



## Newsletter

April 2002

Hello Folks,

Happy birthday to me! Happy birthday to me! Yes, it was my birthday last week, and I now have a bottle of lovely blue fingernail polish to prove it. (I have been assured that it is an excellent shade for marking my camp-cutlery so that it doesn't get lost.)

Not only was it my birthday, but I think it must have been the Club's unofficial birthday too. All sorts of lovely treats have been offered to the club. All that hard work that we did collecting rubbish on Rangitoto Island is starting to look like it might pay off – the committee is liaising with DoC, and the Rangitoto Island Historic Conservation Trust, with the aim of the club taking on the lease of one of the baches on Rangitoto. Nothing is certain yet, but keep your fingers crossed, because the bach suggested is a beauty – the old Kiosk at Islington Bay.

They say it never rains, but it pours – and I think this applies to us this month. The ARC is looking for an organisation to take over the lease and interior maintenance of a bach at Lagoon Bay in the Mahurangi Harbour, and the Club is looking into this as well. This place would make an idyllic holiday bach – imagine spending a week paddling, relaxing, walking, reading, with a base camp amongst the trees, overlooking the Mahurangi Harbour. If there is anyone that lives close to this area and would be prepared to regularly inspect the bach, please give Trevor Arthur a call – it may influence the committee's decision on whether the Club has the support for this bach.

Did you see the article in the Weekend Herald, April 6-7, titled "Seized items a windfall for charities"? The article is about the knives and scissors that have been seized by Aviation Security Services at the airports around the country. In the article it states that the seized items are being donated to organisations such as schools, care centres, Scout and Girl Guide groups, the Salvation Army, "and a kayak club, which was given a box of multi-tools". When I read that, I thought "Oh, Bugger! Why didn't we get in on that?" Well, guess what? Thanks to our entrepreneurial Merchandising Officer, Jonathan Jarvis, we are that "kayak club"! The Club is now in possession of a box of pocket knives, multi-tools, and pocket cutlery sets, that will be distributed to members (priority given to those that have helped the club, eg trip leaders, newsletter article contributors, Rangitoto clean-up, swim escort helpers, etc), and used as prizes. So, if you would like to receive a knife or multi-tool, let's see your trip in the calendar or your story in the newsletter.

And, while you're all on that cheery note, I'll take this opportunity to remind everyone that their annual subscription, for the year ending 31 March 2003, is now due (unless you're a new member that joined since 1 January 2002, in which case your membership is up to date). I would also like to remind you that the AGM is not far away, and we would really like to see you there. Both Trevor Arthur, our President, and Rob Gardner, our Vice-President, will be standing down this year (Rob has flown the coop and taken up a job offer in Waiouru), so it looks like the elections will be very interesting this year.

Finally, as Chairperson for the Auckland KASK Sea Kayakers Forum, I would like to thank everyone – participants and organisers, for a wonderful weekend at Orewa last month. See you there again in two years time.

Cheers,

Margaret

### In this issue...

The Okahu Bay Caper, by Jonathan Jarvis; Girls Can Do Anything, by Rona Patterson; Auckland KASK Sea Kayak Forum, by Rona Patterson; Go North Young Man, by Ryan Whittle; Kaipara Harbour, by Vincent Maire; 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 Heatt	828 9673	Publicity Officer	Roger Lomas	579 8799
Trips Officer	Rob Gardner	533 4061	Newsletter Editor	Margaret Thwaites	292 7883
	<a href="mailto:rob.gardner@serco.co.nz">rob.gardner@serco.co.nz</a>			<a href="mailto:m.thwaites@xtra.co.nz">m.thwaites@xtra.co.nz</a>	
	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](mailto:auckland-kayakers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

For event reminders, send a blank e-mail to: [auckland-canoe-club-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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 - \$120 for four sessions.

One-on-One rolling, Henderson Pool, Tuesday evenings - \$149 for three sessions. \$55 for single 90 minute lesson.

Multisport Grade 2 Certificate, white water, sea kayaking one and two-day courses run frequently.

### Outdoor Discoveries Ltd, Chris Gulley, phone 813 3399

Intro skills, overnight at Mahurangi - \$225. Details on web site [www.nzkayak.co.nz](http://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 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

Because daylight saving has ended, 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 6:45pm. 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.)

## April

**Reminder:** Annual Subscriptions for 2002/2003 are now due. A membership renewal form has been attached at the end of this newsletter. Please renew your membership – we like having you in the club. New members that joined since 1 January 2002, please ignore this notice (except the bit about "we like having you in the club") – your membership already covers this period.

**Saturday 13 Kaipara Harbour.** Cancelled.

**Saturday 13 Circumnavigate Motutapu Island.** 45km, 7 hours paddling at 6-8 knots, good fitness essential. Bring your own safety gear – first aid kit, paddle float, baler, tow line, spit paddle (shared between the group), etc. Briefing at 8:45am at the Okahu Bay boat ramp, departure immediately after the briefing. First stop at Emu Point, approximately 2 hours paddle from Okahu Bay. We will follow the Motutapu coastline 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 refreshment stop at McKenzie Bay. Then the normal battle into south-westerlies returning to Okahu Bay. We will cover open water sections and busy shipping channels. Contact Philip Noble on 575 3493 (ah) or 273 4896 (DDI Bus Hrs).

**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.

**Saturday 20 Skills Session at Sullivan's Bay.** 10 am - 1 pm. Convener – Mike Randall. Meet at Sullivan's Bay for an introduction to 'scull' technique and 're-enter and roll'. As a sociable warm up, paddle over to historic Scotts House and back via Te Haupa. Back at the beach in shallow water intro to ways of practising the scull, ie, lying the kayak on its side while maintaining control. Also intro to re-entering a kayak under the water after exiting and using the paddle and body to return to upright. The morning is suitable for anyone wanting to learn, practise, or teach these skills. You will need to be able to use your knees or thighs to control your kayak. Bring

wetsuit, mask, nose clip, etc – whatever you feel comfortable with. **Any questions/comments to [mike-randall@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mike-randall@xtra.co.nz)**

**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 Tool** 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](mailto:he@kristin.school.nz)

**Sunday 28 Bottletop Bay to Drury APCC Race.** 16kms, including the infamous Karaka Rapids. 1:30pm, Reserve Wharf end of Oaklands Rd, Papakura. Entries on the day. Contact Adrian Davis on 576 0996.

## May

**Sunday 5 Tiritiri Matangi Island.** Meet at Army Bay at 9am for a 9:30 departure. Tiri is my favourite destination in the Gulf and we have the option of exploring the rock gardens along the eastern side or walking through the forest. May is the best time to see the birds as nesting has ended and the nectar flowers are abundant. This is a day trip. To register your interest please email [vincent.maire@xtra.co.nz](mailto:vincent.maire@xtra.co.nz) or telephone Vincent on (09) 424-2293.

**Sunday 5 Cambridge to Hamilton Race.** Previously run by the Auckland Canoe Club, now run by the Auckland Canoe Centre. Major spot prizes including a Paddling Perfection Tri-Bear. Every entrant receives a terrific race pack, which includes a quality race T-shirt and lots of sponsors goodies. See the attached entry form for more details or contact the Auckland Canoe Centre on 815 2073.

**Tuesday 7 Guest Speaker Club Night – Double feature.** A sample of slides from the archives of Pelham Housego, followed by "Something special" from Graham Charles. Meet at the clubrooms upstairs above Fergs Kayak Shop on Tamaki Drive at 7p.m. \$2 door charge – Supper. Contact Roger Lomas on 579-8977.

**Saturday 11 The Noises.** Contact Brian Dorrell on 576 2366.

**Saturday 18 Circumnavigate Rangitoto.**

Briefing time Okahu Ramp @ 8.45, then immediate departure

Distance/time 30kms, 5 hours paddling, good fitness essential

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

This is a great paddle for building up to the longer day trips. 1st stop will be at McKenzie Bay, approximately 1.5 hours paddle from Okahu Bay. The paddle down the far side of Rangi offers rock gardening along the deep inky pools before heading into Gardiner Gap. This section can be rough with large swells sweeping in from open water so good skills are necessary. Lunch at Islington Bay before heading back to Okahu Bay via 'The Rock'. We will cover exposed open water sections and busy shipping channels.

Contact Lindsay Sandes on 522 3344.

**Saturday 18 Novice's Rock Gardening Experience – Rangitoto Lighthouse and Lagoons.** This is a good opportunity for new members to do some paddling around some amazing rock formations. Meet at Okahu Bay 8.30, bring coffee flask and a bit of lunch. Phone Morgan Lewis on 6204005.

**Sunday 19 Whitford Café for Lunch.** Contact Trevor Arthur, on 817 7357.

**Tuesday 21 – Annual General Meeting, 7:00pm, Clubrooms, Okahu Bay.** Elect the committee for the 2002/3 period. Discuss issues and direction of the Club. All members are encouraged to attend – there may even be some multi-tools and pocket-knives to give away.

Nominations received to date... (Note: nominees are allowed to decline nomination)

President:	Matt Crozier	Patron	Colin Quilter
Vice President	Lindsay Sandes, Jonathan Jarvis	Treasurer:	Nicole Moorhouse
Secretary:	Rosie Thom	Trips Officer:	Morgan Lewis
Editor:	Margaret Thwaites	Hireage:	Lindsay Sandes
Publicity:	Roger Lomas	Merchandising:	Jonathan Jarvis
Safety & Training	Peter Sommerhalder, Lindsay Sandes		

**Weekend 25-26 White Island.** Contact Brian Dorrell, on 576 2366.

**Sunday 26 Waiau Pa White-Water Day.** Contact Trevor Arthur, on 817 7357.

## New Members that joined the Auckland Canoe Club last month...

Colin Alvin	Robert Ferguson	Chip Rowlands	Cor Valenteijn
Emanuel Decorse	Chris Furneaux	Natasha Saunders	Denise and Mark Vazey
Deb Donoghue	Jo Harris	Igor Segrovets	Megan Walsh
Gerard Fagan	Jorse Hirt	Fiona Staub	James Young

## The Okahu Bay Caper.

By Jonathan Jarvis.

Once everyone had registered their expected paddling times, reviewed them and finally decided again, with one more review, the inaugural Okahu Bay Caper was ready for the official start – but wait; Denise had to carry out a strip search to make sure no time pieces were hidden anywhere – none found!

Competitors faced some stiff competition over the 7km course from the 20 knot easterly. Obviously the conditions had been mathematically calculated by each competitor (except Brian Strid who yelled out to Jonathan at the start “add 5 seconds to my time” as an easterly gust whipped past him) as no one was more than 8 minutes out from their estimated times.

Some mentions:

Paul Grundy was the winner on the day guessing his actual time correctly. Well done Paul.

Denise to Ryan – “no you cannot have a second strip search”

Roger Lomas mistook the Caper for a 25 metre hurdles race – It looked like Roger was going to lose his shorts (for those who have seen Roger's shorts there's not much room for error) as he hurdled a kayak on the ramp to get to the finish line.

Matt (late again) Grant was a distant last to register but took line honours. Hopefully Matt will make it on time for the birth of his child next month.

Ian Smeeton was just too fast in his X Factor and must be doing his calculations in Storm mode.

A BIG thank you to **FERGS KAYAKS** for generously supplying a dry bag, cell phone dry bag and T Shirt as prizes.

See you all at the next Okahu Bay Caper.

## Girls Can Do Anything.

By, Rona Patterson.

On a beautiful, sunny Saturday afternoon recently seven girls met at Long Bay, all eager to learn from Rebecca Heap how we could do anything! Not only does Rebecca believe that girls can do anything, she is smart too. When seven girls took to the water in their poly-pros, shorts or bathing suits, Rebecca put on her wet suit. At that moment we should have taken warning!

Eight girls gathered on the grass above the beach – almost all strangers to each other. A mixed group, each with their own kayak and eager to learn all we could. Rebecca spent some time explaining what was needed for each of us to get back into our kayaks after a capsize, both assisted and unassisted.

Sun bathing had been nice, but could not last all day. Kayaks were carried down to the water and headed a

little off shore before the fun began. Yes, every girl managed to get back into her kayak, both on their own (using a paddle float), and with the assistance of their buddy. Have you ever noticed how simple some tasks look when someone else does it! After an hour of being wet and finding that the wind had blown us almost the length of the beach, we were to understand the wisdom of the wet suit. Even on a hot, sunny day, it does not take long to cool down in the water.

Once back on the beach, and bodies were dried out, Rebecca brought out the chocolate cake and coffee. What a lovely finish to an awesome day.

I would recommend taking part in either 'Girls can do anything' or 'Boys wear skirts too' whenever the opportunity arises.

Thank you Rebecca for a wonderful afternoon.

## Auckland KASK Sea Kayak Forum.

By Rona Patterson.

Congratulations to the team – another fabulous weekend. A perfect time to meet up with old friends, and to make new ones. Even the weather was perfect - heavy rain all Saturday night and early Sunday morning, and hot sunshine all Saturday and Sunday.

The two guest speakers, Ken Ring, on weather prediction, and Mark Jones, on his sea kayak expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula were fabulous. There were also sessions on kayak design, navigation, paddle technique, birds and mammals, and everything that is possible to go into the cockpit of a kayak.

I am sorry I missed Justin Sanson-Beattie, because of the many times I have been on trips with him I have never ceased to be amazed at what he brings from the depths of his kayak. I can never imagine myself packing a blow-torch or carving knife to strap to my leg in order to prise oysters of rocks, but I am sure I could have learned a lot from Justin.

I missed Justin because I had found two men who were trying to teach me to understand the intricacies of compass reading. As a pod leader, I had just found out that my first task was to encourage my pod to find their way to Saddle Island (supposedly in the dark) by using a compass. On the journey there was to be a capsize and new readings were to be taken in order to find out how far off course we had drifted because of tide and wind, and get back on course. Thanks to these two, I was able to relax and enjoy the rest of the forum.

Saturday afternoon found us at the pool where Rob Gardner, Chris Gulley and George Gerrard demonstrated paddle strokes and various different ways to roll a kayak. The spectators were sitting comfortably in the sun and the rolling technique looked so easy done by such experts. Alison Wagstaff and Nicole Moorhouse spent considerable time in the pool trying to perfect their roll, and I applauded their courage and tenacity.

Sunday saw twelve pods of eight people leave Sullivans Beach in different directions, all with similar tasks to perform. This was an exciting time with each member of the pod having to work out how to perform difficult tasks which may confront any kayaker.

All good things have to come to an end, and once we were back on the beach, and kayaks were lifted onto cars for the homeward journey, it was time for a shared lunch in the form of a barbecue. I have never seen so many sausages and watermelon in one place before.

The Coastguard were expected after lunch to supervise the letting off of old flares, but failed to show. Never daunted, the old flares were set off in style – well, some of them – some of them were fizzers.

The only disappointment I had from the weekend was that there was insufficient time for discussion to take place on how each pod tackled their tasks. However, that is not a criticism of a wonderful weekend.

## Go North Young Man.

By Ryan Whittle.

Departure day had arrived and we loaded our boats at Okahu Bay, seen off by members gathering for the swim escort. From North head we spotted the overnights from Rangitoto returning (a fair way off) and waved a cheery hello, but they snubbed us and continued on.

We had decided to leave Auckland on a direct course so as to spend more time in unexplored territory. Our first stop was Whites Beach on Rangitoto, facing the crossing of the Hauraki Gulf to the Tiri Passage. This part of the Gulf is where the Americas Cup boats race, and today was part of the warm up regatta, so there was a bit of traffic building up before the races. The yachts arrived just as we were leaving. We offered them a warm up race but they weren't interested, so we paddled on leaving them in our wake.

Crossing the open stretch of water, we watched numerous gannets bobbing about on the calm surface and wondered if their activity was the gannet version of being a couch-potato.

Approaching the Tiri Passage between Whangaparaoa Peninsula and Tiri Tiri Matangi Island, a yacht motoring

along at about 5 knots approached, going our way, and we decided it was the ideal opportunity to try riding his wash and getting a ride. We did this while chatting to the owners, who turned out to be friends of Clive Hookham, a well-known Auckland paddler. They eventually ran low on gas and had to turn off, but not before passing down a couple of cold Speight's to supplement our water supplies.

The end of Whangaparaoa provided a nice stopping place for a late lunch, and a view of Tiri, which seemed to be acting as a marina that day going on the number of masts there.

Another short crossing to Motuora Island saw the end of the first day's paddle. We arrived just as the last weekend boatie was leaving, and the DOC campground was empty but for our kayaks. Isn't that the way it should be? This stop on the first night was the only stop we had decided on prior to the start of the trip. We felt that choosing a site on the day, taking into account the conditions and how we felt, was a much safer option than possibly pushing too hard to reach destinations decided on before the trip. So the planning for the trip had consisted largely of checking for places where we

could replenish our water supplies, and it looked like water was never more than a day's paddle away.

Monday dawned to a forecast of up to 10k breezes, and the sea was glassy passing Moturekareka Is. Penguins were floating about in pairs, and I guess all the shearwater feathers floating on the surface was their hair in the plughole. The shearwaters must have a fixed downward gaze, as several times they veered off in obvious surprise at the last second to avoid colliding with us.

Around the coastal side of Kawau Island, we take a break on a small sandy beach and share our snacks with three Weka wandering the back lawn of a bach on the shoreline. The wharf here has an old red phone box that has been converted to a boat shed complete with water and power supplies. It was able to house a dinghy standing upright.

On to Tawharunui to see the surfers, and lunch at the campground on the grass under the pines. A trip here a few weeks previously had shown us good rock gardening around to Omaha Beach, and so it proved again. There are far too many people on the beaches not working for a Monday. No wonder the government is cash strapped with most of the population enjoying the sunshine on the sand instead of working and paying taxes.

Barely into the Marine reserve at Leigh, we are accosted by a guy in a floating Bambina wanting to know if we are fishing, and a "You can't fish here, it's a reserve", puts his mind at rest.

We stop for the night on a coarse sand beach with a small waterfall just before Pakiri Beach, and the clear air allows us views out to Little Barrier, Great Barrier, the Coromandel Peninsula, the Hen and Chicken Islands just up the coast, and Bream Head in the distance.

We had been told by other kayakers that the paddle up the long stretches of beach were boring and never ending, but we found this to be far from the truth in our case. Shearwaters would land beside us, fly ahead and land until we arrived before taking off ahead again. This may be the way they look for their meals, following large fish looking for the smaller ones to be disturbed, but it provided us with company along the beach.

We spotted what we initially thought was a cloud shadow and closer investigation showed it to be a huge (30m) school of 2-3cm black fish, which we did not recognise, a neat sight when floating above them looking down into the clear water at their shimmering shapes. A lone shark fin, visible from 20-30m didn't stay long, and at the end of the beach we were passed by tens of thousands of shearwaters before landing around of us, peppercorns on the sea. Mangawhai had the impressive towering sand dunes, and a surf club that let us refill our water bottles.

Bream Tail marked the end of the first 'boring' stretch and a nice flat grassy site on the beachfront proved

another great campsite. The view on the menu tonight was out to the Hen and Chicken Islands, and up the coast along Bream Bay to Marsden Point. Our route for the next day.

When you can see your intended destination, and it's just a blur on a clear day, it's an imposing start. The chimney at Marsden Point was our marker, but paddling just outside the surf zone (and sometimes just inside!) and having the sights on shore fairly close, meant that we could focus on things apart from the solitary chimney you would have on a direct route across the bay.

Sprats jumping from the water in front of us - "Look at what a strong swimmer I am, don't waste your time trying to catch me", and another flock of shearwater floating offshore, were the only wildlife activities we saw that day.

A stop for lunch at Ruakaka and a local fisherman tells us about how people would swim out to his nets at low tide and steal his catch. Across Whangarei Harbour entrance, we move from long white sandy beach to rock gardens along the cliffs. The water is calm in the lee of the North Easterly breeze, but around Bream Head it chops up. This obviously wakes the fish up, the lure that has been dragged all afternoon earns its keep, and its kahawai for dinner in the sand dunes of Ocean Beach.

Watching the breakers before landing in the surf, trying to pick a lull, one decides to break early and pushes me sideways into the beach. Come on, Wally, that's how it's done! The tents get a chance to dry off from last night's dew, and the only view out to sea tonight is South America, the Hen and Chickens, now well to the South of us.

The disabled seabird we saw last night on arrival didn't make it through the night, and makes me think of the efficient job nature performs disposing of all those dead fish, birds or whatever. Having marvelled at the numbers of schooling fish and flocks of shearwater, they all have relatively short lifespans (compared to us), and only a minority of them end up as dinner for hunters, and they will all die. Yet we don't see animal graveyards. I wonder what human population nature could handle cleaning up after.

Back to the living, and the VHF now-cast tells us that it's blowing a 20 knot Easterly in Auckland Harbour. We set off into still airs, no longer affected by the "Bream Head to Cape Colville" weather. The easterly soon reaches us as well, and we poke into the natural shelter of the inlets near Taiharuru then Pataua for a look at the quiet life. Getting out of these spots against the incoming tide requires some strenuous paddling.

Stopping for lunch at a point halfway up Ngunguru Bay tempts us to abandon the trip and spend the rest of our time here. There are no buildings, just white sand and farmland, with an easy walk up the hill on the point giving spectacular views back down the coast to Bream Head and to the Poor Knights Islands out to sea. That's

not to be though, and we cross to Ngunguru through working birds, but its no fish for dinner today.

Picking our way over breaking surf on the bar, we pull into the local township and fill bottles from the tap outside the school. You wouldn't have a tap with bad water outside a school, would you? We had planned to continue another 10km up the coast, but this morning's 20 knot easterly from Auckland had arrived in full and we sneaked in through the rocks at Tutukaka Harbour. A nice flat grassy spot on a backyard was our campsite in the harbour, courtesy of Dawn.

The Easterly is still blowing the next morning, but the VHF weatherman says that the seas are slight. We decide to pop out for a look and talk to a charter boat hiding in the harbour entrance on the way. He says he's not going anywhere and when we get out its not hard to see why. The weatherman must be looking at the conditions from his beach-house in the Bahamas. It's the first time we've come across slight seas that tower above us. The paddling that day was a relaxed tour of the harbour and the marina. The coastguard at the marina was happy for us to pitch our tents on the grass by the carpark and we were able to keep warm and dry at the marina with plenty of boaties to chat with.

The word on Saturday morning is for clear calm conditions with a north easterly expected later in the day. We are able to leave the harbour ok, but the wind soon springs into action and makes for a very messy sea. A stop for lunch at Matapouri Bay along with the weekend crowds, past Woolley's Bay and we decide that its getting too uncomfortable so start to look for a camp site. Something wanted us to continue as the wind immediately dropped away. Whananaki estuary got the once over in the rain before rounding the peninsula and checking in to the Whananaki Doc site. It's a very pleasant spot, with numerous mature pohutakawas above the white sandy shoreline, and the campground on a large open field behind them. Camp mother there turns out to be a lady I knew from badminton 15 years ago, who made us very welcome. The red sunset bodes well for the next day.

Sunday is the start of our second week, and the wind has moved to an offshore westerly. The sea is calm, and the sky is blue. We can rockgarden everywhere, and the pohutukawas are thriving. Coming into another sandy beach, the surf is rust colored and the water visibility is low. What looks like pohutukawa seeds are floating everywhere, but the trees aren't flowering so we decide it must be algal bloom that's causing the red colour. The Poor Knights slide past on the tide, and Wally has time to compose a poem following an earlier mishap which he later named...

#### *Rockgardeners Lament*

*As he paddled beside a rock  
A swell placed him on its top  
The future indeed looked dim  
As Wal went for a swim  
A rescue made to save the day  
And continue paddling to Mimiwhangata Bay*

*But...*

*A mere one hundred meters paddled had we  
And the swell struck again with glee  
The albatross hull exposed to the sun  
Ryan a roll, expertly done  
Thought as we paddled west  
This is sea kayaking at its best*

A stop at Oakura at the entrance to the Whangaruru Harbour to satisfy our ice cream cravings. I later worked out that nearly 50% of the money spent during the trip, was on ice cream. And we were riddled with guilt! Across the harbour from Oakura is another Doc site. We have decided that a mixture of freedom camping, with the isolation and views, and Doc campsites, with showers (in the summer only - they are cold), flat grassy sites and water, is the way to go. This is reinforced as our new neighbours welcome us with hot chocolate and biscuits.

Leaving Whangaruru Harbour, big cliffs and calm deep clear water around the continuous rockgardens are the order of the morning. The only sign of habitation that day is at Bland Bay. A lone dolphin in Bland Bay appears to be unwell. Hope it's just our imagination.

The tremendous coastline continues full of caves and tunnels. This section of coast I had paddled once before in unpleasant conditions and memories of the worst days paddling now combine with one of the best over the same piece of coastline. The conditions can make the same place seem like heaven or hell, you just need to be fortunate and get the good days.

We eventually get to Whangamumu Harbour, having gone north only 10km in a full days paddle. But what a great 10k. A picturesque setting at the base of the Loop track provided our campsite for the night. A dozen moored boats and a red sunset promising more tomorrow. And where did all those sandflies come from? Suddenly feels more like the deep south!

We stop at the defunct whaling station in the morning and wander around the old structures. It was started up pre 1900 and ran about 50 years, the busiest year being 1942 when they killed 76 whales. Before the invention of the harpoon gun, they would place nets across locations whales were known to pass. The nets, with floats attached, would serve to slow the whales down and prevent diving while they harpooned them. The carcasses were cooked slowly for 36 hours in concrete tanks and the stench here during that period must have been sickening.

Back on the water, the trees along the shoreline are mainly pohutukawas, and all but a few are dead. The possums must be rife here. We get to what we thought was Percy Island (The Hole in the Rock), but it's an impostor island on the previous headland. Prior to the trip we were informed that there were no landings once out of Whangamumu Harbour, but we spot at least half a dozen small sandy beaches and make use of one of them for a break before Cape Brett.



The wind has picked up and the sea is messy enough to stop the commercial boats going through the hole in the rock, but Wally's no commercial boat and is keen to pass through on his first visit here. Some hard paddling into the heavy wind passing through the gap while I wait to pick up the pieces, and its "Been there - done that". We also go into the cave on the north side of the island, it's in the lee and for my money it's much better than the hole in the rock. Outside there are large schools of Blue Maomao with their backs in the air looking like granite cobblestones on the surface. They don't move until we get to within a few feet then the entire school explodes as one as they dive for cover.

We sneak on the inside of Cape Brett and see the landing for the lighthouse. Only a kayak could get through this way on this tide. The landing was not designed with kayaks in mind and you would only brave it if you had to. Around the Cape into the Bay of Islands we are in the lee of the wind and its flat calm clear water again.

Into Deep Water Cove we pull alongside a yacht to get a weather update. It's a chartered boat and the Canadians have been touring around, having just come from Great Barrier. We must have looked in need of a feed as they supplied us with a bag of freshly cut watermelon with crystallised ginger pieces sprinkled in. Going to make a habit of visiting yachties if they are all as generous as the ones we have met on this trip! We make camp for the night on Rawhiti Peninsula, just over the hill from Rawhiti township, and enjoy Wally's brandy sauce for dessert on another great evening.

A visit to the Rawhiti shop for another ice-cream, before spending the morning island hopping. Lunch on Okahu Island then cross the 10km to the Ninepins, on the northern point of the entrance to the Bay of Islands. The weather is kind to us again, and it's a comfortable crossing through an area that can be anything but. The Ninepins provide more rock-gardening around some rather large rock formations, and by the time we get going, the wind has come up and we are forced offshore to escape the mess close in.

We spot a likely beach on the Purerua Peninsula and share it with a Dory that is already ashore. The owner left from Waipu Cove, and has rowed to here in 3 months. And I thought kayaking was a sedate way to travel. He has to be much more selective about the days he can travel on, so many of his days are rest days. Wally gets the flattest spot on the shoreline, so I brave the wind up the hill in a spot that will give fantastic views. Shame I'm in a tent, the outlook is always the same from inside.

Day 12 is still windy, and our rowing friend is staying ashore. The swells and clapotis force us offshore again but we are able to take a break in the lee at Taronui Bay. All along the coast the swells are coming in and every few minutes, two large ones will appear. They are large enough that we change course to take them head-on as they look too big to pass under us beam-on. We make a lunch stop at Takou Bay, just before Matauri

Bay, where a 4WD, parked back off the beach by a creek, appears to have been abandoned for the day.

The following wind has pushed us along, and we can't see our start point from this morning. The wind dies over lunch and we are able to start rock-gardening again. It feels like we missed a bit this morning, being offshore the whole way. Around the last headland before Matauri Bay, we are escorted by a Hammerhead shark (much smaller than us) enjoying the sunshine for a few minutes.

Within site of Matauri Bay we catch our first fish in 4 days of trawling. I was beginning to wonder if the northland coast had any fish! Making an early stop at Matauri Bay in the campground, we treat ourselves to hot showers - and an ice cream!

A walk up to the lookout lets us see back to Cape Brett and up to Flat Island over the picturesque Cavalli Island Group. Wally has called his wife Sue and arranged to meet here in a couple of days, so we plan to travel north to look at and camp on Flat Island before returning to tour around the Cavalli Islands.

The flat sheltered campground makes for a good nights sleep before going north along the coastline and stopping for lunch on the Mahinepua Peninsula adjacent to Flat Island. We are able to walk across the narrow Peninsula to get a view of the coast to the north. The northerly wind has whipped up the whitecaps and it's a mess compared to the coast we just came up. We have a good look at Flat Island, but it is surrounded by boulders and crashing surf with nowhere to land. Those big swells from yesterday are still here, one seemed to block out the sun.

The route is set back to the Cavalli Islands, and we have our choice of campsites on the main island. There is an old DOC hut here but is been condemned and is no longer in use. A walk up the hill to the roof of the Cavallis provides an enticing look at what we can expect the next day.

We were sucked in! Saturday doesn't dawn sunlight, only rain and wind. It does take much thinking about to stay put and read a book. This is our first full day off the water since we left, so it's not a hardship.

The rain clears late afternoon, and a group of kayakers arrive on the beach and we wander down to say hello. Turns out to be Mark Hutson (a well-known tour operator in the Bay of Islands) with a small group. Any of you that have been on any of his trips will know that the food is of a high quality, and he had brought too much! So Wally and I helped out by reducing the stocks of fried chicken and those heavy cumbersome chocolate biscuits. You owe us one for that Mark!

The final day is just a short paddle back to Matauri Bay to meet up with Sue, who had arrived the previous day.

It's an excellent stretch of coastline, and we have both picked areas that would provide great destinations for club trips.

## Kaipara Harbour Trip Report – Easter 2002.

By Vincent Maire.

Other than it is the harbour with the longest coastline in the Southern Hemisphere (3,800km) few people seem to know too much about the Kaipara. What we do know tends to have negative overtones. For example, more than a hundred ships have foundered at its narrow entrance, the infamous saltmarsh mosquito is a recent resident on the harbour, tidal currents can reach eight knots, sand bars abound and white pointer sharks are regular visitors.

NIWA has long studied the Kaipara Harbour and their scientists tell us that more than one billion cubic metres of sand lie at its entrance and 26,000 cubic litres of water pass through the 8km wide harbour mouth per second.

Even more interesting was the fact that I could find few sea kayakers who had paddled the mighty Kaipara and this, plus ideal tides over Easter, spurred a group of us to explore this fascinating area of the North Island's west coast.

Planning started with nothing more than the idea of crossing the harbour to Pouto. It took only a few telephone calls to organise a trip that would eventually cover almost 90kms. The first phone call was to the Dargaville Information Centre who recommended I contact the local backpackers in Pouto for information on accommodation. I was also told to contact the Kellys Bay campground and was given the number of the Kaiwaka Information Centre where I was told about the Pahi campsite and put in touch with the most important person of all, Lindsey Hargreaves.

The Hargreaves families have been farming the central-eastern area of the Kaipara for five generations. The Puketotara Peninsula bears the name Hargreaves Run at its highest point and the Hargreaves Basin is just a few kilometres downstream from Port Albert on the Oruawhero River.

Lindsey was a mine of information and best of all she agreed that we could leave our vehicles at her place.

The party comprised seven members of the Auckland Canoe Club. Ann Schofield, Mike Randall, Ryan Whittle, Kevin Dunsford, Maurice Hanvey, Brian Strid and Vincent Maire.

On Good Friday we drove north to Kaiwaka and turned left into Orini Road for the 20-minute drive to the Hargreaves farm which is located in the vicinity of Otara Point just across the Otamatea River from Batley. This is where three rivers, the Otamatea, the Arapaoa and the Whakaki converge amidst high headlands.

Day one had us on the water by 10am and we paddled down the Otamatea River towards the main harbour. Prior to departing we had made cellphone contact with Kaipara Coastguard and this was one of the few times we were able to inform them of our intentions. Both

VHF and cellphone contact is severely restricted on the Kaipara due to the lack of transmission towers.

Soon after our departure the tide turned. However, any benefit to be gained from paddling downstream with the tide was cancelled out by the 15-20 knot sou-west winds.

The first hour was uneventful other than we had to battle wind-against-tide waves as we pushed our way around the Puketotara Peninsula. Once into the main part of the harbour we found a small beach and climbed a hill to get an idea of conditions in the main harbour.

Lindsey's husband Tony had told us the presence of 4.5m king tides would flatten out the water and enable us to cross the Lady Franklin Bank. This advice, plus the apparent lack of standing waves mid-harbour, convinced us to head due west.

The journey across the harbour was relatively uneventful. Our target was a vertical line caused by a landslide on a distant cliff face and we held a steady course for most of the way.

Just over an hour of paddling had us among a line of dancing waves that seemed to appear out of nowhere. At first we tried to avoid these waves but we were very quickly among them. We had arrived on the Lady Franklin bar. Other than getting very wet the bar made no difference to our course or our time. It wasn't until we arrived in the deep channel that runs up the eastern side of the northern peninsula did we feel our boats being pushed seawards. By this time we were close enough to ferry guide to a beach and a much needed comfort stop.

The last kilometre of what became a 21km day took us at a gentle pace to Pouto where we were met on the beach by Hugh and Lorraine Messenger, the couple who left the rat race of Whangarei for the peace and quite of Pouto (population 13). The community hall has been converted into a backpackers and campsite and this is where we stayed the night. Glad we were too of having Kevin's trolley, as the campsite is some 300m up a steep road.

Later in the afternoon four of us paid Hugh Messenger \$20 each for a tour of the north head in his 4WD van. This proved to be one of the highlights of the trip.

We followed the harbour entrance for some distance stopping to see the remains of an American ship that was wrecked in 1877. The remnants had only recently reappeared from beneath the sands.

Once we had cleared the entrance and the beach turned north our guide aimed his vehicle directly into the sandhills and we soon found ourselves in a place known as the Valley of the Shipwrecks. The valley floor was littered with wood. This area had once been on the

coast and claimed many wrecks and no doubt many lives. It now lies several hundred metres from the coast.

Our destination was the disused lighthouse but along the way we visited the site where strange carvings had been uncovered. These now lie in the Dargaville museum and are used as proof that perhaps the Portuguese once visited the harbour long before Abel Tasman sailed into our history books.

Hugh took us to see the grave of a nine-month-old baby buried there in 1909 and told us of many other graves of drowned sailors in the vicinity. We also heard of the cannibalistic feasts that took place in the area.

Some of these sand-filled valleys are so desert-like they were used for a set for an episode of *Xena*.

The lighthouse is made of Kauri and stands amongst trees on what was once a cliff-face overlooking the channel. It now sits several hundred metres inland.

This is a fascinating place and should you go to Pouto by kayak or by car, make sure you do this trip.

That evening we had dinner in the hall and ended the evening playing in-door bowls. Brown team skippered by Ryan won over the blacks skippered by Ann.

Day two had us on the water soon after 9am. As we were packing, up a woman came calling and told us of being attacked by a white pointer in 1996 while she sat in her sit-on kayak. The only thing that saved her was the fact the shark dived at her through a fishing net, became tangled and eventually drowned. She believed the shark was attracted by the green colouring of her kayak.

We had two hours of tide to take us up-harbour to Kellys Beach. However, the wind had shifted and the nor-wester basted away at our faces as we struggled upstream.

This part of the coast comprises sandstone. The very high tide was eating away at the cliffs and we saw extensive erosion which stained the water yellow.

To begin with we made good time. Our first stop was some 6km upstream on a beautiful beach just south of Pareotaunga Point. It would have made an ideal place to camp.

The wind gained momentum as we headed north. At some stage along the route we rounded a point in what must have been 30+ knots of headwind and very confused seas. It was very hard going but once clear of the cliffs, the winds dropped back a bit.

I had been told the Kellys Beach campsite was fairly basic but what appeared around a headland could only be described as 'feral'. The campsite and the people there caused us to linger off the beach until Brian landed to check out the situation. We were somewhat relieved to see a hand wave us further north. Wrong beach!

As it happened Kellys Beach could not have been nicer. This too has a population of 13 and the local hall doubles as a campsite. The manager was a very generous man who couldn't do enough to ensure we were comfortable. We used the hall for cooking and this was welcomed by us all as the rain had started to fall.

Total distance for day two was 18km.

Day three was always going to be a biggie. We were on the water at 7am at dead-low water. This proved to be a very wise decision as it enabled us to cross the Wairoa River at slack water.

We crossed two sand bars, each time hitting the bottom, but only Brian elected to get out and drag his kayak. At one navigation marker, Ryan and Kevin took time to harvest a very healthy batch of mussels. On this leg of the journey, Kevin used his sail and looked very impressive as he rode over the waves.

We had a short break near Kaiwhitu Island before paddling down river and rounding The Bluff into Tinopai. Here we had a brew and heard the news that the Queen Mother had died. We knew how she felt!

Tinopai amazed us all. We had seen it on day-one and were astonished at the 60 or so houses along the waterfront. A local informed us that there are 250 houses in Tinopai of which a third are holiday homes. It has a permanent population of 400 a third of whom are retirees. There is a camping ground right on the water.

The winds had been forecast to go from north-west to south-west and this is what happened. In fact, off Tinopai, the wind died to a gentle breeze that pushed us up the Otamatea River.

Off Pakaurangi Point we aimed our bows into the Arapaoa River for the final leg to Pahi. This was a 12km stretch of hopping from one point to the next. We saw many ideal camping spots but the topography had the effect of turning the wind into a nor-wester so once again we were paddling into headwinds.

Pahi doesn't come into view until you are 2km short of its high, house-covered hill. The camping ground is on the northern side of the wharf and lies between a massive Moreton Bay Fig tree and a lovely old hotel which is now a private residence.

We were met at the campsite by Ralph Williams of the Kaipara Volunteer Coastguard. He was an excellent contact and is willing to help any sea kayakers exploring the harbour.

That evening we had a shared meal of mussels plus other goodies. It had been a 35km day so it was a tired bunch of sea kayakers who crashed out that night.

Day four was marred by 40+ knot sou-westerly squalls that blackened the sky before riding over the top of us like herd of hungry hyenas. We had to stop twice to

escape their power which meant the trip back to our cars at Otara Point took an hour longer than expected.

Lindsey met us on the beach and we dragged our boats up to her lawn and sorted ourselves out. We all agreed that it was a fantastic trip and that the Kaipara Harbour has a lot to offer sea kayakers. All of us plan to return there for further exploring.

Some points worth noting for planning a trip on the Kaipara Harbour.

1. Plan your trip around high tide. Slack water lasts about an hour each side of high tide and this is long enough to reach safe water.
2. We also found dead low water to give ideal paddling conditions however, we did have the benefit of king tides.
3. The exception to this is crossing the harbour to Pouto. We recommend you allow three hours for this trip and aim due west, not directly at Pouto. Start two hours before high tide and allow for time spent evading sand banks. This is a trip for experienced paddlers only.
4. There seems to be plenty of opportunities for free camping. We passed many miles of farmland with ne'er a house in sight. The western coast of the harbour seems best for this.
5. Lindsey and Tony Hargreaves are happy to care for kayakers' cars. We paid them \$20 for this service. Their number is (09) 431-2045
6. Ralph Williams in Pahi is a good source of information. His number is (09) 431-7449 or [ralph-w@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ralph-w@xtra.co.nz)
7. Hugh and Lorraine Messenger at Pouto can be contact on (09) 439-4298. The hall has some excellent bunk beds at a cost of \$10 a night. We

paid \$5 and used our tents but had use of the kitchen and the hall for cooking and eating.

8. The contact number for the Kellys Beach motorcamp is (09) 439-4204
9. The contact number for the Pahi motorcamp is (09) 431-7322
10. The contact for the Tinopai motorcamp is (09) 431-6797.
11. If you do not wish to cross the harbour try paddling from Otara Point to Pahi. This is an easy trip of less than three hours with plenty of opportunities to stop along the way. Another option is to stay at Tinopai.
12. Wind is a big factor on the Kaipara harbour. Rounding headlands can be a tricky business and wind-against-tide is also a factor to consider in trip planning.
13. We did see other boats on the harbour but not many, as few as 20 vessels over the entire weekend.
14. VHF contact proved to be impossible in most locations. We tried channels 16, 66 and 84. Only the latter gave us some success.

Prior to this trip I carried a mental image of a dirty harbour clogged with mangrove trees. This is not the case. Even as far inland as Pahi we were paddling in clean (but not clear) water. The few mangrove trees we came close to were roofed in white shell banks. We did see mangrove forests but they were up distant creeks and channels.

This was an excellent trip although at times, the wind made it very hard work. The Kaipara Harbour is a fascinating place and we urge you to explore this magnificent waterway.

## Classified ads...

### **Stolen: Albatross** – Kevlar sea kayak.

Stolen from residence in Kohimarama. Red/orange deck with thin yellow edge surround, white hull. Well used and distinctively marked. Please look out for this boat. Reward offered for information resulting in its return. Please contact Police and/or the Manager at Ferg's Kayaks, ph 529 2230.

### **For Sale: Two Kayaks** – Storm sea kayak, and Sisson Delaware.

Red Storm in good condition, includes spray deck and paddle. \$900 (which is pretty cheap).

Fibreglass Sisson Delaware – good for rivers and shorter trips but has no storage. \$300.

If you are interested in any of these, phone Brian on (09) 576 2366, or 025 209 4629, or email [brianbfg@hotmail.com](mailto:brianbfg@hotmail.com)

### **Storage Space: Kayak Storage Space in Club Lockup.**

We have three spaces available for hire @ \$130 per six months. Please contact Lindsay Sandes to arrange this. Email [ljsandes@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ljsandes@xtra.co.nz) or home 522 3344.

### **Flatmate Wanted – Hillsborough.**

Flatmate required to share with one other in cottage in Hillsborough, bush sections, almost sea-views, close to Manukau. Contact Andrea on 624 4317, or 025 131 2584.

## **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.

**Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press**

An order has gone in for Club Polypropylene Thermal tops – long sleeves, blue with white logo. Could be just the thing for this winter. Don't buy your new winter wardrobe until you've seen these.

**Deadline for next month's newsletter: Tuesday 14 May 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 mail to: [m.thwaites@xtra.co.nz](mailto:m.thwaites@xtra.co.nz)

**Articles to look forward to:** For Fishing Folk, by Vincent Maire; Queen Charlotte Sound, by Susan Hill; Nelson Lakes, by Susan Hill; Browns Island, by Rona Patterson.

The certificate below was received by the Club in recognition of the work that members did for the Rangitoto Inorganic Rubbish Clean-up. Thank you to all those people that helped.

**RANGITOTO ISLAND HISTORIC CONSERVATION TRUST**

# **CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

THIS CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED TO

**Auckland Canoe Club**



TO THE VOLUNTEERS WHO PADDLED THEIR WAY TO ISLINGTON BAY, WORKED ABOVE  
AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY IN REMOVING INORGANIC RUBBISH FROM  
RANGITOTO ISLAND IN FEBRUARY 2002 AND THEN PADDLED HOME.

Chairman, Board of Trustees: Elizabeth Andrew

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Andrew'.

Date: 28 February 2002



## The Ebb and Flow

By Roger Lomas

The rustle of autumn leaves heralds the return of our popular guest speaker- club night series for a fifth successive year. This entertaining presentation is held in our clubrooms upstairs above Fergs Kayak Shop at Okahu Bay on the first Tuesday evening of each month during winter. The theme of the series is generally kayaking and to start this year's programme we will have a double header. First up will be a kayaker who has visited many places in New Zealand, some that haven't even got names. He won't boast about it but older members will generally agree that Pelham Housego has probably been there done that. Fortunately for us Pelham likes to take a camera along on his adventures and we will be treated to another selection from his archive collection. Part two of our evening will be a sequel to last year's show when we hosted Antarctic expedition photographer and adventurer Graham Charles. No, he won't be appearing in person but he has sent along something very special. Needless to say, arrive early for the best seats. Meet at 7p.m. and don't forget our \$2.00 door charge, which covers your supper and a gift for our guest.

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*Recently in the news was the story about the disposal of all those nasty sharp pointy things that aviation security staff have collected since the September 11<sup>th</sup> problems. Making them available to worthy community groups proved to be a popular decision and guess what! Yes the club now has a big bagfull of desirable things like Swiss army knives and Leatherman tools and a myriad of look-alike clones. Our Jonathon Jarvis was the quick thinking author of our windfall. He was actually on to it a good week before the media knew about it. The big problem now is distribution within the club. Nobody has counted the booty yet and there could well be one for all of our 600 plus members but maybe a more appropriate system would be to reward trip leaders or even give one away with each purchase of a club T-shirt or cap. Guess whose good idea that was?*

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There were plenty of prizes and a few surprises down at the Okahu Bay Caper last month. Jonathon Jarvis and Denise Young get the big bouquet for a well-run fun event that featured good food and very generous support in the prize department from our neighbour, Fergs Kayaks. The surprises were for the competitors who were seen loitering with intent on this guess your time around the course event. They didn't feature in the results. The other big surprise was the large number of Barracudas that fronted up for the event, over a third of the field. Yes, they must have been selling well lately.

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*When one marque starts to gain a sales edge over the others there is usually a reaction, more so if it is one of the Auckland manufacturers. A few years ago the Albatross sea kayak started to dominate the Auckland fleet and we all know what happened next. Vow the big Barracuda Expedition is enjoying a summer of sales success. That could be a hard act to copy.*

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One of the new kayaks spotted on the ramp at Okahu Bay last month was a Polar Bear from Paddling Perfection. This looks very much like a Sea Bear extended. Three Polar Bears were used to kayak along the Antarctic Peninsular last year.

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*Challenge Kayaks have just released their new mid sized sea kayak the Sequel. This is a five metre craft with a very good (for a plastic) foot brace rudder system. Fergs Kayaks have a very special price (\$1500) to debut this craft for our club members. Ask for David (the manager) to get this special deal.*

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On Sat the 20<sup>th</sup> of April the King of the Harbour surf ski challenge takes place. The event starts and finishes in the Viaduct Harbour and circumnavigates Rangitoto Island. A three metre high tide on the day will not allow the competitors to paddle through the channel at Gardiner Gap so spectators should enjoy this portage part of the race. Another good kayak spectator spot would be just off North Head. Weather conditions on the day will dictate the direction of the circumnavigation with a down wind run desirable on the northern coast. An international field is expected to challenge our local talent and the event is timed to start at 11 a.m.

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*Have you heard the disgusting rumour about the well-known club member who practices his Eskimo roll in the bollocky. We are not sure of the motive for this bare bum activity but it has been suggested that the added adhesion gained by not wearing undergarments is crucial for the hip-bum flick. The other theory is that it helps ensure that a bombproof roll is achieved or else the member will have to pop out and reveal all.*

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Good news travels fast. You have probably all heard the buzz about the Rangitoto Bach that as a club we may soon occupy at Islington Bay. There are many obvious benefits that we could all enjoy in the years to come. When things settle down and the pecking order has been established for the bunks at our new facility, other distractions will avail themselves. After a siesta on the veranda one may choose to saunter around the back and cross the road to three tennis courts which are a mere lob shot away. They are a little overgrown at the moment but a small effort will reveal the faint white markings of at least one court. The Rangitoto Open – maybe. Just remember when club subs fall due (now) a family membership, which costs an extra \$5, will secure these privileges for all named family members. The Rangitoto Junior Open – Why not.

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*Last month the committee decided to relinquish the club's role in running the Cambridge-Hamilton river race. The decision was inevitable with a lack of interest in running a flat water-racing event away down south and all the logistical problems that it involved. It was felt that the Hamilton Canoe Club would be a more suitable administrator of this event. As a courtesy the Auckland Canoe Centre (Peter and Sue Sommerhalder) who have had a long involvement with this event were consulted. After a week of mulling over the options, Peter and Sue decided that they would like to run the event with the help of their supporters. We wish them some rain free Waikato weather.*

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Our editorial, publishing and distribution department is off on a well-deserved holiday shortly. Apparently a roguish swagman has lured them away for an Aussie Outback Adventure. Just remember Ray and Margaret, we want you back, so be careful around the billabongs even if you are in the company of "Crocodile Bugbee".