



Newsletter

March 2002

Hello Folks,

I jumped the gun a bit to get this newsletter out a week earlier than planned so that I can remind everyone that if you haven't already sent in your registration for the Auckland KASK Forum... do it now! This is an event not to be missed. If you are new to kayaking, the forum is an excellent way to pick up valuable pointers on kayaking skills. If you have been kayaking for a while, the forum could still be of value to you. I have included a copy of the registration form on the last page so that you can't use the excuse "I've lost my form"! See you there.

The trip-planning meeting went reasonably well. Lots of new members wanting to organise trips, but some need a few volunteers to offer their leadership skills to make the trips happen. If you have a bit of white-water experience and/or know the Wanganui River well, Trish Dowthwaite would love to hear from you. Trish is trying to organise a trip down the Wanganui River this Easter, but has not been able to find a leader yet. Volunteers please.

February has been an excellent month for paddling. Ryan Whittle and Wally Gilmer have just returned from a two week paddle up the coast. They started from Okahu Bay, Auckland, and finished at Matuari Bay in the far north. Throughout that time they had two bad-weather days, scored a couple of cans of cold beer off a yachtie, caught three fish, paddled through a huge school of blue maumau and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I'm looking forward to their trip report.

I think my trip to Motuora Island will have to be included in the "Bugger File". On Friday night the weather forecast for Saturday was "showers turning to rain in the evening, north-west winds 15 – 20 knots", so at 6:00am Saturday morning, to the sound of rain bucketing down, I cancelled the paddle – and then the sun came out! A few hardy souls did the trip without me and said they had a marvelous time – no wind, no rain. Luckily, Ken Marsh is on better terms with the weatherman and had superb weather for his Motuora Is trip held earlier in the month.

Steve Melrose had a successful hunter/gatherer weekend when he managed to fill the larder with Tuatuas one day and blackberries the next. The Tuatuas were collected on his Pipi Run, Orere area, and the blackberries were collected on Justin's River Bash, Karekare – Westcoast trip.

Both swim escorts and the Rangitoto Island inorganic rubbish clean-up were well patronised. Many thanks to those that helped. I think that everyone that helped with the clean-up was amazed by how much rubbish was there – heaps of bottles and tins hidden in hollows and caves, rusty water tanks for the guys to test their muscles on, and bits of rusty wood-stoves hidden in the bushes. It was an exhausted bunch of kayakers at the end of that day.

Roger's Twilight Race was a huge success – lots of competitors, prizes and food. When is the next one?

Cheers,

Margaret

In this issue...

An Update on Club Hire Boats, by Lindsay Sandes; **KASK Committee, The Wellington KASK Forum, and The Pillbrows**, by Vincent Maire; **Life Below the Ocean**, by Ann Schofield; **West Coast Wonder**, by Denise Young; **Officially Cancelled trip to Motuora**, by Iris Wegmueller; **Around Auckland and Other Bits**, and **Around Waiheke in a Day**, by Philip Noble; **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	578 1545
Social Officer	John Hieatt	828 9673	Publicity Officer	Roger Lomas	579 8799
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.

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 3399

Intro skills, overnight at Mahurangi - \$225. Details on web site www.nzkayak.co.nz

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

Regular Evening Paddles

Daylight saving will be ending on Sunday 17 March. After this date most evening paddles will be returning after dark and you will need to have either an all-round white light on a pole, or else a large-lens (eg. Dolphin) torch, in good working condition, mounted on the outside of your kayak. This is actually a legal requirement, so please don't forget your light. 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. Club boats can be hired at the subsidised rates of: \$5 to club members, and \$10 to non-members/guests. (At all other times, club boat hire is \$20/day or part day, for members and guests.)

Thursday, Okahu Bay. Due to lack of patronage, Thursday is no longer recognised as a club night, therefore subsidised hire rates no longer apply.

March

Saturday 9 Upper Harbour Meander. This is a good opportunity for new members to put their paddling strokes to the test as we explore from Okahu Bay to the Harbour Bridge. Bring drinks & lunch for a briefing time at 10.00 at Okahu ramp, returning via Devonport approximately 3 hours later & maybe a coffee stop. Suitable for all paddlers. **Call Lindsay Sandes the night before on 522 3344.**

Sunday 10 Okahu Bay Caper. This is a race with a difference.... Leaving from Okahu Bay this event involves paddlers in a return trip to Okahu Bay via Bean Rock and the Wave Screen, however, the first across the line may not be the winner! The person/s who can guess how long they will take to complete the caper will be the winner/s. Things you need to consider when estimating your time are distance (approx 7km), tide, weather conditions, number of rests you would like, etc, etc..... There is only one rule.....no watches to be worn or taken on board during the race. The race is open to members of all kayaking abilities. You can enter in a double kayak if you like. Registration is at 0830 and the race starts at 0930. The entry fee is \$5.00 per person, which will go towards prizes and a fully catered bbq afterwards. **Phone Jonathan Jarvis on 578 1545** for more details, otherwise see you on the day.

Saturday 16 Lucas Creek. Enjoy a tranquil paddle from Herald Island up Lucas Creek to Albany. This is a smooth water paddle and is approximately 6 km return. We will have morning tea at the half-way point and should be finished the paddle by midday. Meet at Christmas Beach on Herald Island at 8.00am for an 8.30am departure. This trip is tide dependant so please be on time. **Contact Jonathan Jarvis on 578 1545.**

Weekend 15-17 Auckland KASK Sea Kayakers Forum, Puriri Park, Orewa. Key note speakers, workshops, pool sessions and live flare demonstrations. "Scenario Sunday" paddle, in the Mahurangi area, designed to test your ability to deal with emergencies. Workshops include sea kayak design, navigation, paddle technique, treating and preventing kayaking injuries, birds and mammals of the Hauraki Gulf, and what does Justin have inside that boat of his? A social gathering for sea kayakers, with the opportunity to improve your skills and knowledge in the sport. Costs \$89pp. For more information, visit www.kask.co.nz. Registration forms are available at kayak retail outlets, or e-mail m.thwaites@xtra.co.nz with your postal address (please put "KASK Forum" in the subject line).

Saturday 23 Girls Can Do Anything! Long Bay Beach at MERC (South) End at 2pm This is a repeat of the very successful sessions run last year. It is for female paddlers - novices to experienced people are welcome. We will go through basic paddle techniques, self and assisted rescues followed by cake and coffee. It's a good chance to practice what you already know or pick up a few new tricks. Meet at MERC (South) end of Long Bay

Beach at 2pm. Numbers are limited so please call. Phone Rebecca Heap 473 0661 or mobile 025 2737675 or e-mail he@kristin.school.nz

Easter Weekend 29 – 1 Matauri Bay Base Camp. Easter is traditionally the time when the Club runs a base-camp holiday that the whole family can come to, so bring the family, kayaks, bikes, tramping boots, fishing line and deck chairs to Matauri Bay in the Far North, for a fun-filled weekend. There will be day trips out to the Cavalli Islands, along the coastline up to Whangaroa Harbour, and maybe even a trip within Whangaroa Harbour itself. There are some good walking tracks in the Whangaroa area, and backcountry roads for the mountain bikes. The Easter Bunny has even been known to visit on such camps. Pot-luck dinner parties may be the order of the day (if you want to share). Trevor Arthur will be co-ordinating this trip, and will be making a group booking for camp sites. To register your interest, phone Trevor on 817 7357, or book your own site at Matauri Bay Holiday Park, phone (09) 405 0525.

Easter Weekend 29 – 1 An Easter Expedition. The tides over Easter weekend are perfect for a Kaipara Expedition. The Kaipara Harbour is a body of water that deserves a great deal of respect and this trip comes with a few provisos. Firstly, it is not for novice paddlers. You will have at least a year of kayaking under your belt and be at an intermediate level. You will be familiar with group paddling, be well equipped, have done club overnight trips before and know all about self and buddy rescues. This is not a gut-buster and when paddling as a pod, there are to be no hares and no snails. We will not be doing huge distances, however, we could find ourselves paddling in fast currents and wind could be a factor too. You will need to be able to stay with a medium paced group that could be on the water for up to three hours at a time. It is also advisable to bring a set of wheels. The route is still in the planning stage however we will be visiting Poutu, Tinopai, Batley and Kelly's Bay. I have also arranged for cars to be left with a farmer. To register your interest please email vincent.maire@xtra.co.nz or telephone Vincent on (09) 424-2293.

Easter Weekend 29 – 1 Wanganui River. This trip is currently without a qualified leader, if you would like to lead this trip, in addition to enjoying the history and ambience of the Wanganui River over the four day break, please contact Trish Dowthwaite. Trish is currently co-ordinating a group, if a trip leader is unavailable this will not be an official club trip, but a group of individuals, self sufficient and responsible for their own well being on the water. To join this trip, you must be competent and equipped for 3-4 days camping and paddling, plus have confidence on grade I and II rapids, including the ability to complete an assisted rescue in flowing water. Numbers will be limited, please advice interest by 15th March. Contact Trish Dowthwaite on 846-1456 evenings, or 025 765 286.

April

Saturday 6 Browns Island – Bucklands Beach. 2.30 pm high tide. This will be a coastal paddle, the round trip being approximately 20 km. Our first stop will be on Browns Island for morning tea and a swim or a climb to the top where we can see the whole of Auckland. We will then paddle around the island and eat our lunch on Bucklands Beach. Afternoon tea will be at Karaka Bay, and the final leg home could be into a head wind. Please contact Rona on 834 3399 to register interest in this trip.

Sunday 7 Mathesons Bay to Goat Island, return trip. Meet at the Mathesons Bay carpark at 10:00am for a paddle up the coast to the Goat Island Marine Park. Bring snorkelling gear. Estimated paddling time is 2 hours each way. Lunch at Goat Island. The coastline is exposed to easterly winds and if there is a strong NE or Easterly-wind blowing there could be a surf landing at Goat Island. If the weather is unsuitable for the trip there will be a trip up the Matakana River, from Sandspit, instead. Please phone Trevor Arthur on 817 7357.

Saturday 13 Circumnavigate Motutapu Island.

Briefing time Okahu Ramp @ 8.45

Distance 45kms

Paddle time 7 hours, good fitness essential

Safety gear 1st aid kit, paddle float, baler, tow line, spare paddle (shared between the group) etc

Departure will be immediately after the briefing with a brisk paddling pace of 6-8 knots for the day. 1st stop will be at Emu Point, approximately 2 hours paddle from Okahu Bay. We will follow the Motutapu coast line exploring the rocky galleries and stop for lunch at Station Bay. The next leg through Rakino Channel can be rough with large swells sweeping down on the side of the kayaks. Good skills are necessary to clear this section of the channel at speed, with the usual roller coaster ride down the North West side of Motutapu and Rangitoto for a refreshment stop at McKenzie Bay. Then the normal battle into sth westerlies returning to Okahu Bay. We will cover exposed open water sections and busy shipping channels.

Contact Lindsay Sandes on 522 3344.

Saturday 13 Kaipara Harbour. No details available at the time of printing. Contact Brian Prikkel on 021 210 9201.

Sunday 14 Albany to Long Bay. For the fit and the foolhardy only. This trip is about 40kms and is not suitable for novice paddlers. The intention is to launch on Lucas Creek, behind the Albany shops, paddle out with the tide to Herald Island, continue out of the Waitemata Harbour to Devonport, and up the coast to Long Bay. There will be as many stops as required and there will be ample get-out points if anyone is unable to complete the paddle. A car shuffle will be arranged in the morning so that there will be at least one car left at Long Bay. **Contact Ray Clark on 2927 883.**

Saturday 20 Omaha River from Point Wells. This will be an easy, tidal estuary paddle, suitable for all skill levels. Meet at the Pt Wells boat-ramp by 9:00am. More details will be published in the next newsletter. **Leader is Brian Dorrell, phone 576 2366.**

Weekend 20 – 21 Overnight trip to Motuihi Island. Leaving from Okahu Bay, the trip to Motuihi is about 12km. Suitable for intermediate paddlers and you should be comfortable paddling into a head wind for an hour or so. Bring money for the camp fee. A kayak trolley will be useful as the camping area is a short distance up the road. Beware the mossies! **Please ring Matt Crozier 817 1984 for more info.**

Long Weekend 25 – 28 Autumn Expedition – Kawau Is. An opportunity to do some exploration on a grand scale, camping at Pah farm on Kawau Is and exploring around the area at a leisurely pace. Meeting at Martins Bay on ANZAC day at 9:30 am, (cars can be left at motor camp for a small fee). Departing at 10:00am for Kawau Is via Motuketekete Is, Beehive Is, arriving at South Cove around 12:00 for a spot of lunch. From there a coastal journey around to Bon Accord harbour where Pah farm is located, here a Tent City will be established hopefully by late afternoon. Friday and Saturday will be days for adventure, exploring, circumnavigation of Kawau Is, tramping on shore, fishing, visiting Mansion house etc, etc. We depart on Sunday, back to Martins Bay. **Please phone Jonathan Clarke on 4795833 (hm) or Morgan Lewis on 6204005 (hm).**

Saturday 27 Boys Wear Skirts Too! Long Bay Beach at MERC (South) End at 2pm. Having had plenty of flack about running the Girls Can Do Anything, this one is open to all comers - novices to experienced paddlers of any gender are welcome. We will go through basic paddle techniques, self and assisted rescues followed by cake and coffee. It's a good chance to practice what you already know or pick up a few new tricks. Meet at MERC (South) end of Long Bay Beach at 2pm. Numbers are limited so please call. **Phone Rebecca Heap 473 0661 or mobile 025 2737675 or e-mail he@kristin.school.nz**

May Provisional Calendar

Sunday 5 Tiritiri Matangi Island. Vincent Maire (09) 424 2293, email vincent.maire@xtra.co.nz
Saturday 11 The Noises. Brian Dorrell 576 2366
Sunday 12 Cambridge to Hamilton Race.
Weekend 18/19 Coromandel Harbour. Morgan Lewis 620 4005
Saturday 18 Circumnavigate Rangitoto. Lindsay Sandes 522 3344.
Sunday 19 Whitford Café for Lunch. Trevor Arthur 817 7357
Weekend 25/26 White Island. Brian Dorrell 576 2366.
Sunday 26 Waiau Pa – White-water day. Trevor Arthur 817 7357.

May AGM – Remits and Nominations Requested.

The AGM is coming up in May, Tuesday 21, and if anyone has any remits (changes to the constitution) would they please get these to the secretary, Rona Patterson, by 1 May.

Trevor Arthur wishes to stand down from the role of President, and, if Rob Gardner accepts the job offer down in Waipoua, we may also require a new Vice President. Rona Patterson, the Secretary has also said that she may be standing down, but there is a move afoot to try and persuade her otherwise! There will be places available on the committee and it is time for some new faces, so nominations please.

Changes to Club Boat Hire Rates and Club Nights.

As from 1 March, club boat hire rates for the Tuesday evening club paddles will now be:

- \$5 for club members, and
- \$10 for non-members/guests.

Thursday evening is no longer recognised as a club night, therefore the subsidised hire rates no longer apply. I.e. club boat hire will be \$20 for members and guests.

An Update on Club Hire Boats

By Lindsay Sandes.

The prolonged spell of good weather has resulted in increased utilisation of the club kayaks, both on Tuesday nights and weekends. It is great to see extensive use of this member facility for those occasions when a guest or friend joins us for a paddle. If you have hired a kayak on many occasions it is probably time to consider investing in your own kayak and free up the club boats for other new members.

When setting out on the water in club kayaks do not forget about safety regardless of the duration of your paddle. This applies to guests and members.

- Wear an approved life vest at all times
- Fit a secure spray deck
- Carry a baling device or pump
- Be able to re-enter the kayak either by Eskimo roll or by utilising a paddle float. Carry a paddle float if your roll is not bomb proof.
- Attend a basic skills course with an approved operator before heading out on club trips..
- Do not overestimate your ability to avoid putting yourself or fellow paddlers at risk.
- Be prepared to rescue yourself or fellow paddlers if the need arises.

Please, please do not drag the club kayaks across the concrete. Launch these on the water.

Make the most of the warm weather at the moment, and rather than blast off for a Tuesday night paddle, why not get together with other paddlers and practise a few tip ins, rescues, paddle strokes, re-entries. Better still, to avoid those embarrassing face plants from the ramp into the briny, practise launching as there have been some truly amazing sights the last few club nights much to everyone's amusement.

Above all, be safe, enjoy your paddling and continue to assist the Club with maintaining our hire fleet for everyone's enjoyment.

We have 1 space for hire in the lockup. This is a great facility and a brilliant convenience at the end of a long paddle, Just carry your kayak up the ramp, wash down and store. No difficult lifting onto car racks or time consuming packing up. If you know a fellow paddler who wants to utilise this facility, please refer on to me

KASK Committee.

By Vincent Maire.

Two club members are on the Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers' national committee. Vincent Maire, who has been KASK's publicity officer for the past two years, was elected president at the KASK AGM held in Wellington on 2 March. Rob Gardner has also joined the national committee as safety officer. The new committee will focus on some key initiatives this year and these include:

- Investigate opportunities to introduce a national sea kayaking proficiency test.
- Undertake a readership survey for the KASK newsletter.
- Plan for a KASK forum to be held in the Rotorua / Waikato area in 2003.
- Build awareness and membership of the organisation.

The KASK committee comprises Vincent Maire (president and publicity officer), Maurice Kennedy of Wellington (secretary), Max Grant of Ashhurst (treasurer), Bob Talbot of New Plymouth (North Island conservation), Rob Tipa of Dunedin (South Island conservation), Rob Gardner of Auckland (safety officer), John Kirk-Anderson of Christchurch (instruction officer) and Paul Caffyn of Rununga (newsletter editor).

Outgoing president Helen Woodward reported that the organisation had had a very good year in 2001/2 with membership increasing from 183 to 510 over the period.

For more information on KASK visit www.kask.co.nz

The Wellington KASK Forum.

By Vincent Maire.

Over the weekend of March 1 to 3 a KASK Forum was held at Titahi Bay in Wellington. Paddlers from the capital, the lower North Island and upper South Island attended. There were also people there from the West Coast, Te Awamutu, Taranaki, Christchurch, North Otago, Auckland and even a couple from Ireland who maintain membership of KASK.

The event started on Friday evening with a very good presentation from Antarctic adventurer Richard Reaney on Shackleton. Richard has made a number of trips to South Georgia and showed slides of this wild and fascinating place.

Next morning an intrepid bunch took to the water for a dawn paddle on a windswept Porirua Harbour. The plan to paddle up the harbour to a wetland was aborted due to the high winds.

The morning got underway with three workshops and following this all delegates took to the water. It was dark, windy and wet. The thirty-knot winds precluded a trip to nearby Mana Island so we gathered in our pods to practice self and buddy rescue techniques. Before long the sun came out and the wind dropped enough for us to paddle up the western side of the harbour to

where it enters the sea at Plimmerton. All groups managed to ferry guide to the other side of the harbour and back again. It was a tired but happy bunch of paddlers that returned for afternoon tea and a shower.

The evening started with the KASK annual general meeting then a slap-up dinner was consumed with great gusto. Some of the delegates had taken the trouble to come in fancy dress and prizes were given for the best costumes. As the lips were being smacked and belches suppressed, a strange piratical man appeared. He was the evenings' entertainment. Before long he had us breaking into teams and taking part in a tug-of-war. Water pistols were made use of and among the shouting, screaming and hurtling bodies, a feeling of absolutely positively madness took hold. The evening was consummated with the mad pirate being dunked into a wheely-bin of water. There was water everywhere and if the headmaster had been at the school, we would all have been put on detention.

The other memorable moment of the night was the sight of Paul Caffyn's bare arse as he readjusted his sarong. Fortunately dinner had long since ended so there was no vomiting or dry retching.

Sunday started with an hour walk around Whitireia Park. This was followed by some workshops and time on the water practicing sweep strokes or trying out boats courtesy of a number of trade people who were in attendance. The trade was a real attraction and seemed to be well patronised.

By noon the non-locals were getting boats on to roof racks and heading away. I was among the first to depart and in spite of the hectic schedule of paddling and partying, managed to stay awake until I reached home almost ten hours later.

There were 70 delegates at the event and it was great to talk with sea kayakers from other parts of the country.

The Pilbrows.

By Vincent Maire.

Some club members may remember Geoff and Sally Pilbrow from Bombay. I hadn't seen them on the water for ages and wondered what had become of them. Two years ago Geoff had a health scare and while wandering the South Island, he and Sally fell in love with a property in Duntroon in North Otago. They now live there. Geoff is retired and has kept busy by building a beautiful Guillmont cedar-planked sea kayak and Sally is building up her therapy massage business. Geoff was at the Wellington KASK Forum and he sends his regards to all the Auckland paddlers they left behind.

Life Below the Ocean

By Ann Schofield.

Matt, Nicole, Des and I enjoyed 3 weeks of adventure in the south island over the summer - away from TV, newspapers, people and information. Every so often, we popped our heads up briefly for air but soon headed back below the surface. I loved our tramping trip in Arthurs Pass (crazy, I know!) which can be summed up as follows:

*It rained and rained and rained
The average falls were well maintained
And when the tracks turned into bogs
It started raining cats and dogs*

*After a break of half an hour
We had a most refreshing shower
And then, a most curious thing of all
A gentle rain began to fall*

*Next day but one was fairly dry
Except for one deluge from the sky
Which wetted the party to the skin
And then at last, the rain set in*

Anonymous

Our kayaking was based at Titirangi Bay, Marlborough Sounds. There were 2-3 other camping groups present on the various nights that we were there; the campsite being a paddock, behind sand dunes. Only facilities - flush toilets. The best thing about the site for me was

that each camping group had their own personal fire going each evening.

By road, there is a long drive in - amazingly, it takes almost 3 hours to get there from Havelock (only about 90km!). Lots of unsealed and bendy roads - with awesome views too. A great DoC campsite en-route is the one at Kenepuru Head.

Our main kayaking adventure from Titirangi Bay was heading east around Alligator Head, into Waitui Bay, around Cape Lambert and into Port Gore. Matt, our cave specialist, was delighted with what he found around Cape Lambert: an enormous cave with 3 entrances. He did a few laps of course! Much of the coastline was very steep with rocky beaches. We lunched at a delightful spot about 1km passed Alligator Head. Quite a steep beach with small rocks, but with a flatish area at the back which could be used for camping (maybe!). The place we camped in Port Gore was next to a very old hut, on some farmland, but well away from any buildings ... tucked into Melville Cove at grid ref 081175. Next day we paddled back in choppy conditions and close to a white-out at times. I was grateful for the calmness of Des and Matt who were thrilled to get some breeze through their hair. No time to mess about today; left loads of places to be explored next time I am in the area.

Having been to the area, I now know what I'd like to do next time! It would be awesome to kayak around Cape Jackson on a calm-ish day. There is a homestead there which three others (Max Grant, Ken Parlane and Graeme McIntyre) who recently paddled in the area used for accommodation. Punga Cove, slightly further south, could also be used (a backpackers). This place is close to the road, so a put-in or take-out may be tempting for a one-way trip, but the public access to the beach from the road is a steep 30 minute track! I wonder whether it may be possible to get permission from the backpacker owners to go through their land.

There are lots of other islands to explore from Titirangi: Titi, Forsyth and Bird Islands, Chetwoods and the

Ninepins; as well as many bays around the mainland. It's definitely worth the drive in my opinion - but go for a few days.

Also check Canoe and Kayak's magazine, "Kayaking New Zealand" Issue 15; if you want to further research what Max Grant and his paddling companions say about their recent trip to the area.

Thanks heaps to Matt, Nicole and Des for accompanying me on this great trip. For Matt it was a 'home away from home' being at Titirangi Bay! I look forward to going back and exploring more another time.

West Coast Wonder.

By Denise Young.

Drink, food, first aid kit, spare clothes packed into the dry bag. Hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and booties. We are ready in record time on an overcast and windy Sunday morning with 12 other cheery souls primed for a day on the water.

But wait, there's lessthe boat, lifejacket, pump and paddle (and flame-thrower in Justin's case).

Not your typical club trip fare, but with no less anticipation. Relishing our unencumbered state we were ready to Ruuuumble in the Jungle down the Pararaha Stream in the Waitakere Ranges.

What a day to remember. No garden landscaper can do justice to what Mother Nature does, well, naturally. Jo impressed us with her knowledge of the local flora and highlighted the ignoramus sapien of yours truly.

We also learnt a new brace stroke....against the biting cold water that washed off the last of the sleep from the eyes...and numbed everything else. Were those squeals of delight or surprise? I noticed some of the guys were a couple of octaves short of a soprano.

Boulders and logs the size of cars, sheer cliff faces hundreds of feet high, majestic Nikau palms, surging waterfalls and as many blackberries as you can eat. This place has it all.

The highlight had to be the waterfall leaps and slides. Not only participating but watching the fish bowl expressions as each victim surfaced.

We eagerly await the slide show Justin and thanks again for a memorable day. Add that one to the Pool Room.

Officially cancelled trip to Motuora February 23

By Iris Wegmueller.

Margaret made the right decision when she cancelled the overnight trip to Motuora. The weather forecast was annoying to say the least, because it was not one extreme or the other. There was the possibility of a messy day on the water according to the Metservice weather forecast: increasingly strong winds possible but not certain, and NO windwarnings, as well as heavy overnight rain and a subsequent easing of winds. (Lovely for camping and preparing the meals outside!)

I left home without checking the radio, prepared to cope with anything that the sky would throw at me, keen to spend my weekend on the water, no matter what. I had no idea the trip had been cancelled and that was my luck! Surely, there would be heaps of like-minded people turning up and the weather forecast would most certainly be wrong - again! I left the dark skies of Auckland behind and drove to a sunny and warm bay where I soon met 3 other keen members of the club. The boats were ready and packed on the beach when the trip leader arrived to announce that the trip had been cancelled due to uncertain weather conditions. Margaret turned up just in case there were people who

did not listen to the radio before a trip. Certainly an outstanding attitude, I was impressed! Of course, her presence made us feel a bit guilty of not following procedures, but we had gone past the point of no return and decided to spend at least one day out there - if not two, now that our kayaks were all lined up and facing the horizon. It had escaped my watchful eye that Brian secretly unloaded all the camping gear from his Barracuda. It turned out he counted on Marke and me to share the space and the warmth of our tents with him... I stressed the fact that I had a ONE-person tent... I was even carrying enough fresh water for two days, just in case we got stranded on a lonely island for a few days.

The fourth paddler left us and went home when we were just off Sadler Point. The three of us continued happily aiming at the gap between the reef just off Saddle island. The conditions were tame, considering the forecast, and the sky was still blue! The tide was going out and the wind was picking up, but nothing we could not handle. After a break on Motuora we left for Motutara/Moturekareka, explored the old wharf on

Motutara and then the shipwreck on the other side of Moturekareka, followed by extensive rock-gardening of the West Blanche channel and the circumnavigation of the island. Brian was right, of course, with his prediction that the other side of Moturekareka would be dead calm. We had lots of fun exploring all the caves and rocks. Brian even started fishing, because the terns were busy diving just off the coast of Moturekareka. (He did not catch a fish then).

By the time we headed back, I was hoping for the front of bad weather to show up! The one day trip instead of the overnighter HAD to be justified by the arrival of some mighty thunderstorm or at least a little downpour...The sky was definitely grey now and overcast and we did examine the approaching rain-clouds with some degree of satisfaction. For now, the only rain we could see was falling elsewhere... That was when Brian and Marke decided to add a bit of Adrenaline to their system by racing each other to the next beach, where we were going to stop for a cup of coffee. I do not recall who won, but Brian fell out of his kayak and nearly lost his paddle when he landed, because the fishing line was tangled around his neck or something. Brian's days of winning against Marke, who only bought his storm last December, are numbered in my opinion. He might look a bit like a wizard, and act a bit like one too sometimes (especially when he is unloading his boat without anybody noticing, or reappearing from behind a rock in a most unexpected fashion), and he paddles a stylish Barracuda and easily

catches fish while paddling, but has not measured Marke's force yet. One really only needs to look at the man's body in order to predict his potential as a FAST paddler. (I did, but I don't know whether Brian did.) He did catch a fish just past Big Bay, which was exciting to say the least!

We had a great day, and the drizzle only reached us once we were back at the carpark. I had hoped for something more intimidating by then, like a small tornado for example. I know that Marke and Brian felt the same. We should have been rewarded for coming back!

Anyway, we had a fantastic day and enjoyed each other's company. I will take my chance again one day and meet up with all those who do not listen to the radio. (Next time, we might not be as lucky!)

(Note: I would like to emphasize here that the trip leader made a most responsible decision. The three of us were not novices and we had agreed to stay together at all times and turn back immediately in case the weather turned nasty. We had all the safety and survival gear needed for such a trip and at least one of us carried a cell phone. We discussed our options before leaving and made a plan for the day. We had an accurate judgement of the distance and conditions we were able to handle. Anybody new to kayaking should not endeavour to do what we did, unless they have a leader who makes responsible decisions on the water.)

Around Auckland And Other Bits.

By, Philip Noble.

Ever since I've been in Auckland (eight years now) there have been two trips I've wanted to do, around Auckland and around Waiheke. For whatever reason, I decided this was the year before I was in my wheelchair at a retirement village.

Because I live in Glendowie and usually launch at the Glendowie Boat Club Ramp, this was the natural choice to start from, so having looked at maps, charts and tide tables, I picked a couple of dates to work toward.

For around Auckland I decided to go anticlockwise in order to get to Great North Road in Avondale just before high tide, make the portage to the Manukau in time to catch the incoming tide and ride it up to Otahuhu, and get to the Tamaki River before the tide turned to come in again. 16th Feb seemed the date to aim for.

Luckily the weather looked good so at 7.00 AM I launched into a calm perfect morning, and soon got into a relaxed but brisk stroke. Passed Okahu bay at 50 minutes where I was watched by a gaggle of kayakers sitting off the wave barrier waiting for their trip to start.

1 hr 20min saw me at Watchman's Island stretching my legs and having a bit of brekkie. Time so far seemed good and the oily early morning flood tide was just what the doctor had ordered.

I hadn't thought to check what the west side of the Waitemata would look like from the water and had a job picking out Pollen Island and the Whau River. Luckily, as I was paddling to nowhere, a launch appeared from the nondescript coastline and I could make out some channel markers.

The Whau is longer than I anticipated and near Avondale is very polluted with oily scum and the odd rubbish bag floating amongst the mangroves, despite which there was a black swan cruising in a small area of clear water. The tide had some way to go and I found the scramble up the 2 meter steep bank a challenge, but big toes into clay banks are the answer, as well as an aversion to taking a dip in the foul water.

The jog/walk down Portage Road to Green Bay in the Manukau, with kayak on my newly made trolley, highlighted that when you do this sort of thing you should be either under 15, or an old bugger like me, to avoid the giggles and stares of the public to something different.

I caught the tide pushing up the Manukau and reached the upper reaches without incident except to observe that there was next no wildlife on the upper reaches of the harbour, bar one lonely duck with no apparent mission in life.

I had scouted the take out and aimed for the chimney to the right of Westfield Station. This allows one to navigate through the area with the least mangroves, and up to a storm water outfall where the takeout was easiest. To negotiate the multitude of railway lines, the railway people have been kind enough to have an easily accessible ramp and pedestrian bridge except at the end where the last down ramp has a switch back of turns, so I suggest you take the second to last down ramp and lift your kayak over the passenger line, through the gate and onto Portage Road.

The downside to one day paddles are that somewhere you won't catch the tide, so with the tide receding in the Tamaki I had to portage along Portage Road, left into the Wellington Highway and right down Panama Road to the ramp at the Outrigger club (approx 5 Kms). On the bright side I had just enough ebb tide so as not to be disadvantaged.

Finished at 3.11PM for an 8Hr 11Min circumnavigation.

Not bad for an old bugger!!!!

Around Waiheke in a Day!

By Philip Noble.

Flushed with the success of the Auckland paddle I decided to try around Waiheke but though it prudent to look for a partner. However due to the first date being foul weather and the second date not being suitable decided to go solo.

Phoned the Met service at 5:00am to hear that there would be light 15 – 20 km/hr westerly to south winds and easing in the afternoon. Time to go.

The tide was 3.6m with high at 12.45. Just right – so I thought.

Brisk 1 hr 45min paddle past Browns, Motuihe Islands toward the south tip of Waiheke. Met the incoming tide earlier than expected in the Motuihe Channel. A few nice wind against tide waves to surf then into flat water. Stopped for 10 Min brekkie break at the point of Owhanake Bay. Paddled on and met a guy on a Sit On ski doing some Long Line (50 meters) fishing. Said he usually caught a lot that way. A lonely 3.hrs 30 min paddle saw me at Thumb Point where I beached at a rocky unfriendly "beach" to ease a numb bum. Headed on to Garden Bay for a rest and lunch. Found two guys in kayaks who said they had caught 15 Snapper and were heading back to their accommodation in Man O War Bay.

I headed on to find that the tide had started to ebb down the Waiheke Channel and that the South wind was starting to stiffen. Pushed on to Orapiu where I had a short break before heading round the point. Curses, found the wind up to 30Km (spray blowing off 1meter chop). Bugger!!

Tried to paddle into this for 15 min but wasn't going anywhere, so decided to head toward Passage Rock and see if the "washing machine" would settle further out.

No luck.

Hoping that the mainland would give some protection I took a diagonal line toward Beachlands, but found that the only progress was to go to Whakakaiwhara Point. 1Hr 30min later I got "some" protection from the land and pushed on to Maraetai Beach for a stretch.

I headed on around the Omana Point only to be confronted with the full force of the wind and a distant view of Browns Island and Music Point (estimated at 12-15 Km), and no obvious protection.

After what had become a 10Hr trip, and feeling totally buggered, I decide I could finish this paddle another day (I estimated I had paddled 60 Km and that was enough).

Tips for future paddlers;
pick a definite calm day
start at Maraetai, to cut out the extra Kms not needed and give yourself enough time not to be caught by the tide in the wrong direction
perhaps anticlockwise may be a better direction (tide, sun in eyes all day)
be fit
think twice!!!!!!

No regrets and Good luck!

CLUB T-SHIRTS AND CAPS.

We have a wide range of T-shirts available for \$20.00 each. Colours include Teal, Navy, Airforce blue and Grey. Sizes range from small up to XL.

Also caps, designed for the salty and sunny conditions (brass fittings and all) come in the very trendy colour of terracotta. Cost is \$20.00.

To order your club T-shirt or cap, phone Jonathan or Denise on 578 1545 and they will happily accept your order.

Classified ads...

Missing: Club Equipment – Three Spray Skirts and Two Buoyancy Aides.

These items are missing from the Club storage locker. If anyone has any Club gear that they haven't returned yet, would you please let Lindsay Sandes know. Phone Lindsay on 522 3344.

For Sale: Albatross – Kevlar sea kayak.

In mint condition. Includes: night-light, towing eye, spray skirt. White hull, red and yellow deck. \$2800 ono. Phone Rob on 520 1266.

For Sale: X-Factor – Kevlar sea kayak.

Superb condition. \$2500. Could consider trade on a Squall. Phone John Duncan on 445 8074 or 025 740 402.

Web sites of interest:

Sea Kayaking Safety: www.marinerkayaks.com/mkhtml/Kyksaftw.html

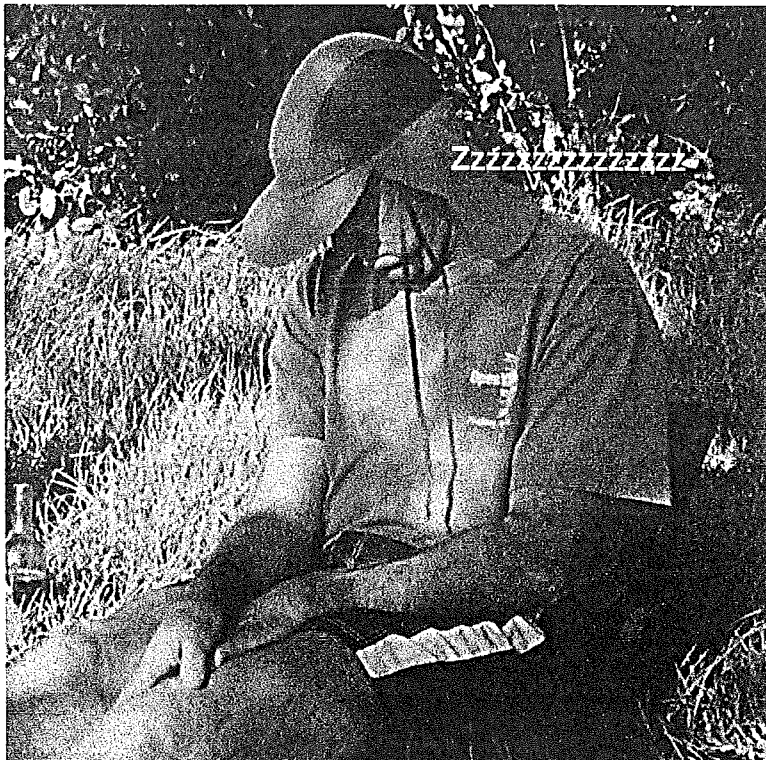
Deadline for next month's newsletter: Tuesday 2 April 2002.

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 following Photo was supplied by Morgan Lewis, and edited by Denise Young.

He's worn out a paddle and a seat, and now he's worn himself out – Ryan Whittle enjoying the ambience of Ken Marsh's trip to Motuora Island.



The Ebb and Flow

By Roger Lomas

Keeping fit with kayak racing promotes a good appetite, just ask Grant Stone. He was so keen to get home to wife Heather's evening meal that he left before the results had been tallied for the midweek race series that he had been competing in. At the prize giving ceremony that followed Grant was declared the winner, but since he was home tucking into dinner he missed all the accolades. A good performance deserves recognition. Well done Grant on winning the Ray Baker Memorial Handicap Series, run by the Waitamata Club.

The decision to remove the shower facilities from Motuora Island caused some of our kayaking fraternity to get in a bit of a lather. They were probably fearing a plague of smelly kayakers lurking in the Mahurangi, so their concerns were forwarded to the club committee where they were quickly dealt with by a Presidential directive. 'Take a solar shower.' Our good friends at the Canvas City Outdoor Centre can help here because at the moment you can buy two of these handy devices for \$30. Perhaps you might like to shower with a friend.

When the long distance harbour swimmers come past Okahu Bay in race 3, the club puts on a big B.B.Q back at the club locker for all our kayak helpers. There has been an added bonus for the last two years with Wolfgang and Ingrid Pohl adding their skills and flare to the occasion and giving us a taste of De Niro's at the Bay. A welcome treat that was enjoyed by over 50 members last month.

Some of our club members choose to swim in these events but in the water they are hard to identify. Our Alissa Good gave many a surprised paddler a cherry greeting from the briny in the last swim. The suggestion has been made to issue special Jonathan Jarvis swimming caps to club swimmers for future events and then we can give them some real moral support from our kayaks.

Towards the end of last month a small crowd gathered at Okahu Bay to bid bon voyage to Wally Gilmer in his Storm and Ryan Whittle in the wandering Albatross. They were off on a voyage of discovery heading up the coast for about two weeks. We will all have to wait for Ryan's full trip report in a future newsletter. However, unconfirmed reports mention two kayakers enjoying a cool lager courtesy of a passing yachty near Motuora Island. Further up the coast a week later there was a rumour that two kayakers were stranded at the Tutukaka Bar. A quick inspection of the marine charts revealed that the only bar at Tutukaka is at the yacht club. A local resident confirmed that two kayaks and tents were on the lawn next to it. A phone call from Wally to wife Sue a few days later had them in the Bay of Islands and Sue was getting ready to travel up and meet them at Matauri Bay. This is the location of the well-known Oceans Resort where many a sea kayaker has propped himself up at the bar to chat with owner Dover Samuels. Sue will no doubt arrive in time to ring the bell and announce "Time Gentlemen Please".

I didn't see that one coming – Lindsay Sandes was attacked by a large tree that branched out right in front of his speeding mountain bike last week. Collarbones take about four weeks to mend, so please help our boat shed boy make a speedy recovery by doing the right thing with gear in the club locker. Lindsay will accept all offers of coffee and sympathy at his resident seat in the nearby Boatshed Café.

Candidates attending this month's Auckland Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers Forum (what a mouthful- Coastbusters sounds better) will enjoy many unique opportunities as well as the usual favourites. Let's look at the unique. Sea kayaker, Justin Sanson-Beattie will reveal all. No don't run away, he is only going to lift the hatch covers on his big white Behemoth and let you have a peek at some of his seagoing paraphernalia. Justin has made a name for himself as a photographer, fisherman, tramper, gourmet outdoor chef and gadget man and it's probably the latter that will amuse you. Long-range weather forecaster and well-known sceptic Ken Ring will be along to explain to you how it is possible to predict the likely weather scenario a month or even a year in advance so we should at least be able to plan for the Easter Trip. Veteran Sea Kayaker Gerry Maire has something special in store for you on the Sunday paddle and brother Vincent will be on hand to autograph his recently published Sea Kayakers Guide, which you will want to buy. Rob Gardner will do the performing seal tricks in the pool. The whole show is being run by sea kayakers who all appear to be club members and if you are new to kayaking it will give you a good insight into our sport. Numbers are limited so it's first in.

At great expense to us, our trouser wearing P.M. enjoyed a visit to the Auckland Islands last month. The Navy and Air Force were obliged to provide the transport. Yes it was a bit of a slap in the face for the boys in blue to be asked to fly her back in one of the new Seaspray helicopters and good on them for making sure a mechanical fault forced her to endure a longer sea journey back to the mainland. If it was good enough for the P.M. to go there, so it should be for the average Kiwi and even our Aussie neighbours. Well that's just what is going to happen this week when a Dunedin based adventure charter yacht heads down to our southern islands with a group of seven Aussie sea kayakers on board.

Looking for a good 'do it yourself' role model? Philip Noble is your man. He arrived here with his family from South Africa some eight years ago and has been busy doing it his way ever since. Philip has just about completed his new house and will now spend more time back on the water where he will be very noticeable in his unique home built Hornet. This sea kayak has a bulbous bow and moves very fast with Philip on board wielding his home built winged paddle blades. A solo paddle and portage around Auckland late last month was completed in a very quick 8 hours and 10 minutes and yes of course the portage part of the journey was accomplished with the aid of a home built kayak trolley.

Great weather and a good entry made the midweek twilight sea kayak race a success. A handicap system that takes into account age gender and the performance level of your kayak is used. This makes it possible for John Hieatt to race his Spectrum against Roy Meehan's Slingshot. Gordon Robinson cleared away from the field in the very narrow, extremely tippy Torpedo and cruised home to take line honours, but that's not what this race was all about. When the racing fleet was all back on shore the handicaps were applied to the finishing times. At the prize giving ceremony, Shawn Diedricks was declared the winner in the big yellow Ecobezhig with David Lomas coming home second in an Expedition and Gordon ended up third on the Torpedo. The first eight paddlers were within two minutes of each other. Our long time supporters Brendon and Bruce Smith up at Canvas City donated a big bag load of prizes. A crowd of over 50 enjoyed a moonlight B.B.Q with Jonathon Jarvis and Rosie Thom sharing the chef duties.

Make sure you are down at Okahu Bay on Sunday morning for a great fun event. Jonathon Jarvis and Denise Young will be running the inaugural Okahu Bay Caper and everyone who enters has a realistic chance of victory. Speed will not win this event but a good guess will.

The Ninth Bi-annual

Auckland KASK Sea Kayak Forum

(Previously known as Coastbusters)

March 15th to 17th, 2002, Puriri Park Holiday Park, corner Puriri Ave and Centreway Road, Orewa.

Friday Evening – Registration from 6:30pm. Guest speaker, Ken Ring, on weather prediction, starting at 8:00pm.

Saturday Morning and Early Afternoon – Workshops, including:

- Sea Kayak Design – Renton Hunger
- Navigation for Sea Kayakers – Chris Gulley
- Paddle Technique – Bernard Fletcher
- Everything including the kitchen sink – Justin Sanson-Beattie
- Birds and Mammals of the Hauraki Gulf – Tim Lovegrove and Jo Ritchie

Saturday Afternoon – Pool demonstrations by George Gerard, Chris Gulley and Rob Gardner.

Saturday Evening – Guest speaker Mark Jones, on the sea kayak expedition to Antarctic Peninsular.

Sunday – Scenario paddle, followed by a flare demonstration.

The cost is \$89, which includes: morning and afternoon teas, lunch and dinner on Saturday and a barbecue lunch on Sunday. It does not include your accommodation or breakfast. If you wish to book a site for a tent, campervan or caravan at Puriri Park, please indicate this on the registration form below. The cost is \$10 a night per person. Your site will be reserved but you will have to pay when you check-in. Puriri Park also has cabins and caravans. Please contact Puriri Park direct on 0508 478 7474 or (09) 426 4648 to book this type of accommodation.

Please note that the Forum is not a suitable event for raw novices. It is expected that all participants will have had some previous kayaking experience. The event is limited to 120 participants. Bookings are first in first served.

Registration Form

Please cut out form and return to: Auckland KASK Forum, PO Box 72 735 Papakura.

Name:.....	<u>Emergency Contact (next-of-kin) whilst at forum:</u>
Address:.....	Name:.....
.....	Address:.....
Phone: Day (0).....
Evening: (0).....	Phone: (0).....
Email:.....	

Please book me a tent site Yes No

My cheque for \$89 (made out to Coastbusters Sea Kayak Association Inc) is enclosed.

DECLARATION I agree to abide by the safety rules set out by the Forum Organisers.

(Signature).....

Type and colour of sea kayak you are bringing to the Forum:

Will you be participating in Scenario Sunday paddle? Yes No

Skill Level. Please circle your skill level:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Novice | Just started sea kayaking, no formal skills training. |
| Intermediate | Some support strokes, can paddle at least one hour without stopping, can do wet exit and assisted rescue. |
| Advanced Intermediate | Can complete an assisted and self rescue in moderate conditions. Have completed day trips in a variety of conditions. |
| Advanced | Can roll a sea kayak in rough conditions. Have completed several challenging sea kayak trips. |

Do you belong to a sea kayak club or network? Yes No

If yes, which one(s)