, navigation.

### **Auckland Wilderness Experiences, Chris Gulley, phone 813 3369**

Intro skills, overnight at Mahurangi - \$225

Next Course dates are: February 10 – 11, 2001

March 10 – 11, 2001

Details on web site [www.nzkayak.co.nz/awk/awskills.htm](http://www.nzkayak.co.nz/awk/awskills.htm)

Rolling sessions, Kelston Girls, Thursday evenings - \$95 for three sessions – run with George Gerard, a Club member.

Surfing courses, White water courses and Navigation courses run on request.

### **Canoe and Kayak, phone 479 1002**

Sea Kayaking intro course – Friday pool session, plus Sat/Sun 9 – 5, \$230

White water – two weekends (stage one and two)

Rolling sessions, Northcote College Pool - \$150 for four sessions.

Multisport racing courses held monthly.

Advanced sea kayaking courses on request.

First aid course \$175, First aid refresher - \$65.

### **Fergs Kayaks, phone 529 2230**

Basic paddling skills – paddle strokes, rescues – Sunday morning, Okahu Bay - \$60

50% discount to Auckland Canoe Club members.

Learn to roll, one-on one, heated pool - \$60 per hour.

Intro to White water weekend, Taupo, with Ian Ruthven, Wilderness Adventures - \$275

Multisport River Racing weekend - \$275

### **George Gerard, phone 814 8989 (hm), 367 0959 (wk).**

Pool Training, Kelston Girls, Thursday evenings - \$95 for first three sessions, \$10 thereafter.

Intro Sea Kayaking, White water, and Down River Racing courses on request – courses are designed to fit what the participants want - \$100 per day (approx), plus boat hire (\$10 / day)

There are also a few club members that are experienced instructors and with a bit of encouragement (bribery and/or arm-twisting!) might be coaxed into giving a training session...

Ian Calhaem, Rebecca Heap, Ken Marsh, David Poolman

**Outdoor First Aid Training.** A 2-day OSH certified course run by Liz Maire and Christine Mcleod of "Positively Outdoors". Scenario based training in first aid, risk management and leadership. Course cost is \$130.00, 10% discount if four or more club members enroll for a course. Course dates for Albany are: Sun/Mon 11/12 Feb Sat/Sun 24/25 March Sun/Mon 13/14 May Sat/Sun June 30/July 1. One day revalidation courses also available. **Contact Christine McLeod Ph 473 0027 Fax 473 0731.**

# Trips and Events Calendar

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.  
Use a craft appropriate for the trip. A kayak with water-tight bulkheads is essential for open sea kayaking. Sit-on kayaks are usually too slow to be able to keep up with sea kayaks, therefore, are not recommended on trips planned for sea kayaks.

## TRIP CANCELLATIONS

The Club is now using "Newstalk ZB" cancellation service. This can be listened to on 1080AM or 89.4FM. The service runs on Saturday and Sunday from 7:00am.

This should eliminate the multitude of phone calls to trip leaders when the weather looks suspect.

## Regular Evening Paddles

It is recommended that before anyone tries to go out on an evening paddle that they attend a basic skills course and that they are fit enough to be able to paddle for one hour.

**Tuesday Evenings.** At the last committee meeting it was decided to draw up a roster of volunteers to look after novice paddlers, therefore allowing the regular, experienced paddlers a chance to do their own training, which is what these evening paddles were originally about. Be at Okahu bay by 5:30pm, ready to be on the water by 6:00pm. Novice and beginner paddlers will stay with the designated leader, more experienced paddlers can form their own group(s). Trips usually last 1 – 2 hours, destination dictated by tide and weather conditions.

**Wednesday Evenings.** Ann Schofield has started a paddling group leaving from Castor Bay at 6:30pm. This is for intermediate to advanced paddlers only. Contact Ann, on [anns@rangitoto.school.nz](mailto:anns@rangitoto.school.nz), before turning up

**Thursday Evenings.** These are for experienced paddlers only. The leader is decided on the night, but these trips currently do not have a huge following, therefore, be prepared to paddle on your own. Be at Okahu Bay by 5:30pm, ready to be on the water by 6:00pm.

## February 2001

**Friday 9 McKensie Bay BBQ.** Evening paddle, from Narrow Neck Beach to McKensie Bay, by the Rangitoto Lighthouse. Have a swim and BBQ on the beach, full moon for paddle back. **All paddlers must have an all-round white light.** Contact David Ward on 445 3639.

**Saturday 10 February – Upper Harbour sortee.** Short trip, home for lunch. Meet at the bottom of Beach Road, Te Atatu Peninsula, 8.00 am for an 8.15 departure. Duration three hours, morning tea enroute. Need to be able to paddle three hours (possibly in to wind). **Phone Rona Patterson 834 3399 (home) 302 1355 (work)**

**Weekend 10 – 11. Home Bay, Motutapu Is.** Leave from Okahu Bay. Arrive there at 8.00am Sat 9th to leave at 8.30 am. Home Bay is a DOC campground, and you pay when you get there. Two options on coming home - either straight back the same way, or tiki tour round the other side and back. **Anyone interested phone Justin on 278 8090.**

**Sunday 11 Swim Escort - Mechanics Bay to Tamaki Yacht Club.** Here is your chance to raise funds for the club and all you have to do is paddle beside some swimmers – easy peasy! The swimmers need our help (the race organisers will cancel the swim if there aren't enough kayakers to escort them) and the money raised by the club is used to keep the membership fees down. To make it even more attractive, Roger is going to demonstrate some gourmet barbecue cooking afterwards. He has been watching Ainsley's Barbecue Bible and has promised to have more than just sausages on the BBQ. **Meet at Okahu Bay at 8:45am for a 9:15 departure. Gourmet barbecue back at the Clubrooms afterwards.**

**Saturday 17 “Au revoir Martin and his Storm” party.** Martin Fedorski is leaving us for a few years, so come and say “Good Bye”. Pot Luck and BYO - Bring along BBQ food, salads and desserts. Address: 2/2 Chiltern Place, Howick Tel: **533 7244 6pm onwards**

**Sunday 18 Waiheke Island.** Destination Whakanewha (next to Rocky Bay on Waiheke), meet at 9.00am for a 9.30 am start. 7km there, 7km back so this is a very short paddle. We will have leisurely crossings of the Tamaki Strait, but just in case and because it is an open stretch of water, if you would like to do this trip, please be able to paddle 7km non-stop into a headwind if necessary. Carry all safety gear, but keep your weight down as we will need to wheel/carry the kayaks over the flats on Waiheke, (low tide). The intention is to have a relaxing paddle to the ARC park, where you will have the opportunity to explore the park campground and estuary, Rocky Bay village, and possibly the forest and bird society park. I would suggest that we do not leave valuables in our unattended kayaks during the walks. **Leader will be Steve Melrose phone 5365386. Cross your fingers for good weather.**

**Weekend 24 – 25. Raglan and Aotea Harbours.** Staying at the Raglan Kopua Holiday Park, which is conveniently located by the waters of beautiful Raglan Harbour. People can make their own bookings by ringing (07) 825 8283.

On the Saturday Ken (the trip organiser / leader) envisages scenic harbour paddling taking in limestone rock formations, the old Waingarō and Te Uku Landings, a Maori monument and a walk around the northern head to the beach.

On the Sunday we have the option of exploring Aotea Harbour which is about 20km south or paddling somewhere different on Raglan Harbour.

Paddlers and family members of all abilities are welcome to take part. Both harbours are relatively small and we could split into groups to cater for peoples' abilities and preferences. The program is very flexible.

For those kayak surfers or board riders the Raglan coast offers world class point break surf when the conditions are right and, conditions permitting, those who want to do coastal paddling can launch at the Maunu Bay boat ramp a few km away from the holiday park.

To encourage socialising we will have a shared dinner on the Saturday night.

Leader is Ken Jackson, who can be contacted on 535 9005.

**Sunday 25 Circumnavigate Rangitoto Island Anti-clockwise.** Meet at Okahu Bay Clubrooms by 8:00am. High tide is at 9:55am. Suitable for intermediate paddlers but not novices as this is approx 30km paddle of over six hours duration. **Contact Rob Gardner on 533 4061.**

## March 2001

**Saturday 3 Basic Instruction Session with Ian Calhaem at Waiwera Holiday Park.** A basic skills course for novice / entry level paddlers. Meet at 9:30am, finished by 4:00pm. Bring your own kayak, paddle float if you have one, a change of clothing, thermos with hot drink, and lunch. Expect to get wet. Hot showers and toilets will be available at the Holiday Park. \$5.00 fee to cover use of facilities. Kayaks can be hired at Waiwera if you don't have your own – phone Waiwera Holiday Park 025 276 3835 to book a kayak. **Contact Ian Calhaem on 579 0512 for more details.**

**Weekend 3 – 4 Gourmet BBQ Party on Rangitoto.** Roger is going to demonstrate some more “Ainsley's Barbecue Bible” skills on the barbecue! Bring either: a salad, nibbles or desert, and the

club will provide the meat. Sleep in the bach or camp on the deck near the wharf. Bring plenty of mozzie repellent if you want to sleep out on the deck! Join in with the swim escort on Sunday and raise funds for the club while enjoying a cruise paddle. Meet at Okahu Bay by 5:00pm for a 5:30pm departure.

Alternatively...

**Sunday 4 Swim Escort – Rangitoto to St. Heliers Beach, 4.5km.** This is the last swim escort for the season, and usually the biggest. We need your help to make it a success for the swimmers as well as for the club finances! The swim organisers usually supply soft drinks, biscuits and barbecued sausages to the kayakers as well as making a donation to the club, so everyone comes away with something. Meet at the western end of St. Heliers Beach (at the end closest to the city) by 11:00am for an 11:30 departure.

Contact Trevor Arthur, on 817 7357, for more details on both trips.

**Saturday 10 Girls Can Do Anything.** Due to popular demand, this is a repeat of last month's session for ladies only. Learn some tricks and tips on the easiest way of getting back into your boat, and how to assist your buddies back into theirs. It will be a good opportunity to practice your rescue skills. Complete novices through to experienced paddlers are welcome and if you don't own a boat (or love your kevlar too much) they can be hired off the beach from Canoe and Kayak. Please phone Rebecca so she knows you're coming in case we need to have a venue change due to bad weather. Meet at the MERC (south end) of Long Bay beach at 2pm. Contact Rebecca Heap on 473 0661, or 025 73 7675 or email [becks@fc.dt.co.nz](mailto:becks@fc.dt.co.nz)

**Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 Two Day-Trips to Little Barrier Island.** This is a rare chance to paddle 25km around this island. A 40' catamaran, "Divercity" will depart from Leigh Harbour at 8:30am (sharp!) and take kayakers and paddlers to a launching point at Little Barrier, one hour away. Launch fee is \$80 each.

Saturday is almost full and Sunday is filling rapidly so be in quick – first in, first served. Reservations need to be finalised by mid February. Call Matt Grant, 524 2108 or 021 1454150, and send cheques (payable to Auckland Canoe Club) to Matt, 4/729 Remuera road, Remuera.

NB If enough interest is indicated in a landing for walks on the island, this will be arranged by DOC. Please supply the following info for the DOC permit application:

Full name

Address

Date of Birth

Passport number if not NZ resident

\$20 fee payable to Dept. of Conservation

Also, bring snorkeling gear if you wish.

### **Weekend 17-18 Waipu / Mangawhai Heads**

I will post a sketch map of locations to people who say they are coming.

Meet at sea end of Johnson Point Rd at 12:00 on Saturday for a 12:30 start – since tide is about 14:20 this will give us 2 hours each way. Johnson Point Rd runs off Waipu-Mangawhai road a couple of kms south of Waipu, and goes straight down to estuary, almost at the mouth of the Waipu river. This is a leisurely river trip with good tidal assistance at start and end. Will probably see many waterfowl and a big shag colony.

Stay Saturday night at our bach, 14 Kanuka Place, Mangawhai Heads. If people want to leave gear there on the way up, we will be there until about 11:30 on Saturday morning. Although it is a smallish bach, we have 5 spare single beds which might as well be used, and some limited floor space in the lounge. There is one flush toilet and a bath. We also have a spare section attached with room for parking and tents. We will provide and cook a BBQ dinner (but BYOG) and Sunday breakfast, so no need to bring cooking & eating gear. \$10 per person should cover the cost of the food.

On Sunday morning, the idea is to launch in the Mangawhai estuary and paddle up the coast to Bream Tail and return (approx 5 km each way). We will have to hope for suitable sea conditions and not too much breeze. Usually OK in prevailing westerlies, but we would not go in an easterly storm. Even in bad weather, the estuary is always available if you just want to have a paddle.

Anyone intending to come, please phone Mike or Christine Silvester, 817 8405 by 7th March.

### **Sunday 18 Clevedon**

Meet at 10.00 for a 10.30 departure. We will head around the coastline (hilly pasture, rocky foreshore and remote tidal flats). Then up the Clevedon river with pleasant scenery and moorings to look at. We

will have the tide assisting us up the river to arrive at Clevedon for lunch at an ideal time of 1.30pm. Tide is full at about 2.00pm, so we can have a decent lunch break and then use the tide to help us return. There and back is about 28km, which is a reasonable distance, but it is all close to the shoreline and tide assisted. Having said that, if the wind comes up, half the coastal section would be a bit of a slog. The trip will require beginner kayak skills with only a moderate level of fitness. All welcome, phone trip leader **Steve Melrose 5365386** to come on this trip please.

### **Sunday 25 Orere Point**

Meet at 9.00 for a 9.30 departure. We will travel Southeast past the beautiful Tawhitokino beach, past Orere point and along a non-road accessible section of coastline. We will pass by Tapapakanga regional park and depending on the time, round Waimangu point into Matingarahi where the road meets the coast again. We will then head back past Orere and stop at a very pretty unspoilt beach for lunch at 1.30pm which is half an hour before low tide. We will be able to swim and gather tuatua easily here (bring a container to take seawater home in to desand the tuatua. After a good break we will head back to our launch point.

This trip is about 25km and it is all close to shore. Beginner kayak skills only are required and the idea is to have a relaxed day with a decent beach stop (great spot if the weather is good).

All welcome, phone trip leader **Steve Melrose 5365386** to come on this trip please.

## **April 2001**

### **Weekend March 31 – Apr 1**

Spend time in a place the club hasn't been to for a while. Bill has lots of new ideas for places to go - more details in next newsletter, or call up **Bill Hayes 833 8462**

**Weekend March 31 – April 1<sup>st</sup>. Lake Taupo.** Explore the western bays area on an overnight camping trip. This trip is suitable for all skill levels most of the time. More information closer to the time. Contact **Bill Hayes Ph. 8338462**

## **Whitewater kayaking**

Any member who is interested in going river or surf kayaking in the Auckland area or further afield, should give Jonathan or Denise a call on 3666 805. The club has 2 whitewater boats and you can also hire them from Ferg's.

We are looking to organise a trip in March/April to Anawhenua (see Denise's trip report in this newsletter)

If you have no experience in whitewater kayaking but are keen to experience it, we would like to hear from you.

### **For Sale: PRIJON HURRICANE**

White water or surf play-boat. Medium length and volume, red, with airbag. Good condition. \$500 ono. Phone **Matt Grant, 524 2108 or 021 148 4150.**

## **Letters to the Editor**

*After reading the report on the shark attack and the e-mails proposing that sharks like the colour yellow, I sent an e-mail to Paul Caffyn, hoping that he could cast some light on the origin of the term "yum yum yellow" and avert a rush on white paint. For those that don't get the eGroups e-mail, it was suggested that after a US study on shark attacks, yellow was referred to as yum yum yellow. Here is Paul's reply...*

### **Goodbye Margaret**

I will pen a tongue in cheek article on the shark and the colour of kayaks for the next KASK newsletter. Back in the late 70's, the crayfishermen in Fiordland told us the colour of our kayaks was yum yum yellow. I recall the gel coat colour, for our first Nordkapps was termed Vitamin C; and therein lies the answer – the shark was short of vitamin C! The photograph in the NZ Herald appears to be of a yellow

plastic kayak - perhaps the shark was expressing its distaste (pun intended) at the proliferation of plastic kayaks in the Auckland region.

We did scheme a few ideas for shark deterrents. Bevan Walker has a black and white striped rudder blade, instead of the normal shiny aluminium or black anodized blades. The idea was taken from the exceedingly poisonous yellow bellied sea snake which is yellow and black striped with dots near the tail. If I remember, some wetsuits were also made a decade or two ago with red and black stripes, thought to act as a shark deterrent.

If you recall from my Australian book, in the Gulf of Carpentaria we were hit violently on numerous occasions by rather large tiger sharks, the kayaks knocked up to 45° off course. My rationale at the time (and still) is that in the murky visibility of the gulf waters, the deep draught shiny aluminium rudders slicing through the sea looked like a barramundi (big lovely eating fish) to the tiger sharks.

Cheers  
Paul Caffyn

*Does anyone know where I can get a five metre long transfer of a sea snake? Ed.*

## The Omens of Aroha Island

By Vincent Maire.

Twenty-six club members made it to the Island of Love on the Kerikeri Inlet for Anniversary Weekend. They were not disappointed. The campsite exceeded expectation in every way. It's peacefulness, beautiful trees, the wildlife and waterside location just cannot be bettered anywhere. Perhaps best of all though, we had the place to ourselves; just us and the kiwis that are protected in this wonderful sanctuary.

Susan Hill, Tony Reeves and Ann Schofield arrived on Thursday and set-up camp by the water. Ray Clark, Margaret Thwaites, Vincent Maire Randall & Janet Hart and Doug Wilson made it there on Friday and chose to stay in the upper camping area where there was more shade and protection from the wind. Lynne Laracey and Peter Moses arrived at 0030 hours on Saturday. Janice Fulham also arrived early on Saturday as did Steve & Irene Barnett plus their "novice" buddy Tina Helg and it was this group (less Susan and Tony) that headed off down the Kerikeri Inlet at 0915 on Saturday morning.

### Saturday – Cape Wiwiki

The weather was just perfect for a day of exploring. We crossed the entrance of the Te Puna Inlet, passed by the Te Paki Islands and much to our embarrassment missed Marsden's Cross, so decided to have lunch at Whale Bay, some 12km from our starting point.

After lunch, Steve, Irene and Tina decided they would go looking for the missing Cross and the rest of us headed east towards Cape Wiwiki.

At the north-eastern of the Bay of Islands a small island marks the place where you apply full pressure on your left rudder and turn your bow northwards into a very narrow gap that runs for some 50m between Motuhui Island and the mainland. Sea kayaking, like most marine activities, has its omens and when I found my

fishing line snagged on my rudder, I asked Randall to fix it for me. This he did and much to my amazement there was a kahawai on the lure. I stowed my "dinner" in the cockpit, put away the line and followed the group through the gap. Things could only get better.

The gap gave way to an enclosed bay protected by steep curving cliffs that dropped into the sea. Two caves waited closer inspection on our left and Peter reported that one of these fed back into the gap and with a helmet, torch and perhaps the right water level, could be navigable in a plastic kayak. Note the word plastic. But there was more. An archway cuts through Motuhui Island at its northern end and conditions were perfect for a fast trip through the arch.

Continuing north from here we passed by more small islands whose sides were pockmarked with caves of varying sizes. At Cape Wiwiki itself, we found a small stony beach and plenty of rock gardens to explore. Rounding the Cape we could see the Cavalli Islands in the distance and the coastline immediately to our north was filled with the promise of many small sandy bays and even more caves. These however, will have to wait for a return visit.

A tall rock shaped like a spearhead stands some 2km offshore from Cape Wiwiki. This is the Ninepin, a well-known mark to boaties. It is easily recognised by its shape and the white Gannet guano that coats its southern flank. Ann decided we should circumnavigate the Ninepin and this we did. Margaret however, felt once was not enough and on her second circumnavigation hooked her kawhai, much to Ray's delight.

As we returned in the direction of Motuhui Island, the cry of dolphins went up and a pod of some 12 of these magnificent animals cruised by us. Another omen.

We decided to find the famous Marsden Cross expecting to find Irene, Tina and Steve there. Their boats were not in sight when we reached there and we wondered if perhaps we had missed it again. But no, suddenly it appeared, camouflaged against the bush line. We landed and inspected this historical site that marks the first Christian service in New Zealand, Christmas Day 1814. Sadly the cross is badly in need of a cleanup. It is covered in the moss that is commonly found on gravestones and the inscription is barely visible.

From here it was 10km back to Aroha Island, a trip we completed in two hours. A very tired but nevertheless happy bunch of paddlers arrived back with their tales of caves, rock gardens and fish. We had covered some 32km and that fish tasted just great.

While we had been away more happy paddlers arrived. Steve Melrose and his family, Joan Williams, David Ward, Bruce and Justine Jackson, Bill Hayes and his friend Nancy and also Rosie Thom. But best of all, the weather forecast predicted a drop in the wind for tomorrow.

## **Sunday – Moturoa Island and the Black Rocks**

The southern coastline of the Kerikeri Inlet is indented with small bays and promontories formed by lava. Houses sit close to the waters edge and these combine to make this a very interesting place to paddle. There are also some small rocky islands in the inlet with the Rahui Islands and Cocked Hat Island that guards the entrance to the inlet are worth a closer look.

On clearing the Kerikeri Inlet we followed the southern coastline for some 2km around a large bay to Day Point. We were delighted by the rock gardens and caves in the area including one small island pierced by an arch wide enough for a single sea kayak to sneak through. Also along this stretch were some very nice beaches which seemed to be accessible only by water.

At Day Point we re-grouped before crossing the 400m wide channel to Moturoa Island. This island has a number of private owners who have turned it into a wildlife refuge. Cruising along the northern side we passed the first of the famous black rocks, large basalt islands with steep cliffs and home to many sea birds. According to Joan Williams there are excellent underwater sea caves here that are popular with SCUBA divers and we also noticed many people fishing near the rocks.

At the northern end of Moturoa Island we found a lovely curved beach and made camp in the shade of some Pohutukawa trees. After lunch some swam, some kayaked and some read in the

shade. It was a perfect day and a perfect place to explore the magnificent black rocks that sit like massive seals along this end of the island. In the afternoon some of us walked up to the WW2 gun emplacement, a 10 minute hike up the hill at the back of the beach. Fantastic views of the Bay of Islands lay before us including out to the Ninepin, our destination of the previous day.

Around noon an onshore breeze came up and this gave us a very pleasant ride back to Aroha Island.

## **Monday - Kerikeri**

No trip to Kerikeri is complete without a visit to the Stone Store. We set off about 9am and paddled upstream with the tide. There is some serious real estate along the inlet so we had plenty to see. In spite of all this "civilisation" around us, it was a very quiet and peaceful paddle of about one hour to our destination. We had coffee and other rich substances at a nearby café and generally played the role of the rich tourist. Only our motley outfits gave us away. I took time to talk to Chris Quinlan who lives nearby to Aroha Island and who had joined us for the day. I also spoke with the crew of a Tahitian yacht that had arrived in the Kerikeri a week ago after a three month journey via Fiji and New Caledonia. "*C'est superb*," cried the skipper describing the New Zealand coastline.

Eventually it was time to return downriver and along the way we encountered yet another omen. Paddling close to a tree that hung over the water we were able to observe in its bare branches three reef herons, a pied shag and a beautiful spoonbill heron. They sat quite peacefully as we paddled beneath the branches. What a photograph that would have made!

That was out Anniversary Weekend at Aroha Island. However, I cannot end this report without mention of the last, and perhaps most special omen. Both Joan and Doug had very close encounters with kiwi while staying on Aroha Island. In the early hours of Monday I was woken by the harsh screech of the female of the species. She was right outside my tent and I wonder if she found my snoring offensive. I then heard her beak tapping on my kayak.

More omens from amazing Aroha Island. Vincent Maire (Although it is called an island, this beautiful place is connected to the mainland by a causeway so we were camping out of our cars. Please take the opportunity to visit this magnificent place – you will not be disappointed and you will be supporting a most worthy cause, the protection of our national symbol.)

## Whitianga to Opito Bay

By Susan Hill.

Our Ann says that she writes a trip report and then goes back to cut out all the extraneous in order to make it more concise; I guess I do the opposite, probably leaving out a fair number of facts in order to convey what it felt like to me. And it seems that just getting started can be half the adventure for me. There's more to the journey than the who-when-where.

The Whitianga to Opito Bay trip was a bit of a milestone, as it was the first overnight on which I was joined by my fair-weather partner, and the first night he's spent in a tent in about eight years. This was perhaps not the ideal place to begin, as the weather outlook was a bit dodgy. We left the decision about going to the last minute, expecting some sort of clarification from the weather gods.

Anticipating the worst, I spent Friday horsebackriding with a friend, not returning home until 6:00. Gut decision: go for it, so we got organised and packed and headed south, looking to meet Ryan and other kayak club members at the Buffalo Beach Resort in Whitianga. By the time we arrived, it was getting towards midnight and the place was gated and quiet. I snuck through the hedge and found tents near kayak-topped cars, but all was silent and lighted only by the just-past-full moon, so we went looking for a motel -- not easy at that time of night in this country where most people roll up the sidewalks at sundown. Luckily, a raucous party was going on at a nearby backpackers, and the motel across the street had lights on, so we found a bed (with kitchenette and jug of milk) for a hundred bucks. Yikes! We connected with our group the next morning, Iris and Ann having left Auckland at the crack of dawn, and Willy from Thames sometime after that. Apologies before departure: Elaine and Marjorie had spent the week at Hot Water Beach but felt a bit desperate to get home because of rumours of an impending teenage party; Ken and Ben had no kayak or tent, but they just wanted to see us off; and Ray's migraine had inspired Margaret's sympathy -- they had a radio and promised to keep in touch and perhaps drive out to Opito Bay with fish'n'chips and cold beer.

The weather was promising -- warm sunshine, light breeze, and almost no waves on the protected end of Buffalo Beach, but the tide was running, a strong 'long beach rip towards the river mouth. Launching was a sprint upstream. I was grateful for a shove from the beach. But once on the water, all cares are forgotten except for the immediate, which were few: a very slight swell, and "When and where do we stop for morning tea?" from Willy.

Not far. Actually the end of the next beach, and there are beaches aplenty in this part of the world. And paddling from one to the next around headlands, along cliffs, and in and out of caves is a delight. As is the rhythm of traveling with a group. "Buddy up," said Ryan, asking that we each be responsible for another person, but the buddying is a fluid process rather than a static situation, as small groups form and reform with a balance of conversation and solitude along the way. It's a comfortable way to get to know people.

Lunch was deep in a tiny inlet with a sand bar almost at the end creating a warm lagoon. Native bush tumbled along the almost-dry stream showed the ravages of recent heavy rains, and there would have been grassy space for perhaps two tents just above the high-water line. Only as we were about to depart did we notice the sign: Private Property, D. Wilson. We decided that it must be our Doug and assumed that we had had permission to land. Rocky spires off shore inspired some playing -- a bit of threading the needle in one case, where Ann was proud to be the first to dare, but the swell as we headed north prevented as much rock gardening as we had hoped for. Each beach we passed was somehow different, and the most memorable is Red Beach, actually pinker than Bermuda, and almost to Opito Bay.

Around that last point, we hit the headwind, a battle the width of Opito as we scanned the shoreline for a dearth of surf combined with a level campsite. Our quick refresher course on surf landing proved unnecessary as we hit part of the beach protected by a small rock reef that emerges at low tide. Kayaks discreetly out of sight behind the first row of dunes, a few of us swam, now looking for a bit of surf -- or, with snorkels, a bit of underwater color. Dinner? At least six different varieties of noodles and two of chocolate pudding, totally uncoordinated.

Predictions for wind on Sunday -- how can we manage to have it against us both ways? -- encouraged us to retire early (after the usual conversations -- Martin plotting a trek starting in India and ending where, Gordon sharing the amazing fact that he managed to paddle 90 days in the last year . . . ) to have the advantage of early morning calm at least to start. Ha! Light drizzle just before dawn woke me to the realisation that it was NOT calm, but no matter. "Grey skies are going to clear up / Put on a happy face." We hugged the coast seeking protection, glided over rocks that we had skirted the day before, battled a few little squalls, kept a constant headcount, and stopped for a snack and a rest about every ninety minutes. An achievable challenge. And who should come

bounding across the sand with the sunshine at our lunch stop but Ben and Ken and local friend Ian, a fountain of local information -- including the fact that we were seated at the foot of the pa that had overseen this bay at the time of Captain Cook.

Two dollars for a double scoop of ice cream back at Buffalo Beach – why Buffalo??

I'd still be curious to hear other people's versions of the weekend: Was that party worth returning home for? You can fit a sailboat in the back of that van?? And how did you-all spend the time when the migraine eased???

## Treasure Hunt

By Jonathan Jarvis

The day greeted our treasure hunters with grey skies and rain but the weather was not going to dampen the enthusiasm of this merry band of wannabe pirates.

Each team was given a map of directions supported by brain stumping clues as to where the treasure lay. Over the next 2 hours the teams paddled, walked and even 'swam' the route.

No teams actually found every treasure (they are still out there for those who want to keep looking!!) but everyone had an excellent time trying.

Some special mentions are in order:

1. Congratulations to the teams of Jenni, Harry and Steve of team 1 and John, Margaret and Des of team 2 who were joint winners
2. For those going beyond the call of duty, John Fergusson and Steve get special mention as their respective team mates convinced them to strip off and dive for 1 treasure item – all the treasures were on dry land!

3. Weakest excuse of the day goes to Roger Lomas who pleaded to be awarded the points for finding a treasure that he lost overboard. Rodger had left his teams' treasure on the deck of his kayak and gone to distract another team. However, Rodger forgot about the incoming tide and his kayak started drifting in the not to calm harbour. Rodger retrieved his kayak minus the treasure!
4. The team of Rona, Craig Harris and John Hyatt paddled the most distance and at one stage were seen circumnavigating Bean Rock. They must have known something the organisers and other teams did not!
5. A big thanks goes to Yogi and BooBoo who showed their prowess with the BBQ and to Rodger for supplying the food and beverages.

We are all looking forward to the next club rally/treasure or scavenger hunt so make sure you keep your eyes peeled in future newsletters. Word is that Alissa will be organising the next one.

## Lake Anawhenua and the Rangitaiki River

By Denise Young

Lake Anawhenua is a small but picturesque freshwater lake located in the eastern border of the northern Kaingaroa Forest. It is a man-made lake formed from the damming of the lower reaches of the Rangitaiki River for hydro-electric power generation.

Locals and "out-of-towners" camp side by side on the lake edge to fish, waterski, swim, eat, sleep, read and as a base for kayakers paddling the middle and lower sections of the river. Every site has million dollar elevated lake-side views ie unless you decide to camp behind the toilet block! The site only has toilet facilities but is well-managed by the East Coast Bays council that replenishes the toilet paper and empties the rubbish bins regularly.

What immediately strikes you is the tranquillity of the place. The atmosphere is relaxed and friendly. Many campers are regulars with some clocking up over a decade of return visits. This is truly a haven away from the hustle and bustle of the big city. Conversation with fellow campers is easy and natural.

We arrived in the morning of two fun-filled days of white-water basics with George Gerard. We were also joined by three others, a father and two sons also keen to try it out. Jonathan and I had been through Eskimo roll training, again run by George each Thursday night, and were eager to extend our skills to moving water.

Needless to say, at the end of two days we were both mentally and physically exhausted.

George carefully stepped us through the basics of paddling, raiing, rescue techniques and Eskimo roll practice in the safety of glass-like conditions of the lake to build up our skills and confidence. Then it was onto the river.

The first mental challenge was figuring out the logistics of the car shuttle. In simple terms, this is the process of ensuring there was transport at the take-out point to get back to the camp. Fortunately George had done this many times before, so the rest of us smiled and nodded relying on faith and trust in his judgement.

George selected a short piece of the river, maximum of Grade 1, which would normally take

5-10 minutes to run. It took us over two hours as we were taken through drills on river reading, eddy hopping, and raiting. We also had plenty of practice in river rescues that is very seldom seen or practised in sea kayaking.

Day Two consolidated Day One lessons into a more challenging section of the river ranging up to mid Grade 2. We put in at the dam below the waterfall (whew!) after lowering our kayaks three-stories down the dam wall. This day introduced leadership skills into our repertoire and we took turns to lead the team from eddy to eddy with George watching over us. The adrenalin rush from the previous day has taken its toll on us and we are all noticeably less sharp. We again have plenty of river rescue practice with no one in any real danger at any time while we worked as a team.

This is a beautiful section of the river narrowing down to one road-width in some parts, waterfalls cascading down sheer rock faces and over-hanging willows (which are a hazard as well). There are several challenging parts that require

100% concentration for a beginner and are downright exhilarating and frightening at the same time. I have always loved the thrill of white-water rafting and this same challenge is transferred to an individual level.

We finish the day with one last run the same section. Being a female, I recognised little during the navigation down! This paled to Jonathan's faux pas, he packed our fleece jackets into the back of the car to ensure we had something warm to wear at the take-out point. Unfortunately he packed them into a fellow camper's car of vaguely similar description. As a result our fleecies travelled to a local cow shed for the evening milking!

The two days ended with a real sense of achievement. We learned and practised many new skills and gained much more confidence in our ability to handle a wide variety of water situations. All of which would be very useful for sea kayaking. Thanks George, we will be back for more.



Happy campers at Puriri Bay, New Years Eve, enjoying Tony's pumpkin soup.  
From left: Martin, Nicole, Des, Ray, Tony, Margaret (back), Ann, Doug.

Deadline for next month's issue of the newsletter is Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March.

Articles to look forward to in next month's newsletter include Ryan Whittle's account of a Doubtful Sound trip, and a solo paddle by Dan Hawthorn from Kerikeri northwards.

# SHARK ATTACK

## Hugh Oakley-Browne

A potential people munching great white shark was not on my mind or attached to my friends kayak when the two of us launched our sea kayaks on a fine Saturday the 6th January 2001. Dr. Mike Hogan a six foot four Irishman from Dargaville has been sea kayaking for about four years. I have been kayaking for about 34 years. I started when I was in NZSAS with Klepper doubles working from submarines etc., converted to slalom and down river racing during the 70's and converted to sea kayaking in the 90's. Mike has a yellow plastic Sea Quest, now called a "yellow yummy". I have what I now call my Rolls Royce of kayaks a Kevlar Barracuda designed by Gordon Robinson, blue top, white hull with aluminium strips running the whole keel.

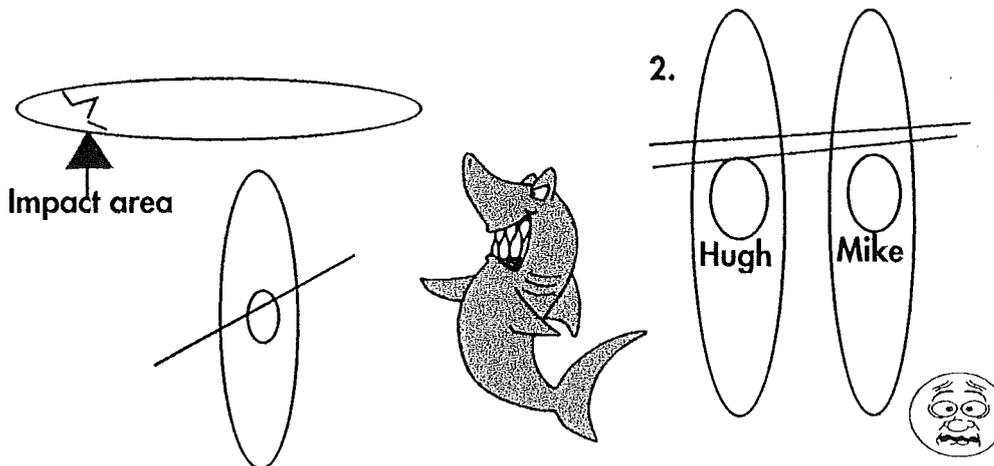
We launched at about 5pm. Clear skies, five knot wind, gentle swell slight chop, ideal conditions for a 3 hour paddle to find Paua. We launched from Woolleys Bay on the Tutukaka coast where we spend our Christmas and New year. Our route was to paddle direct from Woolleys Bay across Sandy Bay to the northern Wananaki headland. This route takes one about 2km. out at its widest point and is across depths of 20m. to 30m. I have paddled this solo over 50 times and Mike has paddled this at least twice with me, once in a storm. In 20 years of paddling the TUTUKAKA coast I have never heard, seen or smelt a shark.

We were paddling at a fast cruising speed to give Mike some practice at the finer points of paddling techniques. We both wore buoyancy vests. Time elapsed about 40 minutes. We have the sea to ourselves on the surface, no boats can be seen. About ten minutes more paddling to get to our snorkelling spot. We are about 800 meters from the rocks, paddling parallel to each other about 50 meters apart, Mike is seaward.

THUNK - I hear a noise of something hitting plastic, and I know it is not me because Kevlar has a different sound when hit and I'm still paddling and I don't have anything grey attached to my hull.

From this point on time is distorted and one's mind goes into overdrive.

I look right and Mike is no longer paddling or in view. Strange, surreal. Yellow hull with grey mass attached for a nano-second. Thinks - dolphins come in pads, they are friendly and don't hit kayaks that hard - thinks (Oh shit experience) probably a shark - Thinks got to get 6ft 4inches of dangling Irishman back in kayak real quick. Paddle to Mike. He is in water wide eyed have instinctively righted the kayak. The first words spoken by Mike are "I think I hit something."



This takes longer than I want, sweeps and draws don't get quick responses like in a down river boat. For speed I line both kayaks facing the swell and lean over to form the stable platform. I tell Mike to crawl in over the stern. He does this quickly. Thank God its not a big swell with high wind.

We don't have to go through step one of emptying his Kayak because he instinctively righted it while dangling in the water, very little water in his Kayak - I think "great" this will speed up the process. Have no thoughts about shark; to busy getting Mike back in kayak.

While paddling over to Mike's kayak I notice a long jagged gouge mark on the nose of his kayak. I did not tell Mike this until we landed. Thought that it is was not the right time to have a detailed conversation about shark teeth patterns while conducting deep water rescue! Final step, get Mike turned around into the cockpit - one of his feet (saddled) gets stuck - I belt his foot with my hand because I don't want him back in the water - the foot finally gets freed. Mike is safely upright and refastens his spray cover. Unconsciously I have held onto both paddles.

I ask "do you want to go On?" - he replies "yes but no so fast." In fact it was shorter to paddle to our beaching spot than paddle into WHANANAKI beach. Ten minutes later we are beached and I tell Mike I have something to show him. We turn his kayak over. About 1 metre from the nose are a series of gouges and indentations in the plastic.

The jaw covered 47cm of the kayak. About the width of Mikes chest. There were about four fine holes where the teeth have penetrated. I carried my emergency bag but neglected the duct tape.

I checked for paua while Mike took a break. No Paua!

We decided to paddle back around the many small bays keeping close to the shore.

We were back at Woolleys Bay about a hour later. Mike had about 2/3rds of his forward bulkhead full but this really didn't slow us down.

I won't go into our reflection in detail over the next two days before the story made the front page of the NZ Herald.

Mike remembers an explosive bang and a grey shape disappearing into the depths as he gets thrown out of his Kayak. Neither of us remembers the finer detail of shape, size smell or sped of whatever hit the kayak. It obviously didn't like the taste, feel or smell of the "Yellow Yummy". Maybe the sight of a long tall Irishman dangling in the water scared it off?

### In Summary

1. The shark (or whatever) attacked from below the surface. We did not see any fins or signs on the surface before or after.
2. The "thing" hit at high speed. What I heard as a THUNK at fifty metres Mike experienced as an explosive bang.
3. The impact was enough to throw Mike out of the kayak.
4. Neither of us saw any detail of the "Thing". I sensed a large grey mass attached to the kayak for a split second, Mike experienced a grey shape disappearing into the depths.
5. Both of us had practised deep water rescues on various training courses but never together. The rear entry with both kayaks facing into the swell worked smoothly under the circumstances.

6. Outdoor sandals on big feet can be a hazard when re-entering the cockpit. They can get stuck increasing the risk of a further capsize.
7. The BARRACUDA and SEA QUEST are both stable platforms for sea rescues. Getting tall people back in the kayak appears more difficult than average sized people.
8. I have practised rescues in rough water and that experience helped.
9. Manoeuvring the kayak in all types of water is a must for coaches designing practice events.
10. Speed practise should be introduced when novices have mastered the basic deep water rescue techniques.
11. Sharks should be instructed not to attack without fair warning and frequency of attacks should be legislated through parliament.

The experts of DOC consider the method of attack indicates a Great White. We both agree that we didn't experience the "feeling" of fear because we were both so surprised and then totally focused on the task of getting Mike safely back in his Kayak. The experience was surreal and bizarre.

Kerry Howe one of those competent sea kayakers and close friend asked me how long it took to complete the rescue. My reply was that I had no experience of time passing but it probably took no more than five minutes from hearing the THUNK to commencing paddling again. I might write an article on the emotions and thought processes when focused on a critical task. I believe I was probably closer to being in a state of "flow" more on that some other time. Most people seek to replicate the state of "flow". I don't intend to seek that experience again.

## KASK Membership

KASK, the Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers, is a network of sea kayakers from throughout New Zealand. It has the objectives of:

1. promoting and encouraging the sport of sea kayaking
2. promoting safety standards
3. developing techniques and equipment
4. dealing with issues of coastal access and protection
5. organizing an annual sea kayak forum
6. publishing a bimonthly newsletter, "The Sea Canoeist Newsletter"

Our very own Vincent Maire is currently the Auckland representative and Publicity Officer for KASK, and he is trying to encourage Auckland sea kayakers to join KASK (not as an alternative to the Auckland Canoe Club, but as a complement). The greatest advantage of being a KASK member is receiving their newsletter which is edited by Paul Caffyn. The newsletter includes trip reports, book reviews, equipment reviews, new techniques, letters to the editor, and the "Bugger!" File – accounts on when things went wrong! KASK does not organise trips, but does run an annual sea kayak forum very similar to Coastbusters. This year their forum is being held in Nelson.

If you are interested in joining KASK, contact Vincent Maire, phone 09 424 2293 or email [Maire.Family@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Maire.Family@xtra.co.nz), for a free copy of the latest Sea Canoeist Newsletter.

## The Ebb and Flow

By Roger Lomas

How do you get to be in the right place at the right time? Ask Ryan Whittle who has lucked in twice recently. Rounding Billy Goat Point at the northern tip of Motutapu Island, our wandering Albatross paddler was treated to one of nature's spectacles. Thousand of Shearwaters were heading in the opposite direction skimming the water at wave top height. The second encounter with nature involved being in the middle of a food chain feeding frenzy. Out past Rakino Island, dolphins had chased a school of fish to the surface next to Ryan's kayak. As the dolphins were leaping out of the water, gannets were plunging in, all this just meters from his craft.

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*What's everyone been up to in the holidays? Our Fiordland expedition paddlers have now been there, done that. The ever practical Colin Quilter solved the problem of camping in the torrential deluge by taking an extra tent fly with him. This was strung up in a tree canopy and he then pitched his dome tent and fly underneath it, nice and dry, much to the envy of his companions.*

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Ann Scofield headed north to set up a base camp at Whangaruru Harbour and was joined by Lou Farrand, Ray and Margaret, Des Matthews, Matt Crozier and Tony Greaves with many others calling in as time allowed..

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*The secluded camp at Te Muri just north of Auckland was the ideal retreat for Wally and Sue Gilmer.*

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Pelham Housego explored the remote western shores of Lake Taupo.

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*Taking a well-earned break from his De Niro's Restaurant was Wolfgang Pohl. With a recently purchased Packhorse double on the roof racks he headed south. He called into Opoutere on the Coromandel and was most impressed with the performance of the Wharekawa Harbourmaster, David Lomas, especially with the way he keeps errant jet skiers under control.*

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House painting or a holiday at a Coromandel Beach Resort? A tough decision to make, but using good presidential judgement, Trevor chose a bit of both.

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*A big shark cruising off the coast of Whananaki up North had choices to make too. What to have for lunch! On the menu was a big brutish Barracuda sea kayak with burly ex S.A.S. man Hugh Oakley-Browne onboard, or a nice soft plastic Seaquest with a tasty little doctor inside. You guessed it, the tasty little doctor looked much more appetising than the big ugly Hugh did. Fortunately for the Doc, the shark didn't like the taste of yellow plastic and spat him out. Hugh assisted his unharmed friend back onboard and then to shore where a closer inspection of his craft revealed 15 teeth marks. Some of these had penetrated the hull and had allowed water to enter.*

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Boaties and fishermen in the Whangamata area were concerned recently at the sight of a sea kayak struggling to maintain buoyancy. The harbourmaster was alerted but after a quick glance through his binoculars, the fears were allayed. He spotted a smiling Trevor Arthur heading back into the harbour with a record catch of big fat Kahawai on board.

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*It's a good investment and it only costs an extra five dollars. Upgrade your membership to a family one if the circumstances are applicable. With the club membership about to exceed 400 any day now, demand for positions on the club trips is mounting. Membership has its privileges and its only fair that members get priority. Worth thinking about?*

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It was a strange sight indeed. A group of kayakers entered the playground at Okahu Bay and started a very close inspection of the playground Donald Duck. One mother fearful that they were going to interfere with Donald Duck hurried her child away. Fear not, they were only seeking the elusive "Treasure" which Jonathon Jarvis had concealed nearby in his Treasure Hunt.

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*Two more swim escort duties to perform. The next one is an easy paddle down the harbour with the swimmers and the tide. It's only from the Marine Rescue Centre to the Tamaki Yacht Club just past Okahu Bay. If you haven't been on one of these events before it's a good time to, come along. A full briefing will be given before the start so you will know what to do. It's really just keeping an eye on the swimmers. Our club will again provide a gourmet B.B.Q and cold drinks back at Okahu Bay after the event for our kayak helpers. The swim escort is an important revenue source for the club and helps us to keep our subscriptions low. Yes they do in effect subsidise the cost of your membership so it's only fair that we all make an effort and help out.*

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the club trip calendar looked pretty impressive in our last newsletter with our best ever January – February programme on offer. A special mention must be made about a couple of members who put in a lot of behind the scene work, to make it all come together. It was a combined effort from Ann Scofield and our new editor, Margaret Thwaites. Now that's real girl power. Well done.