



Newsletter

October 2001

Hello Folks,

Has anyone heard any weather predictions for this summer? If the weather that we have had in the last month is anything to go by it looks like we might be in for a hot summer this year, just right for that extended paddling trip. If you are planning a long kayaking trip this summer, please don't forget to assign a scribe!

To kick-off this month, Ray and I attended the last part of the first aid course and we are now both qualified First Aiders. One of the highlights of the day was the "Drowned victim" scenario, again staged outside the café. Peter Sommerhalder had talked me into "volunteering" to be a victim – never again – I was nearly a real drowned victim. Ray refused to go into the water – it was too cold and wet for him (and he calls himself a kayaker!) My eventual rescuers stopped to take off their shoes and socks before wading in to drag me out, and all that time I was face down counting the fish! Wally Gilmer was the real hero of the day – he waded in, shoes and all, to rescue his victim.

If you have seen Peter Sommerhalder lately, the reason he is looking so pleased with himself could be that Paul Caffyn has asked if he could re-publish Peter's articles on flares and survival packs in the next KASK newsletter. Keep up the good work Peter, I'm looking forward to your next article!

Peter wasn't the only one looking pleased with themselves this month. I have heard that my article on how to paddle faster has been reprinted in the Wellington Sea Kayak Network newsletter and will also be appearing in the KASK newsletter. When I wrote that article I certainly didn't think it would end up going all around New Zealand, I only hope that I got it right. As I told Paul, there is one serious omission in that article, and that was the advice that I got (yelled at) from Laurie Bugbee – "Pick up the pace, Curly!" When you've got a stroppy old codger yelling that at you from behind, you soon learn to paddle faster!

On the subject of being old, or 21, don't forget Rona's birthday party at De Niro's Restaurant, on Tuesday 16th.

This should be a party to remember and everyone is invited. The owner/chef, Wolfgang Pohl, is a club member and promises to cook up an Italian feast that will keep everyone happy. Wolfgang is a superb chef, and the food should be divine.

Don't forget to mark November 16 – 18 in your calendars. Rob Gardner has arranged a club get-together at Raglan, which will hopefully become an annual event. It should be suitable for all members and their families. A number of different events have been arranged for the weekend that should be both fun and informative. Hope to see you there.

Cheers,

Margaret

In this issue...

Tamaki River, by Rona Patterson; The Credit Card King and The Teacher Trip, by Sally Seagull; The Pinnacles Trip, by Des Matthews; Ebb and Flow, by Roger Lomas.

Useful phone numbers and addresses

Club address	PO Box 45020, Te Atatu Peninsula, Waitakere City				
President	Trevor Arthur	817 7357	Treasurer & Address List	Matt Crozier	817 1984
Vice-President	Rob Gardner	533 4061	Safety & Training Officer	Peter Sommerhalder	815 2073
Patron	Colin Quilter	630 2219	Storage & Club Kayaks	Lindsay Sandes	522 3344
Secretary	Rona Patterson	834 3399	Merchandising	Jonathan Jarvis	366 6805
Social Officer	John Hieatt	828 9673	Publicity Officer	Roger Lomas	625 8924
Trips Officer	Rob Gardner	533 4061	Newsletter Editor	Margaret Thwaites	292 7883
	rob.gardner@serco.co.nz			m.thwaites@xtra.co.nz	
	Mob 025 303 508				

The Club maintains two e-mail groups:

To subscribe to the discussion list, send a blank e-mail to: auckland-kayakers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

For event reminders, send a blank e-mail to: auckland-canoe-club-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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) and Sea Kayaking skills weekend, at Waiwera

Auckland Wilderness Experiences, Chris Gulley, phone 813 3369

Intro skills, overnight at Mahurangi - \$225

Details on web site www.nzkayak.co.nz/awk/awskills.htm

Rolling, Surfing, White water 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

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

White water, Multisport, Advanced Sea Kayaking, First aid and First aid refresher courses available.

Fergs Kayaks, phone 529 2230

Basic paddling skills - paddle strokes, rescues - Sunday morning, Okahu Bay - \$30 for Club members.

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

White water, and Multisport River Racing courses also available.

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)

Positively Outdoors, Liz Maire and Christine Mcloed, ph 473 0027, fax 473 0731.

Two-day OSH certified outdoors first aid course - \$130

10% discount if four or more club members enroll for a course.

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

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.
- 6 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.

Trips and Events Calendar

Remember to contact the trip leader before you set out. This is important because the leader needs to know the capabilities of those who are coming and to be able to contact you if the plan changes. **Please be aware that you paddle on a Club trip at your own risk.** Read the safety policy (page 2). 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.

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

Daylight saving has arrived and although most evening paddles should be back before dark, if you know that you will out paddling after dark you must have either an all-round white light, or else a large-lens (eg. Dolphin) torch, in good working condition, mounted on the outside of the kayak. 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, Okahu Bay. All skill levels welcome. Meet at Okahu Bay by 5:30pm, ready to be on the water by 5:45pm. An experienced paddler will be rostered on to look after new/novice/slow paddlers. Fitter and more-experienced paddlers can form their own group(s). Trips usually last 1 – 2 hours, destination dictated by tide, weather conditions and skill levels.

Thursday, Okahu Bay. Not recommended for new/novice paddlers because we have not set up a roster of leaders for new people. 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 5:45pm.

October

Saturday 13 or Sunday 14 Surf Play. The aim is gain confidence in the surf, get wet and have some fun. Time, date and place will be determined by Fridays' weather forecast. Likely destinations are Muriwai, Orewa or West from Waiuku Township. I'd appreciate the participation of people who have had surf experience to assist with safety and helping out others. We'll start with a bit of dry-land theory covering signaling, rips, breaking out, surfing in and the local conditions on the day. Bring a helmet if you have one, wear neoprene and consider attaching flippers (small buoyant ones) to the back of your lifejacket with a quick release shock cord loop. Some instruction will be provided but the day will not be suitable for novices. Paddlers will need to be competent in bracing, wet exits and swimming! **Phone Rob Gardner, (09) 533 4061 Hm, 025 303 508 Mob**

Tuesday 16 Rona's 21st Birthday Party. Rona Patterson has decided that she is going to be 21 (again!) and is inviting everyone to a dinner at De Niro's Restaurant in Mt Eden, starting at 6:30pm. For \$25 you will get starters, entrée, main, pizzas and desert (if you can eat that much), but you will definitely need to book first. To book your place, **phone Rona Patterson, on 834 3399 (hm).** Please book by Friday 12, so that Rona can let Wolfgang know how much of the restaurant to reserve for us. This should be an excellent party, don't miss out.

Thursday 18 A slide evening at Auckland Canoe Centre at 7.30pm. Presented by Chris Gulley of Auckland Outdoor Experiences, from his recent kayaking / tramping holiday in Alaska, it will include calving glaciers, awesome wildlife, icebergs and towering mountains. A sausage sizzle and refreshments will be provided afterwards. No charge, but please RSVP by Wednesday 17 October to Auckland Canoe Centre, 502 Sandringham Road, phone 815 2073, or e-mail ACC@kayak.co.nz

Saturday 20 Around Motutapu Island. Meet at the St Heliers boat ramp 8:00am for an 8:30 start. A prompt departure is necessary to make the tide at Gardner's Gap. This is a 40 km paddle with probably three stops. Paddlers should be able to maintain at least 6km/hr over the distance. The final leg back to St Heliers may be into an afternoon westerly headwind. This is a day trip but some people may want to part company from the group and head off for an overnight destination on one of the other islands. Peter will pass on phone numbers for anyone interested in this option.

Peter Gendall (09) 638 7759 Hm 025 761 977 Mob
Indsay Sands (09) 522 3344 Hm 021 895 940 Mob

Labour Weekend 20th to 22nd Stony Batter (Waiheke). A two or three day paddle around Waiheke including an overnight stop on Ponui Island. This trip will have to be limited to six people due to camping

restrictions so get in touch with Matt sooner rather than later. Departure details will be discussed over the phone. Phone Matt Crozier, (09) 817 1984 (hm), or 025 662 3842 (Mob).

Labour Weekend 20th to 22nd Anywhere. Rona has kindly offered to go for a 'short' paddle with anyone who's been left at home on the long weekend. Give her a call on the Friday with a suggestion (Pollen Island, Browns Island etc) and something will be organized. Phone Rona Patterson, on (09) 834 3399 (Hm).

Saturday 28 Kawau Island. Meet at Jones Bay, Tawharanui Regional Park at 9:00am for a 10:00am start. We will paddle over to Mansion House for lunch, and an explore, then return to Jones Bay. Paddling time is about 4 hours on the water. Phone Vincent Maire, on (09) 424 2293.

November

Saturday 3 Sea Kayak and Surf Ski Race, Okahu Bay. Roger is back in action and will be running one of his popular fun races. Handicaps will be applied according to age, gender, boat type and bribery! No need to pre-enter, just turn up at the boat ramp behind Ferg's Kayaks. Race briefing will be at 8:00am, race start at 8:30am. There will be a 10km course for the "serious" types and a 5km course for the less hardy. \$5 entry fee and a BBQ afterwards. For more information, contact Roger Lomas, phone 625 8924.

Sunday 4 Ponui Island Circumnavigation. This is last month's trip rescheduled for better weather! Meet at Kawakawa Bay boat ramp at 8:00am for an 8:30am departure. The distance is about 35km without exploring. The east side of Ponui can be rough, so if the weather is nasty we will have to rethink where we're going and what we're doing. The paddle is suitable for people who are reasonably fit and have moderate to intermediate experience levels. Phone Brian Strid, (09) 236 3884.

Weekend 10 & 11th "Exploring the Coromandel Peninsular". This is the first in a series of Coromandel paddles that we will be running during summer. The aim is to do a section of the coast each month and ultimately cover the entire Peninsular. For the first leg we go from Kawakawa Bay and stop the night at Miranda Naturalist Trust. There are bunkrooms and kitchen facilities etc for \$15 /night (Only need food and a sleeping bag). Sunday we leave for Thames - either crossing the Firth or going around it and arriving at about 2 pm. High tide is 4pm. I am hoping to arrange transport back to Kawakawa Bay but I may require some assistance with this. Feel free to come for part of the trip if you can't commit to the full weekend. Contact Willie Taylor on (07) 868 8782 (Hm), or e-mail: taylor@maxnet.co.nz

Weekend 17th and 18th SOS Camp (Start of Summer), Kopua Holiday Park, Raglan. Bring the family and come along for a social weekend doing some skills training, exploring the Raglan Harbour and general lazing around. Our Saturday night slide show/guest speaker is Clint Waghorn who has spent the last three years sea kayaking around Alaska. Try and get there for the Raglan Coastguard local area brief at 8:30 Saturday morning. The draft programme is as follows:

Activities	Time	Leader / Coordinator
Early arrivals, get organised and social evening	Friday - PM	Margaret Thwaites
Camping fees	Saturday	Matt Crozier
Introduction and brief on local conditions	8:30-9:00	Raglan Coast Guard
Club boats will be available for newcomers, kids & non-paddling partners to use on the Harbour	AM	TBA
Flat-water skills – Raglan Harbour	AM	Peter Sommerhalter, John Maynard
Surf skills – Manu Bay / Ngarunui Beach	AM	Ken Marsh, Rob Gardner
Swap-shop, gadget and helpful hints exhibition	Lunch	Everyone
"Raglan Harbour Discovery Tour"	PM	Tony Greaves
"Let's Go West" - Open ocean trip from Manu Bay	PM	Rob Gardner
Various non-paddling activities, relaxation or local bush walks	PM	Ann Scofield, Nichole Moorehouse
Trip Planning Meeting Dinner – Club Barbeque Swap-shop, gadget and helpful hints exhibition	5:00-7:30	Everyone
Guest speaker and slide show: Circumnavigation of Alaska by Kayak – Holiday Park TV Room	7:30	Clint Waghorn
Dawn paddle to a beach breakfast – Raglan Harbour	Sunday - AM	Rona Patterson
Club boats available. Paddle something different. Try someone else's kayak	AM	TBA

"Gone fishing Trip" – Raglan Harbour	AM	Trevor Arthur
Self-rescues, assisted rescues, towing and rolling – Raglan Harbour	AM	Ken Marsh, John Maynard, Rob Gardner
"Whatever you like". Instruction and further trips may be coordinated depending on bribery and motivation	PM	

Thursday 15th- Friday 16th or Sunday 18th- Monday 19th. A paddle along the West Coast. Either to or from the SOS Camp depending on wind direction and weather. It's about 65km from the beach west of Waiuku (Karioitahi) to Raglan Harbour. If we start on Thursday the 15th we'll leave after work and "crash" on the beach somewhere along the way. An advanced level trip involving surf and a reasonable distance.

Weekend 17th and 18th Trip Planning Meeting. We'll plan the next few months worth of trips during the SOS Camp so bring your ideas along. If you can't make it but would like to run a club trip, please let me know beforehand.

The above three events (SOS Camp – Trip Planning Meeting) are all being organised by Rob Gardner, phone (09) 533 4061 (Hm), or 025 303 508 (Mob).

Sunday 18 Swim Escort. For those who can't make it to Raglan we have the first of the season's swim escorts. It is from Herne Bay to Curran St, approximately 1.2km. Meet at Curran St 8:45am to be on the water by 9:15. Unfortunately club boats will not be available as they'll be down at Raglan that weekend; but we may be able to tee something up with Fergs if needed. **Please do phone Trevor Arthur, on (09) 817 7357, to let him know that you will be able to assist with this.** The Coastguard insists that there must be a minimum of 30 kayakers present before the race can go ahead.

Weekend 30th Nov - 2nd Dec Tiritiri Matangi. As usual there are limited spaces available for this premium weekend trip. This is a truly magic place to stay. If you think you are already on the list, please ring and confirm your place. If not, get in quickly or miss out. The travel options will be:

Depart Te Hururi Bay (Shakespeare Regional Park) Friday 10:00am

Depart Okahu Bay 9:00am Friday. Tide assisted trip.

Depart Te Hururi Bay 6:00pm Friday

Depart Te Hururi Bay 9:00am Saturday

Ferry crossing from Gulf Harbour Marina or Downtown Auckland arrives at Tiri approximately 11:00pm.

Trip organiser is Trevor Arthur, phone (09) 817 7357.

NZ Wild Places Challenge

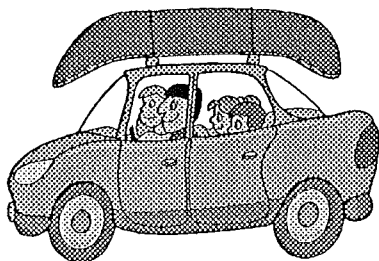
By Rob Gardner.

The Wild Places multisport challenge kicks off in Bluff on the 19th November then winds it's way up to Cape Reinga over the next four weeks. I asked the organisers whether other paddlers can accompany competitors on some of their sea kayak legs. We are very welcome if we can provide moral support to competitors and not be a liability to the organisers. The Wild Places web site is <http://www.nzwildplaces.com>

Here are the North Island sea kayak legs:

- 1st Dec Cook Strait crossing (39km)** A non-competitive group paddle but the pace won't be slow. I'd like to do this one and will probably drive down and cross Thursday evening / Friday with the paddle being on the Saturday. We can get a local tour operator to water-taxi kayaks from Picton around to the start point at Queen Charlotte Sound. This is an advanced level trip with a set date for the crossing and not necessarily ideal paddling conditions.
- 7th Dec Crossing Lake Taupo (21km)** This will be at a race pace on fresh water (evil stuff). I've got the contact details if anyone's interested.
- 9th Dec Crossing Lake Rotorua. (11km)** As above
- 10th Dec Tauranga, Matakana Island to Bowentown Heads. (30km)** Not interested personally but others may want to do this one.
- 13th Dec Coromandel Peninsular to Waiheke Island to Mission Bay. (31km and 19km)** This will also be at a race pace. A few people in the Club have expressed an interest already and I'm keen to give it a go. The 13th is a Thursday but what the hell, we're all winding down for Christmas at that time anyway!
- 14th Dec Long Bay to Orewa. (30km)** Dunno
- 15th Dec Whangarei Harbour. (20km)** Hmmm, maybe start the Northland family holiday early this year? I'm game for these last four race days if anyone else is.
- 16th Dec Russell to Paihia. (5km)**
- 17th Dec Paihia, Tareha Point to Te Tii. (20km)**
- 18th Dec Rangaunu Harbour to Otiaia Point (19km)**

Contact Rob Gardner on (09) 533 4061 (Hm), or 025 303 508 (Mob). Please let me know if you are interested fairly soon so that I can coordinate with event organizers before the race starts in mid November.

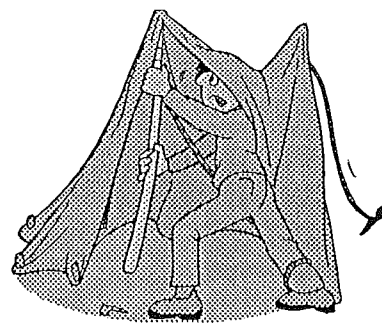


Auckland Canoe Club

S.O.S Camp

(Start Of Summer)
16th - 18th November

Kopua Holiday Park,
Marine Parade
Raglan
(07) 825 8283



Drive through Raglan Town Centre (there's a left turn after the Town Hall), over the river and turn right onto Marine parade – can't miss it

When:

Early arrivals, set-up and social drinks Friday afternoon 16th Nov.
Kick-off at 8:30am Saturday 17th with a brief from the Raglan Coastguard

Accommodation:

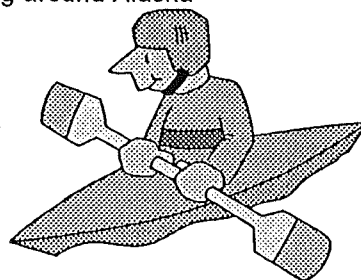
The club has booked an area close to the Harbour for camping. Cabins, Chalets (Bunk rooms) and caravan sites are available but people wanting these should work directly with the Holiday Park

How Much:

\$8:00/adult and \$4:00/child per night under canvas
(Bargain!)

What's on:

- Local knowledge brief by the Raglan Coastguard
- Saturday night guest speaker, Clint Waghorn who has been paddling around Alaska
- Flat water skills instruction on Raglan Harbour
- Surf skills instruction from Manu Bay
- Sheltered harbour and open ocean trips
- Club kayaks and supervision for children and non-paddling partners
- Club Trip Planning Meeting to cover the next few months
- Bush walks and other non-water activities
- I.e. something for everyone.



Facilities:

Kopua Holiday Park:

BBQ, Boat Ramp, Children's Playground, Drying Room, Fish Smoker, Linen Hire, Microwave, Recreation/ TV Room, Toilet and shower blocks, footbridge into town and of course kayaking. (You can check it out electronically at www.kiwitravelchannel.co.nz)

Raglan Area:

Golfcourse, 7-day shopping, museum, bush walks, swimming, surfing, Raglan Gardens, café's, restaurants, pubs, Waingaro Hot Springs, tourist information and much more

What to Bring:

All paddling, recreational, camping and social essentials.
Helmet, flippers, goggles and wetsuit if planning on going in the surf or learning to roll.
Any interesting gadgets to show off, swap or sell.

What Else?

We need a rough idea of numbers so that we can more accurately book tent sites and cater for the barbeque. We also need some more volunteers who can assist with instruction/safety and running some of the activities e.g. supervise club kayaks and children on the water. **Please contact Rob Gardner if you are planning on coming.**
Home Phone: (09) 533 4061 Mobile : 025 303 508 Email: rob.gardner@serco.co.nz

Around Auckland Paddle and Portage 2-3 March 2002

The paddling event not to miss!

Circumnavigate Auckland over two days with an overnight stop at Green Bay. This non-competitive, fun event will be for approximately 100 sea kayakers who will, over two days, circumnavigate the Auckland area. For those with a competitive streak there will be special timed stages. This event is intended to become an annual event - don't miss out being in on the first ever Around Auckland Paddle and Portage.

Beginning from Okahu Bay on Saturday morning, kayakers will paddle in "pods" (groups of 10) around the city bays and up the Tamaki River with the incoming tide to Otahuhu. Portage Road in Otahuhu is the first portage of kayaks to gain access to the Manukau Harbour to catch the high and outgoing tide to Green Bay. This will be the end of day one and the participants will stay overnight at the Motu Moana Scout Centre at Green Bay.

Sunday morning starts with the second portage along Portage Road in New Lynn to the Whau River where, once again utilising the outgoing tide, the participants paddle out around Pt Chevalier, under the Harbour Bridge to finish at Okahu Bay on Sunday afternoon.

Proudly supported by Outdoor Discoveries Ltd, Auckland Canoe Centre and Canvas City. The event will also raise funds for the Auckland Coastguard who will be assisting the event with safety boats and communications.

The entry fee will be *approximately* \$150.00 which will cover accommodation, dinner and event shirt. Limited to only 100 kayakers.

Don't miss out - pre-book your space by calling (09) 813 3369 or e-mailing discoveries@nzkayak.co.nz

Tamaki River.

By Rona Paterson.

When I arrived at Panmure wharf on Saturday 22 September at 8.15 am, I was somewhat surprised to find no parking anywhere and countless vehicles with roof-racks and cradles. I knew a group from our club were hiking in Coromandel and another large group were involved in first-aid training, so was surprised to see so many keen paddlers around.

No, they were not planning to come with the Auckland Canoe Club up the Tamaki River, but were outrigger paddlers who had a race day on the same river. No problem, we would just put in on the other side of the wharf and keep out of their way. Then I was approached and told that I should have liaised with the outrigger people. As it turned out, we only saw a couple of their canoes and we were well out of their way.

Ryan had left me a message that he would be with us, but had not arrived when we were ready to launch, but at exactly 9 am he appeared amongst us. You guessed it, he had paddled from Takapuna to join us, so we had nine singles and two doubles set off up the river in fine but overcast weather. My first surprise was the number of luxurious homes on the banks of the river. The next surprise was the country-side which appeared in the middle of suburbia – certainly very attractive.

As we neared the southern motorway at Otahuhu, the water started to get dirtier, and the noise from the motorway was almost deafening. A little further on, we went under a quaint rock bridge, which was the old Great South Road. From here on, the river narrowed and got much dirtier. We reached as far as we could go (without getting too tangled in the mangroves) much

sooner than expected, so an hour of our return was against the tide.

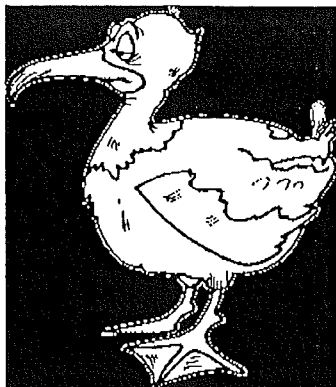
Pelham was a delight to watch, ducking and diving around in his white-water boat, and shoving a huge piece of polystyrene ahead of him until our lunch stop at a pleasant park in Otahuhu. Ryan knew exactly where we were because the hall where he had played badminton was in on the same park.

We had just settled with our lunch and Ryan had spread out his shirt to dry, when then the rain arrived. It really was only a drizzle, but enough to make us pack up again.

As we had accomplished what we had planned in a shorter time than expected, we then made a detour up the Pakuranga Creek, parting company with one single and one double as they opted for an early arrival home. The creek was nowhere near as attractive as the river had been, and by now the wind had got up and paddling became more interesting. In fact, we had quite a strong head wind on the homeward leg.

As it is expected on a trip with me, the tide was low on our return and the mud was waiting for us, but the outriggers were gone so we had the mud all to ourselves.

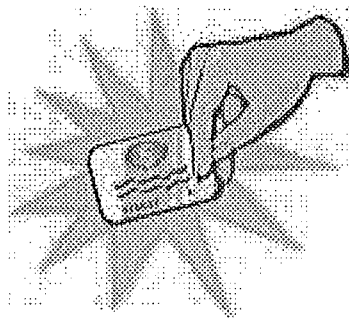
After packing up, a few of us were enjoying a cup of coffee when the second shower of the day arrived, which made us scatter for home, getting our kayaks washed for free on the way. It was a good day, in good company. Thanks to all.



Trip Report by Sally Seagull - The Credit Card King and The Teacher Trip

It has come to my attention that Lindsay always paddles with a credit card slipped safely into one of the pockets of his designer baggy shorts. The trip Jane and Lindsay arranged a few weeks ago around the familiar territory of Rangitoto and Browns Island was no exception. I am still not sure why this is?? Do the Westpac Trust Helicopter team require you to zip zap your card as they are plucking you from the white caps dangling in the air as you sadly look down at your upside down kayak bobbing precariously and deserted in the wild Waitemata harbour? Is it perhaps

needed to pay off an angry super yacht owner as your Kevlar hull scrapes the side of his luxury liner whilst you get that shot of a life time of the Orca and her baby? To my knowledge there is no thatched bar on stilts soaking up the sun on Browns Island, beckoning tired paddlers to don a sarong over their polypro and sip strangely named cocktails watching a Tom Cruise look alike do juggling tricks with his silver shaker as our trip leader treats us all - pulling out the plastic - paying discreetly as Tom says that will do nicely.



So still mystified, but grateful to know should Sally Seagull succumb to injury, my medical fees would be covered, we set off on one those deceptively calm mornings at Fergs, knowingly full well that within a few short hours the mirror calm harbour would be all white caps, squalls and the usual two paddle strokes forward and one back into 35 K winds. I, for one was happy to paddle around the breakwater a few times, just enough to get my new Orange Cap, with the rustproof brass clip, ever so slightly salty and then on with the fleecies and into the café for copious amounts of Caffeine.

We left one slippery ramp for another one and sat on Rangitoto in the wind, which of course, as the Met Forecast had predicted, was on the rise. Lindsay handed out some sort of raspberry slice which he said he had got up at the crack of dawn and baked but the Foodtown wrapper gave him away kind of badly whilst Margaret and Jane handed out other sweet carbohydrate treats.

I, still trying to persuade our credit card king and teacher leaders to forget Browns Island and head straight to St Heliers for a latte, was spectacularly unsuccessful, and trailed reluctantly along in a cross wind towards our next stop on the day's curriculum, with the waves making sure my orange cap was well and truly christened in the briny seas.



We arrived at Browns. I am still fantasizing that Tom Cruise may be there. Forget the bar on stilts, the cold cocktails and drafty sarongs. Now I am thinking – log cabin, crackling fire, mulled wine and Tom in beaver pelts!?

We had lunch on the windiest spot of the beach, draining the remaining hot drops of coffee out of our flasks. I am freezing and now thinking Lindsay some sort of sadistic monster. I am now losing control of my mind and considering stealing his yuppie phone and

credit card and ordering a warm and "covered in" water taxi to take me, and my wind battered XFactor back to Fergs.



Of course, I do not, ever the polite POM, I squeeze back into my soggy spray-skirt, zip up my life jacket (I am thinking I will need it) and head back into the wind warning on the Waitemata Harbour. It is a long haul back to Fergs but at least we are close to land and the tide is out – worst comes to worst we can walk back!

With the trip leader's permission, Margaret was granted to head home alone, and off she went with what seemed like a tail wind and not a head wind until she became a speck on the Mission Bay horizon. The more I see Margaret paddle – the more I am convinced she either has a motorized paddle or some arrangement with a big, buddy barracuda who tows her secretly and silently along at the equivalent of paddling warp speed!

The trip leaders are pleased with their trip and even more pleased that none of their charges got blown to Great Barrier.

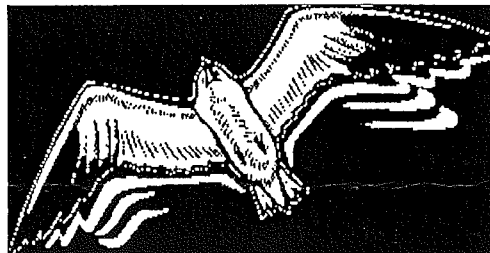
It should be noted at this point that despite the English satire, it was an excellently lead trip. The Sally Seagull Trip Award goes to Paul Buckley for rescuing damsels in distress with *"out of control slingshots"* and for *"parallel assistance"* for seagulls with injured wrists. Ryan, always the gentleman, as tail end Charlie must be thanked.

It is plainly obvious that Jane has spent far too much time with Matt Grant and has also angered the weather gods and must be added to the gallant group of trip leaders who are on the Sally Seagull list - "Likely to be Lousy Weather trip" so stay home in the nest and watch Cocktail!

And finally, Trevor, Jane, Lindsay, Buckshot and Ms Seagull decide to warm up in a local haunt of our leaders in Remuera and drink hot coffee and eat even more gooey treats. We bask in the late afternoon sun and the outdoor heater's warm rays, counting the golden retrievers and the BMWs. I am happy and warm and thinking at last I will see the "much mentioned" American Express card used. Surely they are accepted in a Remuera Café but as it turns out Lindsay had no cash and Ms Sally Seagull paid for his coffee.

Moral of this story - you obviously can leave home without one!!!

Yours SS.



The Pinnacles trip report (or Oh kayakers do have legs and can stand upright trip)

By Des Matthews.

Saturday dawned as it was meant to around 6:10 am but I was still in bed, no need to rush, only gear to pack and boats to take off the car, (off the car sounds wrong for a weekend doesn't it). We were off to use our little legs (rudder control thingies).

Arriving at the meeting point something was strange, no boats on cars, oh well we will walk instead. Up the steep track, why not? Why did I bring so much food, and none dehydrated.

We left in small parties to arrive at the top many breaks later. The hut is very large and sleeps up to 80 people (or 40 and another 40 awake to the snores of the first 40). We were lucky that the hut wasn't full, only 68 tonight. To be honest the hut is capable of coping with this number and their gear (wet and dry).

After refreshments some decided to see the view from higher up (not me) and then dinner was had, quiche, hummus, carrots, celery etc for starters, 2 curries, pasta, stir fry, cous-cous and more for mains and then to make everyone else hungry again apple crumble with custard for desert. After this we were all fat and bloated so on came a slide show from the ranger and then bed.

Plan for Sunday, eat all the food as the packs will be lighter!! Climb up the pinnacle to see the view, see an old stump that had 29 of us standing on its remains. Once again we departed in several groups and headed down Moss creek with its great views, old railways, non-kayakable waterfalls, rock faces and steep descents. Then bugger off home.

I must thank Anne S. and Nicole M. for organising this but Anne where were you? And I had heard you had some lollie cake for us, is this true?

Gap Filler!

Chewy Chocolate Fudge, Chocolate Chip Cookies.

2 eggs
½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
½ cup castor sugar
1 tspn vanilla essence
125g butter, melted
1 Tbspn golden syrup, heated with butter
1 cup (150g) plain flour

¾ cup (105g) self-raising flour
1/8 cup cocoa powder
½ tspn bicarbonate of soda
250g chocolate bits
1 cup (125g) chopped toasted nuts, optional
¾ cup (120g) sultanas, optional

Beat eggs and sugar for about 1 minute, or until mixture changes colour. Stir in essence, butter, and golden syrup. Mix in sifted dry ingredients, chocolate chips, nuts, etc. Mixture should be soft, add extra flour (1/8 cup) if too soft. Chill for 30 minutes. Use two teaspoons to drop dollops of mixture onto baking trays – makes 24. Bake at 210C (no fan) for 10 minutes. For more fudge-like biscuits, bake only 8 minutes). Allow to cool on trays for 2 minutes before transferring to wire racks for cooling.

New Web Addresses:

Wellington Sea Kayak Network.

Ian Jenkins has taken over the role of looking after the Wellington Sea Kayak network's web site. The new address is: <http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/ianjenki/SeaKayak/indexSeaKayak.html>

KASK

KASK have recently gone live with their new web site. The web address is: www.kask.co.nz

CLUB T-SHIRTS AND.....CAPS!

We have a new exciting range of T-shirts available for \$20.00 each. The new colour ranges are Teal and Airforce Blue and come in sizes XL, L, M and S. There are still some Ash and Navy T-shirts in stock and they will also sell for \$20.00 each.

Also, caps have been added to our club wardrobe. These are designed for the salty and sunny conditions and come with brass fittings. The colour of the cap is terracota and looks very trendy. The cost of a cap is \$20.

To order your club cap or T-shirt phone Jonathan or Denise on 3666 805 and they will arrange for payment and delivery.

Classified ads...

Wanted: Sea Kayak Double

Barracuda Outbacka or Sea Bear Packhorse in good condition. Please phone Carol or John O'Toole on (09) 445 1005.

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Tuesday 12 November.

A jolly big "thank you" to this month's contributors. Keep up the good work, and happy paddling.

Send articles to: Margaret Thwaites, 38A William Potter Lane, Karaka, RD1 Papakura.
Or e-mail to: m.thwaites@xtra.co.nz

The Ebb and Flow

By Roger Lomas

Want to feel safe at sea? Make sure one of the following people is on your next trip. Margaret Thwaites, Ray Clark, Paul Schupbach, Peter Sommerhalder, David Gardner, Julie Watkins, Jonathon Jarvis, Denise Young, Morgan Lewis, Barbel Rehfeld, Marcus, Lindsay Sandes, Ian Calhaem. Sue Chalk, Jane Robinson. John Hieatt, Vincent Maire, Stuart Webb, Kevin Willcott, Brian Strid and Wally Gilmer. They have all successfully completed the first aid course, run by Liz Maire and the team from Positively Outdoors, and subsidised by our club. Well done.

There will be some kayakers on a calendar after all but they won't be in the nude. A.C.C. club members David and Dianne Lomas and Wolfgang Pohl were returning to Westhaven after an upper harbour paddle when a photographer spotted them and asked if they would pose for an Auckland Waterfront shot for a pictorial calendar.

We need someone in the club to champion our right of coastal access. Another incident of this being denied occurred earlier this month on a club trip up the Mahurangi River. Are there any legal sea eagles out there?

The rock cairns just past West Tamaki Head have multiplied. There are now four of these hazards to navigation jutting up from the seabed and to make matters worse a hefty length of fishing line is strung between them. The bare bollocky boys exposing themselves to the sun on the beach inshore appear to be the construction culprits. Our demolition squad will be launching a raid shortly.

Back in the fifties and sixties before sea kayaking had been invented, river cruising was the big event. The club used to maintain a series of huts. Mainly along the Whanganui River for these trips, but they also had one near Auckland. This was on the banks of the Rangitopuni Stream just past Riverhead. It was used for training weekends well into the seventies but since then has lapsed into disuse. Peter Sommerhalder and John Watts are planning a trip back into the area to search for it or its remnants.

Unaccompanied adults will be catered for on the Raglan camp next month. The event has now been renamed because some members felt left out, as they had no offspring.

If you are not heading off to the camp the club needs you to help out with the first swim escort of the summer. This is a short pleasant paddle along the coast of Herne Bay. A B.B.Q and drinks are provided and the club earns good revenue.

A Quick roundup of news from the retailers and manufacturers. Joining the Ruahine Kayaks Adventure Duet and J.K.K. Racing Hypernova is the very quick Sisson Voyager. Steve Jurney uses one of these sleek craft for multi sport events like the Southern Traverse.

The new mid sized Barracuda prototype has now gone to the mould making stage and will be in production next month. Also at their Silverdale factory an ultra-light (14-15kg) racing version of the Discovery is being readied for the Wild Places race.

Down at Fergs Kayaks you can see the latest version of the X Factor, called the Euro X. A face-lift to the deck layout with increased storage and recessed fittings are the major changes.

The Albatross will shortly be back in production after a new hull mould has been made. The deck will also see some cosmetic changes.

If you enjoy a bit of wood smoke flavour in your cuppa, call into Canvas City and check out the Thermette. Its guaranteed to make you the centre of attention at any lunch stop and capable of quickly heating over two litres of water.

At the Canoe Centre in Sandringham, Peter and Su are getting ready to re house the club's old K4 racing hull. Later this month they will host Chris Gulley as a guest speaker on his recent Alaskan trip.

Sea Kayak racing will return to Okahu Bay next month. A 10km coastal course will be marked out on Saturday 3rd November. It will be run as a handicap event, using our tried and proven system that recognises that all sea kayakers were not created equal. Age and gender are also taken into account and this results in close racing with a good performance being rewarded at the prize giving. This year's event will be open to all single and double sea kayakers with a new class for surfskis. A 5km short course will be available. The entry fee is \$5 and this includes a good after race B.B.Q breakfast and drinks. If you are not up to racing speed yet, come along and watch as there is plenty of action in the bay and you can join in the B.B.Q. Meet at the ramp behind Fergs at 8am for an 8.30 start.

Don't forget Rona's big birthday bash at De Niro's on Tuesday 16th October.
