



Newsletter

November 2001

Hello Folks,

Good news – the trip reports are starting to flow in again (makes my job easier!) so I guess people have been out there enjoying themselves on the water. Sounds like the surfing session at Karioitahi Beach was a huge success – I received two reports, and those that went out want to go again! See the articles by Brian Strid and Iain Thomas to find out what it was like. All of the Labour weekend trips went ahead and I have received a report on each. A big “thank you” to all of the contributors.

Rona's 21st birthday party was a roaring success – luckily we had the entire back room to ourselves! (Rona provided lots of bubbly.) Wolfgang lived up to his reputation and provided a banquet to please everyone. There were people there that I hadn't seen for a while, including Laurie Bugbee who gave me a stern telling-off about what I had said about him in the last editorial! (In case you have forgotten, I described him as a stropky old codger that yelled “Pick up the pace, Curly”.) Laurie assured me that he does not yell! I stand corrected. Sorry, Laurie. I owe a huge apology to Nancye and Bob Lucas for misplacing an article sent to me via post. I blame Ray – he collected the mail, then left it sitting on the floor of the car for three months, wiping his feet on it! He said it was only junk mail! Better late than never, I've scraped the mud off and printed their story in this newsletter. My humblest apologies about the delay.

Chris Gully's talk/slide show at the Auckland Canoe Centre was very interesting. Next time I'm walking through bear infested country I'll know what to do – repeat “Yop, yop, yop. Bear, bear, bear...” Well, that's what Chris said he did! The Memphis Meltdowns, provided by Adrian Davis, were a welcome treat after the show, thanks Adrian (and are you going to Vincent's book launch next month?) Thanks also to Chris, his brother and the Auckland Canoe Centre.

The Labour weekend trip to Ponui Island was a superb example of “listen to the weather forecast and do it anyway!” The only time it actually rained on us was while we were paddling! I like paddling in the rain – it washes the salt off. We even had sunshine for most of Sunday and were reasonably sheltered from the wind. We found an excellent camping spot on Ponui Island – inside the cattle yards! Nice and safely fenced off from all those large “bulls” that serenaded us in the evenings. Adrian Davis insisted on having a pen all to himself, while the rest of the group crowded into another pen. (I wonder what Freud would say about that?) On Sunday, Matt impressed all the other tourists exploring Stony Batter when he pulled out his gas lantern and really lit-up the tunnels. Saturday evening, Alissa Good brought out two bottles of wine and then commented that it was hard work sitting up! A very enjoyable weekend. See Alissa's report for more details.

The weather is definitely warming up and the longer days are making overnight trips much more appealing. If you would like to run a trip, or have a trip run for you, let Rob Gardner know and he will help to get it onto the calendar.

Cheers,

Margaret

In this issue...

Local Kayaking Spots on Windy Days, by Gavin Baker; Putiki Bay with Pelham, by Nancye and Bob Lucas; Surfing at Karioitahi Beach, by Brian Strid and Iain Thomas; Motutapu Circumnavigation, by Lindsay Sandes; Ponui Island, by Alissa Good; Henderson Falls, by Rona Patterson; Sea Kayak Leadership Course, by Brian Strid; The Kingdom of Tonga, by David Ward; 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@yahoo.com

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

Rolling practice, Mt Eden Swimming Pool, Thursday evenings - \$10 with own boat, \$20 without.

Sea Kayaking intro skills (one day) and Sea Kayaking skills weekend, at Waiwera

Outdoor Discoveries Ltd, 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 enrol 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, John Maynard, 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.

November

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
Damping 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 and especially if you need to hire a boat.** The Coastguard insists that there must be a minimum of 30 kayakers present before the race can go ahead so please, please, please support this event. Roger will have the barbecue going at Curran St after the race and Jonathan Jarvis will be unveiling the new Club banner.

There is nothing programmed for the 24th and 25th November. Something may come from the Trip Planning meeting, which we'll publish on the chat-line. Otherwise, phone Rob Gardner on 025 303 508 or (09) 533 4061.

December

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. 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.

For those people who didn't make the overnight cut-off numbers, please feel free to come across and join us as a day trip. **Trip organiser is Trevor Arthur, phone (09) 817 7357.**

Weekend 1st & 2nd "Exploring the Coromandel Peninsular" – Second Leg. This is the second in our series of Coromandel paddles that we are running during summer. The aim being to do a section of the coast each month and ultimately cover the entire Peninsular. For this leg we'll have an 8.30am start at Thames and paddle to Waikawau Bay - about 25Km where we'll camp the night (still sorting out the site). On Sunday morning we'll go on to Long Bay, Coromandel. Hopefully I can arrange transport back to Thames in the afternoon but I may require some assistance with this. Again, feel free to come for part of the trip if you can't commit to the full weekend. **Trip organiser is Willie Taylor, phone (07) 868 8782 (Hm), or e-mail taylor@maxnet.co.nz**

Sunday 2 Tiritiri Matangi Island Day Trip. Meet at Army Bay at 9am for a 9.30 dept. We will join up with the weekend paddlers for a day of walking or paddling depending on what takes your fancy. Not suitable for novice or beginner paddlers. If the weather is dodgy, listen to 7am NewstalkZB cancellations. **Contact Vincent Maire on (09) 424-2293 or mair.family@xtra.co.nz**

Sunday 9 Swim Escort – Curran Street to Chelsea. This is the second of the season's swim escorts. Meet at Curran St 1:15pm to be on the water by 1:45. It's only a short paddle but has a great atmosphere and a barbecue is normally supplied afterwards. The Coastguard insists that there must be a minimum of 30 kayakers present before the race can go ahead. Remember that we get paid per kayak and it's a great revenue raiser for us. **Trip organiser is Trevor Arthur, phone (09) 817 7357**

Thursday 13 Coromandel Peninsular to Waiheke Island to Mission Bay. This is one day in the month long Mizone-Endurazone Bluff to Cape Reinga Multisport Challenge (www.mizone-endurazone.com).

We have been invited to provide paddling support on this leg so long as our kayakers are advanced level, self sufficient and capable of managing the conditions on the day. Competitors in this event will be sea kayaking from a Coromandel to Waiheke Island (31km). They then run 14km before getting back into their kayaks and paddling to Mission Bay (19km). A few people in the Club have expressed an interest already. It is a race but we are just there for moral support so don't need to keep up with the front-runners. Please let me know if you are interested fairly soon so that I can co-ordinate with event organizers. **Contact Rob Gardner on 025 303 508 or (09) 533 4061**

Saturday 15 Mathesons Bay to Goat Island. This will be a one-way trip so we'll meet at Mathesons Bay 9:00am to do the car shuffle with the aim of being on the water by 10:00am. A few people have expressed an interest in snorkelling around the island so bring your mask and fins if you want to go for a swim. Bring some bread along also as the fish at Goat Island will happily eat out of your hand. (They like frozen peas too! Ed.) There has been lots of interest in this trip so far as it has some stunning kayaking if we get the right day. The down side is that if the weather is not in our favour we will have to defer for a better day. For this reason please contact Alissa if you are interested in coming along. **Contact Alissa Good on 021 608 448 or alissa.good@firstbase.co.nz**

Weekend 14, 15 & 16 Mercuries, Opito trip. We will leave Auckland on the Friday evening to camp at Otama motor camp on Black Jack Road. To get there turn off at Kuaotunu about 10km past Whitianga. The motor camp has camp/van sites but no cabins. On Saturday we'll paddle out to Great Mercury and the middle islands which is about 35km return but with some stops along the way. On Sunday we'll have an early start and look at the islands around Opito which is about a 25km round trip. We'll plan on heading back to Auckland around 9:00 to 4:00pm. In good weather this is a really rewarding trip with spectacular coasts and caves although there is a tendency for the homewards legs to be against the wind and into a choppy sea. This trip needs fairly good weather and experienced paddlers. **Contact Dan Hawthorn 846-9572 evenings or email dhawthorn@unitec.ac.nz.** We will try to decide if the trip is happening on the Thursday evening beforehand. If this fails we'll try again in February.

Tuesday 18 BOOK LAUNCH – BOOK LAUNCH – BOOK LAUNCH – BOOK LAUNCH
Sea Kayaker's Guide to New Zealand's upper North Island.

The Auckland Canoe Club is pleased to be hosting the launch of Vincent Maire's book. This event will take place at the clubrooms, Okahu Bay. Be there by 7:00pm, ready for a 7:30pm start. Books, like babies, have a long gestation. However, unlike babies, books are blessed with wine and not water so the bar will be operating. Books will also be available on the night courtesy of Peter Sommerhalder. Vincent is looking forward to seeing us there.

Sunday 23 Christmas Champagne Breakfast. Low tide on the Waitemata is about 8:00am so we thought we'd have an end of year Christmas breakfast on Watchman Rock over by the Harbour Bridge. As well as your culinary delights to bring and share, don't forget something to sit on as that ground is hard. After breakfast you can go back home to bed or paddle off to some distant horizon with others depending on the mood of the day. We'll leave Home Bay at 8:00 for the paddle over there. **Contact Rob Gardner on (09) 533 4061 or 025 303 508.**

Mizone-Endurazone Bluff to Cape Reinga (NZ Wild Places)

Just a reminder for the keener ones that the Mizone-Endurazone multisport challenge kicks off in Bluff on the 19th November. The organisers are happy for us to paddle along and provide moral support to competitors on their sea kayak legs so long as we are competent for the distance and conditions on the day. The Wild Places web site is <http://www.mizone-endurazone.com>

Here are the North Island sea kayak legs:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 1st Dec | Cook Strait Crossing (39km) Currently there is a small group from the Club going down for this – weather permitting. Fergs Kayaks in Wellington will be assisting with the logistics. For safety reasons this leg will be a group paddle as opposed to a race pace. |
| 7th Dec | Crossing Lake Taupo (21km) |
| 9th Dec | Crossing Lake Rotorua. (11km) |
| 10th Dec | Tauranga, Matakana Island to Bowentown Heads. (30km) |
| 13th Dec | Coromandel Peninsular to Waiheke Island to Mission Bay. (31km and 19km) |
| 14th Dec | Long Bay to Orewa. (30km) |
| 15th Dec | Whangarei Harbour. (20km) |
| 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)

Paddle Around Cape Reinga.

Rob Gardner is planning on supporting some of the Northland legs of the NZ Wild Places Challenge (Mizone Bluff to Cape Reinga). When the event finishes around the 19th Dec he would like to do a paddle around Cape Reinga (Ninety Mile Beach to Parengarenga Harbour). If anyone else is interested please call on 025 303 508.

Cape Colville Expedition – December 28th to January 3rd.

Vincent Maire has a few days free between various holiday activities and wishes to use this time to explore Cape Colville. The plan is to meet at Colville township mid-morning on December 28th where we will load our boats. The cars will then travel in convoy to the Waikawau Bay DoC campsite a distance of about 12km. Return will likely be via a taxi van if it can be arranged.

Day one is 17km to Fantail Bay on the north-western side of the peninsula. This is a DoC campsite.

Day two is just 12km to Fletcher Bay with the option of walking the Fletcher Bay track.

Day three is either to the Stony Bay DoC campsite (10km) or to Port Charles (16km).

Day four (January 1st) is to Waikawau Bay which is 21km from Stony Bay or 15km from Port Charles.

Once here we have the option of ending the trip or doing a car shuttle to Kennedy Bay and then paddling this bit of the coast (15km).

To come on this trip you will need to:

1. Be good looking
2. Be able to handle the distances
3. Be prepared for surf landings on the eastern side of the peninsula
4. Have a sense of humour
5. Want to be part of the group
6. Have access to email so we can plan the trip the easy way

Please email your interest to Vincent Maire at mair.family@xtra.co.nz

School Holidays in the South Island and/or Stewart Island.

Ann Schofield is keen to hear from anyone who may be in the South Island between mid December and the end of January who would like to share an adventure in the outdoors (tramping, kayaking or biking). No specific plans or dates at this stage, but really keen to brainstorm ideas - from Stewart Island to Marlborough Sounds. I will have my mobile and lots of free minutes available all summer: 025 277 4055 - love to get a call!!

A thank you from Rona Patterson...

I would like to thank all who shared my 21st birthday with me - it was tremendous to see so many of you. It was certainly a birthday I will not forget in a hurry. Thanks also to Wolfgang - the food was delicious, as usual, and the venue was perfect. I hope you all enjoyed the evening - I certainly did.

Rona Patterson.

SK Leadership Course.

By Brian Strid.

Recently I was privileged to join the Tauranga sea kayak group on a leadership course facilitated by George Gerard and Graeme Bruce. It started with a four-hour session on Friday evening covering, among other things, an introduction to leadership, risk management, navigation, weather and an explanation of the Herron model of feedback that we would be using on all activities. I didn't listen very well and paid for it later.

Saturday was on the water with each of the ten participants taking leadership roles with various short trips and rescues and towing included.

Sunday was scenario day with the first leader negotiating a change of venue because of weather and condition concerns and then having to deal with problem people on the water and a tow to speed up the group.

Then it was my turn. I gave my briefing on land giving the route, destination, and how we were to proceed. I

thought I was in control but quickly realised I wasn't, there were kayaks all over the place. I had been set up and betrayed. Frustrated and disappointed, I showed I was a slow thinker who didn't listen to good advice and on top of that was displaying limited leadership abilities.

The debrief covered where I could have done a whole lot better. I should have delegated and had a person in front and at the back, but it wasn't until I had been away from the course and had about 24 hours to reflect that I really appreciated what I had been involved in and what I had actually learned.

I arrived back at work feeling like I had been away for a week or more.

Thank you George, Graeme, Carly, Kitty, Jean, Fred, Lois, Geoff, Joke, Monroe and Robin for some good laughs and valuable lessons on life and leadership.

How come women are so smart?

Local Kayaking Spot for Windy Days.

By Gavin Baker.

With the current spate of strongish westerly and easterly winds I have found that Maraetai is providing a good range of conditions for those who like to play in the waves. The westerlies are building up fair sized wind waves down the Tamaki Strait, which make for some good rides, particularly off the ends of the reefs that lie along the Maraetai shoreline. The sea conditions are suitable for all levels although the more advanced paddlers might find it a bit tame, but even they should find it to their liking further off shore. As the westerlies push the waves down the Tamaki Strait they are curved by the reefs to bring them into the beaches. One can therefore "pick" ones spot, so to speak. Beginners will find one to two foot wind waves coming into Omana Beach and Western Maraetai (near the Boat Club and Jetty). While at the Reef at the eastern end of Omana Beach, the conditions can get quite challenging with steep and close three foot waves and a confused sea accelerating over the shallowing ground at the end of the reef. A warning: stay 200 metres off the shore even at high tide as the reef has some high peaks which will do wonders to the underwater profile of a kayak! Having passed the shallows the waves flattened

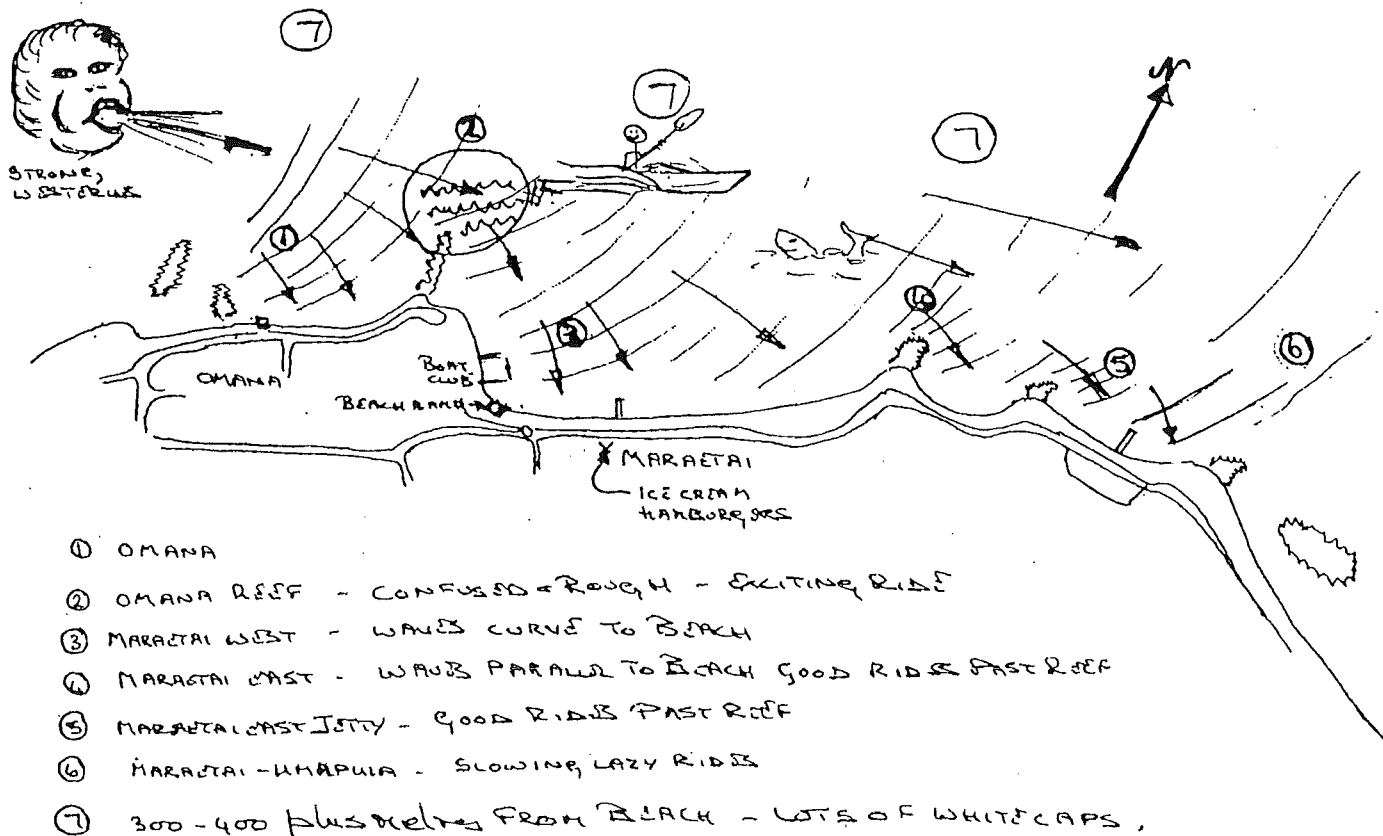
out and lengthen but still give a fast ride into Maraetai Beach.

The two points and their associated reefs at the eastern end of Maraetai Beach offer similar conditions close inshore, while if your skills allow, then bigger and longer waves with white caps make for quite good paddling further off shore.

The Easterly winds offer good rides from the Eastern reefs into Maraetia Beach.

The best launching spot in the westerlies is at Maraetai Beach boat ramp, just before the Boating Club gates, and has plenty of parking. In strong easterlies, launch at the east end of Maraetai Beach in the lee of the reef. Tidal conditions don't seem to have too much impact, but I guess three hours either side of high tide could be best.

They might not be the wildest waters in town, but, when the conditions are right, it can be fun and it is only 35 minutes from central Auckland.



Exploring Putiki Bay with Pelham.

By Nancye and Robert Lucas.

The weather forecast was for light winds increasing to Nor-east in the afternoon. Ideal conditions for a trip across the Tamaki Strait.

Rob had purchased for my birthday a pair of kayaking booties, a great improvement on the cheap sandshoes with the big toe peeking through and the worn smooth soles. Unfortunately I had recently had treatment for warts on a toe and could only wear jandals to protect my feet from shells, etc, when leaving and approaching each landing.

Some of us launched our kayaks. We then noticed Pelham and the others walking up and down the beach – he had mislaid his car keys. No, they were not locked in the car. They were duly found in the sand and we were off. Two doubles and five singles, one with a sail which caught the gentle breeze.

Just over one hour later we entered Putiki Bay and hugged the shore to do a clockwise circumnavigation of the bay. We chose a secluded beach for morning tea. Gavin's new Barracuda Expedition was on its maiden voyage. Out of the hatch came two chilled bottles of champagne. The kayak was christened sparingly, the remainder consumed by nine thirsty paddlers.

We continued on, the tide was high, and the sun shining. We paddled between the moored yachts, over mooring lines, through mangroves to reach another

beach for lunch. After lunch the tide was starting to recede. I put on my jandals once again only to find the mud had a mighty grip. With a huge pull I broke free and BUGGER!!! – my jandal broke.

We found a break in the mangroves which lead to the controversial houseboats. Some were quite substantial, brightly painted, with Solar Panels, windpower, plastic water tanks, hanging baskets, but had been there for some time as the mangroves had grown around them. Two others we passed in the channel were very basic. Further along we approached a bridge – the road to Rocky Bay. The sail and mast came down, but we were unable to go under – our flag pole was just too high.

Continuing on we thought we saw fish jumping. Bill was some way ahead of us paddling close to shore. He had stunned a fish with his paddle and had it flapping around in his cockpit and was wondering what to do with it. Nobody wanted the fish for dinner so Bill, like a great sports person, put it back to swim away.

The trip back across the Tamaki Strait was not helped by the predicted Nor-easter – there was no wind for the sail.

Thank you Pelham for organising this great day, and the weather.

Surf play at Karioitahi.

By Brian Strid.

I was at the beach just before Rob at 7.00am to find Dan had spent the night there (along with late night hoons and early morning horse trainers), then Ryan arrived and later, Ian Thomas.

The swells were not big, some breaking faces appeared to be about 1.5m but then I didn't get close enough to measure, being more than comfortable just playing in the soup.

Only one of us did not swim and he was successfully rolling under breaking waves while Ryan and Dan did have some rolls that worked. They were pretty pleased with themselves. I didn't mind swimming - first wet exit

in this boat, warm water and surf not as powerful as Muriwai - quite pleasant really.

I am sure that Karioitahi is one of the kinder of Auckland's west coast beaches where, without going into scary stuff, one can practice skills that could be useful on exposed east coast beaches. It still is, however, a typical west coast beach and has to be respected.

We did have popped hatch covers, most compartments with water in them and one paddle blade broken off on beaching but nothing alongside the tiring good time we had until we finally retired to my place for fresh bacon and egg pie.

Surf Kayaking at Karioitahi Beach.

By Iain Thomas.

Have you had one of those days out kayaking when, after it's over and you're reflecting on the days paddle, you realise that you have significantly advanced your capabilities as a kayaker? In some way perhaps you have put aside a fear, or discovered greater capabilities, exciting ones that make you want to go out tomorrow and do it all over again. And when the group that you have been there learning with, start talking of

their own discoveries, you know that this has been an exceptional days kayaking!

Such a day was the surf kayak, on the 13th of October at Karioitahi Beach, on the West Coast from Waiuku, led by Rob Gardner. What may have appeared to be an intimidating activity, turned out to be a rewarding and interesting experience.

The surf at Karioitahi is usually well spread out with a lot of small, re-breaking soup in shallower water which is ideal to practice in safety. Further out is the surf that has the clean front and height that surfers love. General consensus was that the surf is smaller here than Muriwai or Piha. As the beach is about 8kms long, it is easy to drive south down the beach to find a spot that has perhaps a rip for access and a place removed from the swimmers or surfers that are generally in front of the surf club. It's also good to get away from the inevitable hooners in their cars doing donuts to the right of the clubhouse. There is no need to go far, just a couple of hundred meters and still in view of the surf club. A retreating or low tide means lots of beach space and smaller surf. Driving on the firm sand is safe and letting some air out of your tyres gives extra traction if needed. This beach is popular and has a big crowd in the weekends, but we had the pick of the beach with an early start. It was still cool at 8:00 am as the sun had not yet cleared the huge sand dunes and the black sand was not too hot underfoot. We had the car park to ourselves and when we left the next group there were the hang gliders after midday.

After the brief from Rob, it was into the waves to learn or play. Paddling off the beach is easy even if there isn't a rip as the beach is so flat that there is lots of time to get spray decks on. You do not launch straight into breaking waves. Close in, the soupy waves run very close together. Further out there is more or less flat water before the big cresting waves, and just the spot to turn and play while still in the safety of the soup. Then it's a case of practicing bracing or paddling through broken waves or riding in.

It's hard work as the waves are unrelenting, although you can sit between the outer and inner breaks letting most of it roll underneath. Or if you are unseated, you can hold onto the rear of your kayak and let the waves wash you in although the bottom was never too far away. Some made a dash for the outside of the surf. This is an area where you want to be confident of your abilities and surfing on bigger waves. It's a great sight to see a white Barracuda or Mirage sliding along the face of a clean wave before it breaks. Or to see a kayaker roll in a wave, come up, and ride a bit more while bracing against the white water. I was glad of the loan of a helmet as several times I was on the wrong side of my kayak and felt it scrape over my hat when I was underneath it.

We found that we were paddling for short spells of about 30 minutes, and then resting on the beach to swap stories or kayaks. We had one bigger break for a hot drink on the beach back at the cars. By the end of the morning most of us had found our limits and generally it was our fitness that ran out first. Not so much our technique or being scared but the continuous energy needed when staying in the surf is quite demanding.

This is a wonderful way of rethinking about surf - to perhaps move it to a less daunting level when planning a trip and using it to up-skill our techniques. Maybe we

can have another surf kayak session soon. Just about all levels of kayakers can participate.

Thank you Rob, for sharing your birthday with us in one of your favourite places in a kayak, in the surf.

Attached below is Rob's handout brief for the day which you may find interesting:

Surf Brief Karioitahi 13th Oct 01

Local conditions

Rip, tide, sets, spilling/dumping waves, weather, others on the water

Distance out to the furthest breaking wave

Wave height - breaks when water depth is 1.5 times wave height

Safety

Surf club, first aid kits, no mobile reception

Swimmers, submerged stolen cars

Helmets

Shore safety person - lands "abandoned" kayaks, fins, raise hand if required

Beware weight of waterlogged kayaks

Elbows in when bracing

Hold kayak bow and stay on seaward side, don't put hands through toggle

Kayak in the rip but don't swim in it. Swim // to shore before swimming in

Shore signals: T= Wait for this set to pass, I = Come in

Kayaks

Everything secure, fins, spare paddles

Sea kayak deep V designed for running straight but hinders turning

Sea kayak low volume nose will dive for the bottom

Paddle leash pros and cons

Techniques

Rudders don't work in surf

Need to lean back with a following wave and into a beam-on wave. Use body weight

Stern rudder > low brace turn > brace > draw stroke and pull over the wave

These alone provide for a high standard of competence but rolling needed for big surf

If tipped try putting the paddle out at 90 deg & the wave/undertow may roll you up again

Etiquette

The person on the wave has right-of-way. Stay well clear

Roll if collision is inevitable but not if you are on a cresting wave

Kayaks and surfies - We catch the wave earlier than them and we can't manoeuvre

Launching

Find the rip, get lined up with it

Count waves per set and determine distance to the furthest breaking wave

Get set up on dry land, rudders up and locked

Get the feel in the soup first, plenty of room to play - No obligation to go all the way out

Breaking out

Pick the gap between sets

Paddle hard, lean well forward, reach forward and pull through the wave

Adopt the set-up position for big curling waves

Never adopt the "T" pose (smack in your face with the paddle shaft)

Roll under big incoming waves if you can - Get down and set early

Keep going out well past the furthest "known" cresting wave

Surfing in

Rudder up, everything secure, count waves per set

Find the rip, pick the gap between sets

Come in on the back of a wave - paddle hard but don't go over the falls

Back-paddle to let a near-cresting wave go under you
Paddle hard to oppose undertow and reduce next waves impact

Lean well back - risk of breaking bow on the bottom if you dive

Quick decision of which side to turn and brace

Lean hard over and brace into the wave (45 degrees plus), elbows in

Adopt the set-up position if you go over

Coming in backwards option - Paddle forward to meet each breaking wave

Roll with the wave option (Called playing sacrifice)

Labour Weekend – Henderson Falls.

By Rona Patterson.

The weather forecast for Labour Weekend was lousy, and the weather turned out to be almost as bad as the forecast. So it was that on Friday evening, all those people who had planned on a 'stay-at-home' paddle, pulled out. All, that is, apart from Ian Smeeton (who would make a decision the following morning).

Early Saturday morning after listening to the 'Now' forecast and the 1ZB forecast, I considered a paddle near the coast somewhere would be possible. So I rang Ian, who was getting his gear ready just in case a trip eventuated.

After discussion, we decided to see if it was possible to make it to the Henderson Falls Hotel before the tide forced an early return, as on our previous attempt. At 10.15 am we slipped into the water, through the mangroves, and into the Henderson creek. The sun shone for most of the journey and had only a little light rain. Less than an hour and a half later we were sitting on the bank in front of the Falls Hotel. The only obstacle we encountered was the pipeline, which crossed from

Tui Glen to the Henderson Park. With the tide so high, the water was almost touching the pipe. It was a squeeze and we had to hold onto the pipe to push ourselves under, but after getting stuck in the mud (twice) because of low tide on our first attempt, I would have been disappointed not to have made it because of too much water.

The return journey also took less than an hour and a half, but with the tide now lower, there was no trouble with the pipeline, and apart from some very strong winds, the trip was uneventful. The trip was timed perfectly, only touching the bottom for about 20 metres through the mangroves. Had we spent just a few more minutes sight-seeing, we would have had to take the long way around (again).

After our previous attempt on this creek where mud was the order of the day, I now have one witness that it is possible to get there and back (through the mangroves) and not to carry your kayak through acres of mud.

Labour Weekend, Motutapu Circumnavigation.

By Lindsay Sandes.

There is always one sure thing leading up to Labour Weekend..... the weather will be stormy or at the least, unpredictable. Sure enough, ACC trip coordinators exchanged many calls, checked the forecasts numerous times and generally called on the 'higher one' for divine advice before committing to their trips.

Peter and I, mid 40 something paddlers, decided we would go anyway, however with the weather pundits advising battening down the hatches, very few paddlers confirmed their participation....in fact only 1 for our trip.

Paul, who is most probably the fittest looking athlete in our club, joined us on St Heliers Beach at 0830 Saturday morning contemplating our final plan. 40 kms for the day did not seem that bad, or did it? As we paddled into an approaching front, Paul's paddling skills and strength became evident, as he seemed to make ground effortlessly. Remarkably, once the front passed over, the weather cleared and we paddled in warm sunshine to our morning tea stop, the far side of

Gardner Gap. Passing under the bridge on a full high tide was tricky, but worth the effort, giving us the view into lazy swells and calm(ish) weather on the western side of Motutapu.

Sea conditions on this side of the island make for good paddling, keeping you alert. The islands off Administration Bay beckoned, however the approach was tricky with surging, confused seas crashing around the rocky masses. After we safely passed between the islands we set out on a direct route for the top of Motutapu, to pass between Billy Goat Point and Rakino Island. The northerly swells were mostly 1-1.5 meter but occasionally crested at around 2 meters making for an exhilarating ride. At one stage I looked from the bottom of a deep trough to see Peter cresting a swell with at least 1/3rd of his boat out of the water. A real camera shot if I had not been concentrating on a low brace position.

The Americas Cup boats were duelling within viewing distance, and, moving closer and closer to us as they outran another front. This hit us as we passed through the Rakino Channel, making for challenging moments, and remained with us until we stopped for lunch. Paul erected a tent fly for some respite from the weather, but before long the sun came out again, staying for most of the paddle home.

The Eastern side of Motutapu has good rock gardening areas with a challenging narrow rocky channel into Home Bay. The plastic boats surged through with the swell, but the X Factor wasn't quite as lucky (nothing that a bit of epoxy won't fix). The weather slowly changed to a westerly and bordered on a head wind for most of the way home. A few squalls passed over, but

not the much-expected bad weather mentioned on the forecast.

The eastern side of Motutapu is an enjoyable paddle, great views to the other Islands however it seemed to take forever to paddle across the mouth of Islington Bay as we headed home to St Heliers. Perhaps we were lucky with the weather, however this is a great paddle and could be undertaken by reasonably fit paddlers. There are many good camping locations around Motutapu, or Administration Bay and Home Bay have all the comforts of regular camping spots.

We three had a great day, surfed a bit, soaked up some sun, learnt about GPS units and generally enjoyed one another's company. Thanks to Peter & Paul for their company.

Whether the Weather be good? and looking at Wethers! A Trip report on Labour weekend at Ponui Island.

by Alissa Good.

With Weather reports predicting ghastly weather a fearful 7 gathered at Kawakawa Bay on the labour weekend Saturday. Matt (our fearless trip leader) having studied the reports, went into negotiation with the man upstairs and had come to an agreement that the rain would only fall at convenient times. This being the case Matt had arranged our plans for the next few days based on this agreement.

We set out from Kawakawa Bay into a head wind (of course) and wound our way up to Green Bay on Ponui island. A reconnoitre of the bay established the best camping spot to be inside the cattle dipping coral. This may sound a bit odd but locking ourselves into the coral proved a good move when the next day we realised that a fairly large bull had access to the beach at night. We also appreciated the lush and well manured grass beneath our beds.

I snoozed happily in the afternoon while the energetic 6 rambled the hillside. Superior meals were served that night and of course the obligatory bottle of wine (and gnit's) came out.

According to plan the happy 7 set out the next day. All were shocked that we left on time to the minute. A paddle of 13 k took us up to Man o' War Bay on

Waiheke. From there we walked up to Stony Batter (some faster than others I might add). Stony Batter proved to be a more interesting spot than I expected. It is possible to ramble around the old tunnels that were set up during the war and pop in and out of the old gun emplacements. The sun was there for the whole trip and a tanned 7 lay in the sun for their share of vitamin D. The walk and paddle home left the tired 7 in a good mood for another gourmet diner, some more wine and an early night. We are almost embarrassed to say that diner took an hour as all the goodies came out and we grazed happily. Matt shocked us all by providing a tent-made cheese cake.

The next morning Matt came through with another gourmet delight in the form of pancakes. We did not spend tooo long over the meal as the homesick 7 could see the bad weather on the horizon. Off course the wind had turned and we paddled back to Kawakawa in a head wind. The rain came just in time to see us off Ponui and stopped just short of our destination, leaving the delighted 7 to unpack their boats in the sun.

Congratulations to Matt for having organised a weekend that was fun filled and absolutely well timed to the weather.

The Kingdom of Tonga, a feudal island in the South Pacific.

By David Ward.

In September this year I had the very rare chance to participate in 5 days of total freedom paddling to some small islands to the north and east of Nuku'alofa, the capital of Tonga, with friend Val who is working there. There are some 16 islands in this group, mostly connected by a shallow lagoon. The edge of the lagoon is usually marked by a sharp coral reef, well exposed at low tide and often causing a swell and breaking waves.

My flight from Auckland arrived at 2.00am, and after a lunchtime meeting with Val, I set off to the market and supermarket to procure supplies for our 5 days on the

water. Val left work early, and by 5.00pm we had her two Puffin kayaks loaded up with gear, food and some 30litres of water ready to set off. There was a warm 15 to 20kn wind coming from exactly where we would be heading but Val had checked with a friend at the met. office who was of the opinion that it would remain so for the next 4 days with perhaps the odd squally shower. So off we went. The tide was highish so we were able to make a direct line over the reef, and pass a couple of rusting wrecks, to the resort island of Pangaimotu. This island was not our destination, though the thought of stopping for a beer did cross my mind, however light

was beginning to fade and we still had 40mins of paddling ahead of us. A distressed turtle on the way distracted us, and so it was a mad scramble on arrival at Makaha'a island to pitch the fly sheet and collect dry drift wood for the fire before darkness arrived. We had a G & T while cooking which may explain why I'm a little hazy about exactly what we did cook.

Day 2 we had only about three hours paddling to do, so a leisurely start was in order. On rounding the north end of the island the 15-20kn north easter hit us on the nose with about 600mm of choppy swell, this increased to about 900 where a gap in the underlying reef allowed a larger swell to get through. The puffins were sitting low in the water, on account of all the gear and water on board, and crashed through the waves drenching us with spray, but the water was warm and with the air temp around 25 degrees, not that unpleasant.

Lunch stop was on the island of 'Onevai. We waved to a Tongan family outside a rusty C.I. shack and paddled on to a more sheltered spot to beach the kayaks. The coconut palms on these islands are to be avoided when selecting a place to sit or pitch the flysheet on the beach. We observed this rule when selecting our lunch site, but nonetheless were somewhat alarmed when 6 coconuts thudded to the ground not far from us. On looking round we saw a young Tongan lad descending from a nearby palm, a few minutes later he was by our side with the said 6 coconuts, and taking his machete, expertly opened two and offered them to us. Just the drink we needed. The remaining 4 he partially opened, such that with a decent knife the "stopper" could easily be removed, these we stowed in the kayaks for later consumption. The language barrier was no impediment to our expression of thanks.

After lunch a shortish paddle into the same wind and seas saw us on the island of 'Onevao. Sheltered sites for the fly, clear of coconut palms were rather limited, and the spot we selected was barely above high water. Strong looking Tongan males soon started to appear and thinking that it was their island, asked if they minded us camping. Go ahead was the reply. Through later disjointed conversations we discovered that they, (some 6 of them) did live on the island weekdays, in a packing case shed some 4metres square and within sight, through the jungle, of our camp site. They did not in fact own the island but worked for a company that farmed sea slugs for the Japanese to whom of course they are a delicacy. The farming was carried out in a manner not that different from mussel farming here. It was Friday, the end of the working week, and they announced that they were about to have a party, not exactly the idyllic island situation that we had in mind. It was however a quiet party, probably due to a shortage of beer.

Slept well that night, with the sea inching towards my toes, until I woke with a start with a crab nipping my foot. An hour or so later another had a go at my arm.

Next morning a few squally showers were coming through which made fire lighting for the breakfast billy difficult, luckily we had some newspaper with us, the

London Sunday Times no less, which saved the day. One of the Tongan's, on seeing our difficulties, produced a sheet of corrugated iron which he propped up over the smoldering fire, the pile of driftwood and myself. Being the chief firelighter, I was by now getting quite accustomed to having smoke in my eyes, hair, clothes, in fact everywhere, and enjoying every minute of it.

Day 3's paddle was again only about 3 hours, so no hurry to get away. A boat had arrived to take the Tongan's back to Nuku'alofa for the weekend, so we went for a walk round the island, about 10 mins. At the eastern end (very exposed) was a superb camping spot, complete with white sandy beach, where Val had camped on a previous trip. Further round was a new 2 sided shed, under which were the plastic fish boxes and sacks of salt for packing the sea slugs for shipment to Japan.

Setting off into the 15 kn easterly and choppy sea the island of Motu tapu was some 4km away, this island is defence property and landing is prohibited. It was quite a slog, made harder because the floor of the lagoon was visible most of the time through the crystal clear water, and so easy to measure ones progress with each stroke, mine being in millimetres rather than metres! Our destination for the day was Fukave, a further 4 km east. Between these two islands was a small white sand island, submerged at high water and devoid of vegetation except for a couple of sprouting coconuts. We couldn't resist beaching the kayaks here for a spot of beachcombing, a snack and a drink of cool coconut milk.

We were unable to steer a direct line for Fukave as waves were breaking on a reef. Paddling round it, we beached the kayaks on a white sandy beach. It was low tide and after finding a sheltered camping spot, unloaded our gear and carried the kayaks above the high water mark. Here we set up the fly a good 4 metres above the h/w line and had the luxury of finding an old unserviceable dugout canoe, which we were able to use as a seat. There was deep water in the lagoon, a sandbar, plenty of driftwood, what more could one wish for? - some fishing gear. Got the fire going for a brew but couldn't settle with a book, as there was "our" bay to explore and a swim looked tempting. Plenty of crabs about again, evidence of pigs rooting about, plenty of sea slugs working away at cleaning the sand and sharing the rock pools with a multitude of shoreline life. Ate well again on canned tuna, veg from the market with pawpaw, bananas and pineapple for desert, all washed down with some Montana sauvignon blanc, minimally chilled by burial in the wet sand.

Day 4 was a Sunday and in Tonga all work with the exception of food preparation, as well as recreational activities such as fishing, kayaking and card playing, which might have a fun element, are prohibited. We decided that this was a good excuse for a rest day. With white clouds drifting about the blue sky, and around 25 degrees, it was a good day to explore the coastline of this island (looking for food you understand), which from the chart looked as if it would take about 20 mins. As

we were getting back towards our camp we came across a large blue tarpaulin strung up between some palm trees. This was a fisherman's camp, with old tins, cans, bottles and plastic bags strewn about the place, Tongan style. Alongside was an array of dugout canoes with outriggers, all held together with string and rusty bent reinforcing rod. This really was a deserted island, our island for the day. Next on the agenda was a swim (again looking for food) followed by lazing about and reading, and then another search for food in the sea (unsuccessful). Snorkeling, unfortunately, looked to be further out away from the sheltered waters.

Day 5 was to see us with a wind assisted paddle for the 20km back to Nuku alofa, but guess what, the wind had turned 180 degrees and had not eased. So, an earlier start, and retracing our outward journey, with deviations round the other sides of some islands, spotted some 10 Tongan women working in the packing shed on 'Onevao. A wave, some shouted comments in Tongan, and lots of laughter presumably at our expense, was the extent of the encounter.

We made good time to our lunch stop on Velitua Hihifo, where we gorged our selves on the remaining fruit and had a little time to relax. Val was concerned that the tide was dropping, so we didn't linger too long because we had a reef to get over to get back to the Nuku'alofa waterfront. On the way we had to go right around the Pangaimotu reef where the waves were breaking in a serious manner, absolutely no thought of a deviation to the resort bar on this occasion in our sodden, bedraggled (me personally), tired, though very happy state. Picked our way through the reef to the Tongatapu shoreline ending a tough but enjoyable 6 hrs of paddling.

After unloading our gear and putting the puffins back in storage, we were waiting at the roadside for a taxi when a friend of Val's, from the NZ High Commission, drew up in a Land Rover Discovery, reg. NZ3. The friend very kindly gave us, and our wet gear, a lift back to town.

A truly fantastic paddle, superior in my opinion to any commercial operation, but hard to organize unless you know someone.....

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 terracotta 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...

For Sale: Prijon Topolino Duo – two person white-water plastic kayak.

Thermo plastic. Length 12'2", width 25". Purple colour. Excellent condition (not used much). Air float bags. \$1800 ONO (NZ new price \$2600). Phone Rob on 03 4883 883 or email RAD@botany.otago.ac.nz

For Sale: Puffin – plastic sea kayak.

Yellow, 1996, complete with split fibreglass paddle, spray skirt and cockpit cover. Little used and in excellent condition. \$1300. Phone Bob Martin, 8118 921.

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 11 December.

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

A few comments from the boat boy !!!!

Hopefully these few tips will assist in maintaining security at the lock up, as unfortunately this has been left unlocked recently, resulting in loss of hire funds. Both club and private boats are stored in the locker, and a few seconds to double check the lock is secure upon exit, and the right way up, does not seem an unreasonable ask.

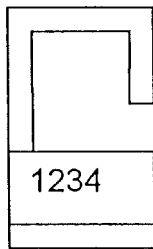
Hint..pretend these are the numbers on our padlock !!



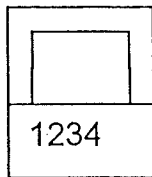
These numbers are upside down and short of standing on your head at the padlock, are difficult to undo.



These numbers are the right way up, and can be read from a standing position. This keeps everyone smiling



This is not closed, and therefore not secure



This is secure and up the right way !!!

Hopefully !! everyone has a better understanding of what we would like to see put into practise, making life much more enjoyable. Lets concentrate on security, paying for hire on an 'as used basis' (no IOU's as boat boy hates abuse) and ensure that club members investments are protected.

Thanks,
Lindsay Sandes

The Ebb and Flow

By Roger Lomas

This edition of the newsletter marks the first year in office for our editor Margaret Thwaites. What a great job she has done making sure each edition is out on time and crammed full of interesting articles. Take a bow Margaret.

They have been south, east and west. Now they are heading north. Ryan Whittle and Wally Gilmer have decided to amble up the coast this summer and see where they end up. Veteran expedition sea dog, Wally Gilmer told the Ebb and Flow that more club members should get out there and do an extended coastal paddle. "It's really just putting together five or six day trips", said Wally. (Don't forget to send in your trip reports.)

Exploring old shipwrecks is one of the pleasures of coastal kayaking. A little bit of research will often reveal an interesting past. At the southern end of Cheltenham Beach, about 30 meters out in the rocks off North Head rest the remains of New Zealand's first concrete boat. It was built in 1920 as a punt for the Cheltenham Aquatic Sports Society and ended up on the rocks in 1929. A large section of this 30ft by 20ft craft is still visible at mid to low tide.

Kayaking is booming in Auckland and this fact is born out by the multitude of cars around town with kayak racks. Fergs Kayaks have just opened a new shop at the Albany Mega Centre and a bit further up the road at Silverdale, Johnson Outdoors have a big new showroom full of kayaks. Silverdale is also the home of Barracuda Kayaks.

Whitebait being caught at Devonport wharf! It sounds a little bit fishy but an Ebb and Flow reporter spotted whitebait trawlers at work and went ashore to investigate. He found four fishermen sweeping the ebb tide with large hooped nets on 6 metre poles. One had a 20 litre pail almost full of the transparent wrigglers. They are not the same species that command the \$90 a kg price tag but are a very tasty alternative. It has been a Devonport pastime since way back when the wharf was built and the best spot is where the old vehicular ferry berth was.

With Christmas rapidly approaching its time for a festive outing. Last year we had breakfast at Bean Rock and this year event organiser Stephanie Seager is planning a festive function on Watchman Island complete with Christmas tree.

The days of parking off the street next to our club storage locker may soon be over. Congestion has increased dramatically over the last year with our booming membership, the café crowd and the outrigger paddlers. Each summer the yachties clog the area with their trailers and craft and now a new outrigger club has arrived on our patch. The Orakei Outrigger Club used to work off the beach in Okahu Bay but with the upsurge in popularity of their sport they are upgrading their fleet. The first of their new craft is the big orange O.C.6 parked over where our old club containers were. This will soon be joined by up to five more. The Hauraki and Tsunami Clubs are also looking for more space and the council has put up a fence to stop us encroaching on the yacht haul out area. Something has got to give soon and all day parking looks like being the loser. A loading only zone would probably be an option. One good thing to come out of it all is that the Orakei paddlers are the Tangata Whenua and it would be very difficult for developers to move them (and us) on in the future.

Too close for comfort. That's what a couple of club members felt about a recent orca encounter. Out for an early morning paddle were David and Dianne Lomas and Wolfgang Pohl when they chanced upon a pod of the black and white beasties near the Rangitoto Lighthouse. David had paddled with whales in Tonga and was comfortable with their proximity. Not so for nervous whale novices Wolfgang and Dianne who were together in a double and rapidly heading inshore to view from a distance. The problem was that one of the juvenile orca had taken a fancy to Wolfgang in his black and white polypro outfit and was keen to accompany him. A mother with a calf joined them as well and as they approached the rocky shoreline the orcas gave an impressive demonstration of tail slapping. This was almost as spectacular as the splashing and thrashing paddles of a rapidly disappearing Wolfgang and Dianne.

David contacted orca expert Dr. Ingrid Visser (ph. 0800-7336722) who identified the mother by its dorsal fin description. She said they were stingray-hunting close in by the rocks. Later that day a club member spotted the pod in the harbour near the container terminal and a further report on the news said one of the orcas had been hit by a yacht near the harbour bridge.

Our last sea kayak race was run in squally testing conditions but it did not deter a fleet of 20 kayaks from taking to the water. When the handicaps had been applied, Maurice Hanvey won the 5km race with Nicole Moorhouse second and Ian Smeeton third. The 10km race was close with Andrew Matheson first in his brand new lightweight Barracuda Discovery, followed by Adrian Davis in a Sabre and Grant Stone in an Albatross. Rob Gardner turned up in a L'Ernova and was up with the leaders for a while but will revert back to his trusty Mirage for the next race. David Lomas and Brian Strid had a race long battle in their Barracudas until Brian had a collision with a harbour pile at the choppy breakwater turn. Our traditional hearty B.B.Q. breakfast revived the paddlers. Thanks to our race sponsor Canvas City in Hobson Street opposite the Police Station for the prizes. Racing will start again next year when we will run a midweek twilight series in February and March.