



## Newsletter

May 2002

Hello Folks,

It's that time of the year again – the AGM is only a few days away and I am going to plead, grovel and beg to encourage you to come and show your support to our outgoing President, Trevor Arthur. Trevor, after many years of generously giving his time and energy to the club, has decided that it is time to stand down from the role of president, and I think that the AGM is an appropriate time to say "Thanks Trev." So, let's show up in force to show our appreciation.

With Trevor standing down, we now have the dilemma of who is going to take his place. Matt Crozier, currently the Club's Treasurer, and a kayaker from way back, has bravely put his hand up. Matt has also given a lot of time and energy supporting the club for a number of years. Not only has he done a sterling job as Treasurer but he has also been responsible for setting up the e-groups and maintaining the membership list. Matt's paddling credentials are just as impressive. He has been on many expedition paddles, including Alaska, and if you think I'm a fast paddler, try paddling beside Matt. So, once again I am going to plead, grovel and beg you to come along to the AGM and let Matt see your support.

On a lighter note, the last month has been a good month for paddling. Ray's Albany to Long Bay trip was a huge success – all nine participants (Gerard Fagan, Ryan Whittle, Wayne Fitzsimons, Steve Davey, Ian Smeeton, Brian Strid, Maurice Hanvey, Ray and myself) completed the trip – 44km, in 5hrs 40mins, according to Wayne's GPS. It just goes to show what you can do if you pace yourself, and if you have the weather and tide in your favour – we were clocked doing about 10kph under the Harbour Bridge, and we were hardly paddling. Give yourselves a pat on the back guys.

Sixteen people made use of the late summer weather to enjoy a camping weekend on Motuihe Island with Matt Crozier. I didn't see much sign of the advertised mozzies, but we all saw lots of rabbits – whole hillsides seemed to pop up and run away as we approached. Graeme Bruce did his best to support the local economy, the bar that is, until they threw him out – the manager said that the generator had run out of fuel. Roger Lomas tried to visit us early in the morning, but all he could find was snoring tents, so he left us in peace. Ryan Whittle had better timing and arrived just as we were getting up, and helped to escort us home.

The autumn expedition to Kawau Island went ahead, and once again proved that you shouldn't let the weather in Auckland deter you from going on a trip. Read Morgan's trip report to find out what fun they had, and, who was that bloke trying to get into Alison Wagstaff's tent?

The first of a series of guest speaker club nights was held this month. Pelham Housego kicked off the series with some slides on some of his introductory river kayaking trips. If you ever want to quickly increase your skill level, try following in Pelham's footsteps and do some river kayaking – as Pelham will tell you – it's learn fast or swim.

Unfortunately, technical problems (the TV wasn't working) prevented the showing of the second part of the evening, but we will try again some time. In the meantime, let's get out there and paddle.

Cheers,

*Margaret*

### In this issue...

For Fishing Folk, by Vincent Maire; Kaipara Harbour, by Ann Schofield; Expedition to Kawau Is, by Morgan Lewis; Around Kawau, by Erica Law; South Island Paddling, by Nancye and Robert Lucas; Queen Charlotte Sound, by Susan Hill; 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 |
|                | <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.

**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)

**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.

**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, Mike Randall.

## 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 capsized 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 winter is here, evening paddles will be returning after dark and you **MUST** 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, no light, no paddle. It is also 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 paddlers **MUST** provide their own night-lights. 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.)

## May

**Reminder:** Subscriptions for the period April 2002 – March 2003 are due. If you can't find the membership application form that was attached to last month's newsletter, try looking-up the web site. If all else fails, contact Matt Crozier on 817 1984, or e-mail [matt@vsl.co.nz](mailto:matt@vsl.co.nz)

### 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 Rangitoto 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 620 4005.

**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 have some multi-tools and pocket-knives to give away.

**Revised List of Nominations Received to Date...** (Note: nominees are allowed to decline nomination)

|                   |                                    |                |                 |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| President:        | Matt Crozier                       | Patron         | Colin Quilter   |
| Vice President    | Jonathan Jarvis                    | Treasurer:     | Alissa Good     |
| 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.

## June

**Long Weekend 1 – 3 The Last Break!** Club get-together at Opoutere, Queens birthday weekend. This is a good chance to get away before winter sets in, staying at the Opoutere Beach Resort. Plenty of opportunity to do a multitude of different activities – Kayaking, tramping, Mountain bike riding or just blobbing-out, take your pick!!!! Contributory roast dinner Sunday night, bring along with you a piece of pumpkin or a kumara, mix and mingle. Leave Auckland, Friday or Saturday and return from Opoutere Monday at your own leisure. Please register your interest early with Morgan Lewis, phone 6204005 or email [morganl@xtra.co.nz](mailto:morganl@xtra.co.nz).

**Tuesday 4 Guest Speaker Night** – at the clubrooms (upstairs above Fergs Kayak Shop on Tamaki Drive.) Our speakers will be the popular Justin Sanson-Beattie and Jennifer Andrew. Meet at 7pm. \$2 door charge – supper. Contact Roger Lomas on 579-8799.

**Saturday 15 Okahu Bay to Brown's Island, evening paddle.** A chance to see the harbour after dark, and to exercise the leg muscles with a short climb to the top of Brown's Island for a coffee. Night lights will be a "must have" on this trip – a "Dolphin" torch tucked under the bungies will be acceptable if you haven't got a light on a mast arrangement. A torch will also be a bonus for the climb to the top, unless you have super-human night vision. Contact Wally Gilmer, on 832 3274, to register your interest and to get the meeting time.

**Sunday 16 Whangaparaoa Peninsula.** Explore the coastline between Arkles Bay and Stanmore Bay, direction will depend on what the weather is doing. This is about a 20 – 25km paddle, with plenty of places to pull out if necessary, therefore should be suitable for all skill levels. A car shuttle will be arranged in the morning (unless you want to do a portage to complete the circumnavigation). Contact Ryan Whittle, on 419 2672 (hm) or 630 3554 (wk), to find where and when to meet.

**Weekend 22 – 23 Winter Solstice Artist's Retreat – Rangitoto.** One for the girls! (But any boys who wish to get in touch with their creative/feminine sides are welcome to come along.) Enjoy company on the longest night of the year. Spend your days sketching, creating clay artworks, and gathering treasures from nature. Sip mulled wine in front of a fire as the evening approaches, and share a hearty feast with friends. Bring... dinner to share, a gift to exchange (\$5 or less – mid-winter Christmas), sketching or arty materials if desired. We will leave Okahu Bay at 10:00am. If the weather is rough, we'll take the ferry. Contact Stephanie Seager on 834 5769.

**Tuesday 25 Dinner at De Niro's Restaurant.** Meet at 6:00pm for a mid-winter feast prepared by our favourite chef, Wolfgang Pohl. BYO or license. \$25 per person. Up to 30 seats available. To book your place, contact Rona Patterson, on 834 3399.

**Saturday 29 Short Trip to a Really Nice Café.** Very short trip from Sunkist Bay in Beachlands, around Flat Top Island and into Pine Harbour Marina and into the lovely Gateway Cafe. We will need to contact Marina security and the Cafe in advance to allow for numbers, so please phone the trip leader at least 2 days in advance. Suggest bring a short length of rope to tie your kayak to the floating pontoon. This trip may be choppy on a windy day, but is very short and will suit all paddlers. The cafe is not the cheapest, but it is very nice and has a nice ambience. Hungry paddlers should contact Steve Melrose, on 536 5386.

**Saturday 29 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Auckland Canoe Centre Auction, 12 noon.** If you have any kayaking gear to sell, get in touch with the crew at the Auckland Canoe Centre and they will include it in the Auction. If you are looking for more kayaking gear, get down to the shop and put your hand up! For more information, call any of the staff at the Auckland Canoe Centre on 815 2073.

**Sunday 30 Okahu Bay to Herald Island.** Meet at Okahu Bay at 7.30am for 8.00 departure. This trip is approx 40 km's, with plenty of tide assistance - be prepared for a wild tidal ride under the harbour bridge! On the way we will visit the naval base, where a discreet distance will be observed, and the many bays (morning tea anyone) on the way. Herald island will 'herald' lunch and we will return to Okahu Bay on an outgoing tide. As mentioned this is a 40km paddle and should only be undertaken by fit paddlers. Contact Jonathan 578 1545.

## July – Provisional Calendar

Saturday 13 Cornwallis to Weymouth. Contact Matt Crozier on 817 1984.  
Sunday 14 Bottletop Bay to Drury. Contact Margaret Thwaites on 2927 883.  
Sunday 14 Wenderholm to Puhoi. Contact John Hieatt on 828 9673.  
Saturday 20 Riverhead Pub, afternoon trip. Contact Trevor Arthur on 817 7357.  
Weekend 27-28 Waiheke Lodge. Contact Morgan Lewis on 620 4005.

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

|                   |                  |                  |                           |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Kevin Appleton    | Catherine Clarke | Tamarra Dunlop   | Sally Dutson              |
| John Edwards      | Paul Franks      | Gill Family      | Mark & Rolanda Kraayenhof |
| Geraldine Leonard | McGregor Family  | Dee Melville-Nel | Gary Nel                  |
| Lawrence Raffles  | Ashok Raj        | Paul Rosier      | Andrew Senton             |
| Nigel Smart       | Linda Turner     | Hennessy Family  |                           |

## Visibility of Kayaks – Night Lights.

By Margaret Thwaites.

I have been asked by the committee to remind everyone that if they wish to go paddling with the club after dark, that they must provide their own night-light. It is very nearly impossible to keep track of an unlit kayak after dark and if your fellow paddlers are having trouble spotting you, how is a fast moving motorboat, or outrigger canoe, going to see you?

A recent "Boat Notices" leaflet, from the Maritime Safety Authority, 14 Feb 2002, on the subject of kayak visibility, states: "It is necessary for kayaks to carry a light when operating at night or during twilight. Unless sidelights and a sternlight are displayed, a white light must be displayed in sufficient time to prevent a collision. Kayaks should carry a bright torch to shine so that other vessels will be aware of their position."

A night-light does not have to be a complicated affair – a waterproof torch, such as a Dolphin torch, will do. Either attach the torch to your boat with bungies, or better still, attach it to your buoyancy aid (on a long lanyard so that you can still put the torch under the bungies on your deck) – that way if you do fall out of your boat, you will still be able to signal your position to your paddling buddies. If you think it is hard spotting an unlit kayak at night, try spotting an unlit swimmer, it's not easy – ask any of the people that were out on a recent Tuesday night paddle during which two capsizes occurred. The group got one hell of a fright when they realised that they couldn't immediately find one of the paddlers.

So, from now on, if you turn up for a night paddle without a light, you might as well turn around and go back home again.

## The Kaipara Harbour with Vincent.

Written by Ann Schofield.

Paddling buddies were Brain Strid, Ryan Whittle, Kevin Dunsford, Maurice Hanvey, Mike Randall and Vincent Maire (who made it all happen!)

The tides over Easter were perfect for an expedition on the Kaipara. Seven of us had a superb time, and this report is written in the hope that it will inspire and assist others to do the same thing in the future. As with any good expedition, it spanned 4 topomaps, so it was potentially quite expensive for map junkies like myself. The maps were 260 1:50,000 series numbers Q08, Q09, P09 and P08. The first two covered the majority of the trip.

A summary of our route and trip statistics are shown for your convenience...

| .Day | Route               | HT   | Distance |
|------|---------------------|------|----------|
| .1   | Otara Head to Pouto | 1044 | 21km     |
| .2   | Pouto to Kellys Bay | 1129 | 18km     |
| .3   | Kellys Bay to Pahi  | 1213 | 35km     |
| .4   | Pahi to Otara Head  | 1257 | 21km     |

The trip included some interesting navigation features: two long open water crossings, of approximately 12km and 7km, the tide in the Kaipara can travel at 8 knots and there are also various sandbars to negotiate. Vincent had informed us all of these points of interest, and everyone was comfortable with the idea of paddling reasonably close together and looking out for each other ('pod' paddling). As expected, but less easy to

predict, there were other times during the trip when the same principles applied - as we had some fairly interesting weather - high winds, very heavy rain and fog. We got a bit of sun at times also! It was reassuring to know that everyone was confident with self and buddy rescues; and well equipped. However, nobody capsized through the entire trip, nor got seasick. I almost ran out of energy at one point, but got a re-fuel from Ryan!

The Hargreaves, who live in a beautiful property on the water bank at Otara Head, very kindly looked after our cars for \$20. They welcome people leaving cars there, and we are able to camp there too (phone number). Their place is 90 mins drive from the harbour bridge.

### Day 1: Otara Head to Pouto.

On the water by 10am, and had a smooth run to a large eastern facing bay opposite The Bluff. Today we opted not to visit Moturoa and Motuouhi in the interests of beginning the 12km crossing as soon as possible due to the tide situation. Had a good feed, rest and chat about our upcoming crossing. We decided to head due east (and identified a feature on the other side to head towards), knowing that the tide would drag us down the harbour.

We started the crossing around midday, about one hour after high tide, and paddled side by side for almost an hour. Wind against tide made for a little bumpiness, but nothing major. At one point we got close to a sandbar

and observed quite a chop directly over the bar, but nothing where we were. There were very few other vessels around. About 90 minutes into the crossing, Vincent's call was to change course, and head towards cliffs further south from our original landmark. By this stage, we were into slightly chopping water as we were now moving over the sandbar, Lady Franklin Bank.

After 2 hours of the crossing, we were all pleased to be at the other side and to have a stretch. A few people found more water in their boats than usual as a result of some larger than usual waves. We pumped boats, ate, peed and I was looking forward to lunch. But NO, the others got back in the water (I was in disbelief!). It turned out OK though because we only had 1km of very easy shoreline to the campsite (the tide had dragged us 6-7km), arriving around 2:45pm. The campsite was up a steep bank, and we ended up dragging our boats up the bank using ropes. It worked out fine; just took a bit of time.

We stayed at Pouto Marine Hall (tel: 09 439 4298, \$5 which includes showers and a fully equipped kitchen). Pouto has 13 permanent residents, and is a remote tourist destination in summer for those who brave the long drive from Dargaville. There are 4WD trips over the sand dunes to Kaipara Head (Vincent will describe this in his KASK trip report). My only comment is that Kevin said after his trip "that was the best \$20 I have ever spent!" I slept for the afternoon, and was very grateful to Ryan when I found him cooking my dinner around 6pm!

#### **Day 2: Pouto to Kellys Bay.**

Next day, a small surf made interesting launching around 8:30am. We revisited a kilometre of coastline from yesterday, then began to take in new scenes. The entire day was coastal, and was extremely beautiful. Much of the 20km coastline was 'silently shifting sand', making for the fastest erosion I have ever seen. Even without waves hitting it, the banks were falling into the sea. Beautiful orange sandbanks, and clay stained water. A northwest headwind soon picked up though (some say that it was 25-30 knots in places) accompanied by 1.5m waves in places; so I soon started battling the elements rather than soaking up the beautiful scenery. Occasionally during a big wind gust, we would paddle and not move anywhere! We had a leisurely stop, then later a stop out of exhaustion to regain some energy. We ate lots of snacks, but were keen not to stop too long, as the tide was moving out of our favour. I was getting extremely tired, and was very sad when we had a false alarm regarding the campsite. Brian landed only to find that it was a private site, and that the public one was actually around the NEXT headland. However, we made it eventually (around 2:30pm), and I collapsed in a heap on the picnic table upon landing.

Shortly, one of the locals brought us out a kettle full of hot water and four warm solar showers! Most appreciated. We set up camp, ate lunch, slept, went walking and ate dinner with the locals in the community hall. All this for \$2 camp fees! Like Pouto, Kellys Bay also has about 13 permanent residents. Rain and wind

continued all evening, and tomorrow's paddle was on our minds... We decided to arise early to miss the wind.

#### **Day 3: Kellys Bay to Pahi.**

But at 5am, it was pretty windy. Nevertheless, we beavered away and had our boats at the water's edge by 6:30am. All of a sudden, a huge downpour - it was freezing cold; but 10 mins later, the wind had gone and it was sunny. The clouds came and went a little, obscuring our view of the other side for short periods. I only have pleasant memories of the 7km crossing from Kellys Bay to Kaiwhitu Island. A southeast tailwind picked up a little, so Kevin and Vincent got a bit of sailing in. After a snack; a number of bays and a couple of headlands; we pulled into Tinopai where we had a hot coffee from the store, had a visit from the Easter bunny, and heard the sad news about the Queen Mother's death. Tinopai has 300 residents, and there is a good motor camp here.

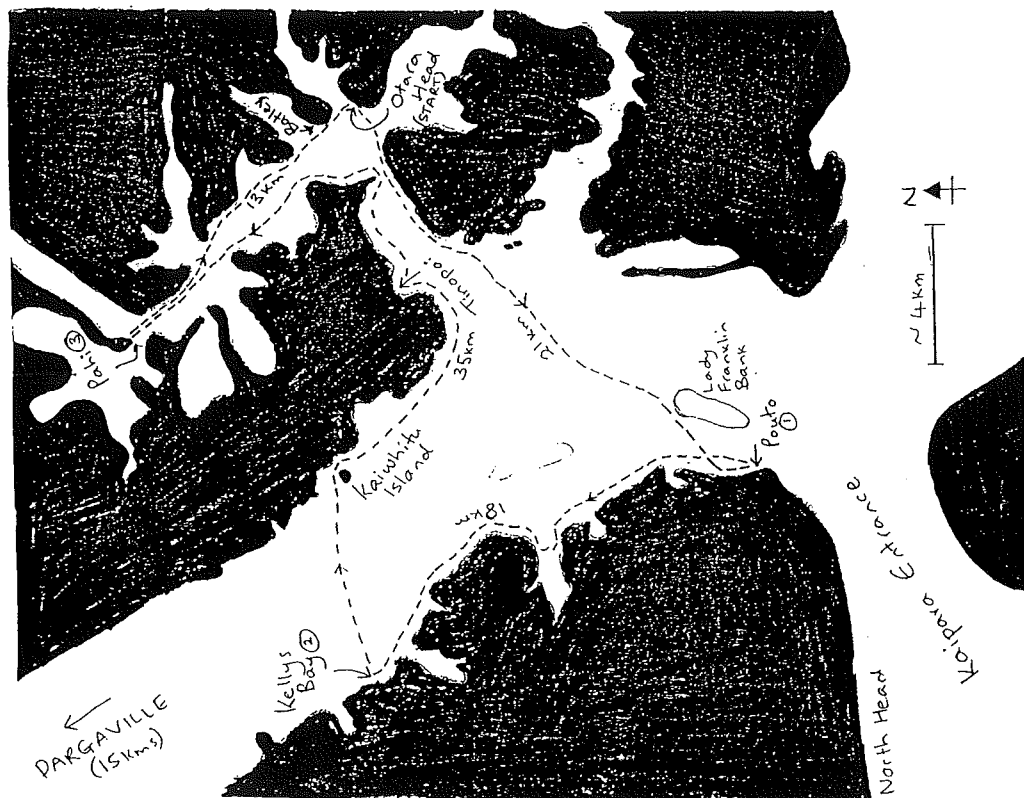
One hour's break only before heading up the western sides of the Otamatea and Arapaoa Rivers, against the outgoing tide. It made a pleasant change to be in a river of only a few kilometers width. They were very remote with forest coming down to the water bank on both sides. An unusual feature was a tap coming out of the bank on a long hose; with no apparent purpose. Some largish bays to cross, and some careful navigation; we reached Pahi campsite. Very good amenities here, all for \$8. We enjoyed a delicious shared meal, which included freshly caught mussels.

#### **Day 4: Pahi to Otara Head.**

On the water by 7:30am, followed by a leisurely paddle down the eastern side of the Arapaoa River. Again, harsh weather hit us as we launched, but gave way to fine weather for the first few kilometers of our 12km paddle. By Puriri Point though this changed. Extremely heavy, cold rain hit us and we pulled in to take cover for a few minutes as it was impossible to see the water's surface. A few kilometers on, this happened again, with strong winds and side-on chop as we crossed from Rocky Point to Batley. This time we rafted up to wait for it to abate.

At Batley we had a well-earned rest behind the rocky outcrop which protected us from the strong south-west wind which was racing up the Otamatea River. We sat out another ghastly squall, and then proceeded hesitantly around Batley bluff. We now had get-home-itis (only 1km to go), and the wind was the strongest on the entire trip. We got beaten around with the head-on and side-on wind for a very short while as we headed around Batley headland; but carried on bravely. After half a kilometer of this, we were sheltered, and had a leisurely half-kilometer paddle to end the trip around 11:30am. 12 kms in 4 hours.

It was the best trip I have done in a long, long time. Going on overnight expeditions like this is my main interest in kayaking, and I am hugely grateful to Vincent for arranging it and having me along. Also, to the others for being great paddling companions. We are looking at going back into this beautiful, under-explored area, to do a club weekend trip from Otara Head to Pahi and back.



## For Fishing Folk.

By Vincent Maire.

While perusing a glossy magazine out of Massey University, I came across an article about the 'Brooke Anglers' Cooker. It is the invention of student Blythe Rees-Jones and has got to be of great interest to the many sea kayakers who enjoy fishing.

The cooker is made of die-cast aluminium, runs off a portable butane gas canister and has an interchangeable cooking surface. One side is for grilling and the other for frying. What is more, by sprinkling sand and water between the fins of the grilling surface, the cooker can be transformed into a smoker. From the photograph in the magazine, the cooker is about 300mm long and maybe 120mm wide. This

means it can easily be stowed into the hatch of a sea kayak.

The 21-year-old inventor is/was a student at Massey's Wellington campus. I have sent an email to the Industrial Design people at the university seeking more information (like – where can I get one?) but did not receive a reply. Is there anyone out there in sea kayak land who has information on the Brooke Anglers' Cooker?

If you do know something about this marvellous (and award winning) product, please direct your reply to the editor who can publish the response to the benefit of all readers.

## Our Expedition to Kawau Is.

By Morgan Lewis.

Two weeks prior to the expedition we were basking ourselves in golden weather, boy! I said to myself, if this keeps up its goner be some trip, little did I know that Huey had something quite different planned for it.

So in the last week leading up to the day we were due to depart for Kawau Is, Huey sulked – it blew, it rained, it was HORRIBLE. During the week, I talked to Jonathan and we decided to carry on with the trip, regardless of what the weather was like. I have had an 18 year association with Kawau and sometimes the weather pattern over there can be quite different from the mainland, all one had to do was just be patient.

So on Thursday, at Martins Bay camp, I met up with Jim and Linda McCormack, Ryan Whittle and Jonathan Clarke. We had a chat about the weather and various out-comes that could happen with it. Jim and Linda decided to head for Sandspit and catch the ferry to Kawau, whilst Ryan, Jonathan and myself would pitch our tents and sit it out overnight in Martins Bay, (being patient).

The next day's dawn brought us what we were wanting, one big millpond, and although the sky was very much overcast there was no wind or rain. We all speedily pack up our tent sites and loaded up our kayaks and hit the water. Like explorer's of old, Jonathan and I, with

our trusty sidekick Ryan, paddle across the ocean to Motuketekete Is, then we paddled around it and then we moved on to Beehive Is and made the briefest of landings. We stop in South Cove for lunch as the script mentioned, here Jonathan spent some time chasing a fence post in the water, that some local had let fall off the wharf. Moving on we followed the shoreline of Kawau around into Bon Accord Harbour. It was pleasing to see the re-growth that is happening with old Pohutukawa trees after years of destruction by the Possum. At one place high up in the tree branches a Shag colony was established. This is all due to people like the late Ray Wagstaff who work tirelessly to save the Pohutukawa on Kawau Is. Anyway, getting back to the trip, Ryan was in his element, he must have paddled under every wharf in the harbour before we reached Pah farm.

At Pah farm we bid goodbye to Ryan as he had to return speedily back to Auckland because a woman was baking him a cake, so he said. Jonathan located the campsite and we set up our tents. I learnt a good lesson here – always take your wheels with you – the campsite was some distance away from the wharf, much to Jonathan's disgust. Jim and Linda arrived back at their tent, they had been G +Tn in the Yacht club and had watched us arrive from the comfort of armchairs. Erica Law also arrived. Erica had caught the ferry from Sandspit and got off at Vivian Bay, at the northern end of Kawau Is, and then paddled around to Pah Farm.

After a well-earned hot shower we all headed for the camp cookhouse and enjoyed a tasty meal. We happily chatted away, making plans for tomorrow etc, etc. Jim and Linda decided to return to Auckland early next morning as Jim was having trouble with his arm. I was told later that it only took them 1 1/2 hours to paddle from Pah farm to Sandspit, Mmmmmmmmm I thought, that's faster than the old ferry.

The next morning Erica, Jonathan and I headed off around the bays and inlets of Kawau Is, this was to become our epic journey. We stopped off at Beehive Is again to let Erica have a look. Oh, I almost forgot to say something about the weather, perfect for this sort of thing, the sea was again like one big millpond, no wind or rain, a few clouds in a blue sky. How things could be different over here, I thought. We carried on from the little island down the west side of Kawau, viewing large cliffs and interesting rock formations, a gardeners paradise if there ever was. The journey carried on into a beautiful bay called Bostaquet, which you can only see now either by boat or canoe. Around Bostaquet we went on to Challenger Island, where we landed on a little stony beach for lunch.

After lunch we continued on past Challenger Is to little Markham Is. Markham is at the very north end of Kawau, the tip of it, beyond here there is nothing till you get to south America. This was a really exciting part of our trip. Although I have been to Kawau many times before I had never seen the north side of it. The north side is very similar to the wild west, a very long exposed coasted line, few places if at all to make a safe landing, large surf and rocks, high cliffs, mist, huge swells, open water, noise, in short just plan BEAUTIFUL.

As the afternoon went by we made our way towards the North Channel which is at the other end of the north side. A sea breeze from the NE had appeared, making the sea a bit choppy. On reaching the North Channel we found that the tide was also coming in, it was quite an experience to go through this, waves and water going in all directions, just like a washing machine out of control. We made safely through and arrived in Vivian Bay to find a peaceful setting in the late afternoon sunshine. The three of us, although feeling pretty tired after a 5-hour paddle, felt like we had been to the mountain-top. We had a short break then head back around to Pah farm. On arriving there we were greeted by the lovely Alison Wagstaff, with glass in hand. Alison had arrived during the course of the day, found our tent site and settled down to wait.

Like excitable children we chatted to Alison about our adventure in circumnavigating Kawau. After a much-needed shower we head for the Pah Farm restaurant to enjoy a sample of the local fish and chips, along with a few pints. That night we all seem to sleep pretty well, except Alison who aroused the interest of a Weka by the name of Wacko. Poor Alison spent much of the night denying this rather affectionate male bird entry into her tent, so we are told.

The next morning we sadly pack up our tents and head back to Martins Bay via the Mayne Islands, where we stop for a little around Takangaroa, the larger of the two islands. From here we continued on to Mullet Point and Martins Bay. The weather was still reasonable though the wind was now from the SE and a few shows were beginning to arrive. So our journey came to an end. Thanks Huey for letting us have a few great days of paddling.

*Footnote: by Alison Wagstaff*

*I walked over to School House Bay while I was at Kawau to pay tribute to an old ANZAC, my Uncle, Ray Wagstaff, who had passed on 2 weeks before. A pilot in the war he had retired to Kawau over 20 years ago and was known to many.*

## Did you know...

The newsletter and AGM reports are available on the site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/auckland-canoe-club>

You will need your Yahoo ID and password to access the site. Any problems, phone Matt Crozier on 817 1984.

There are two Dolphin torches in the Club lockup, but you will need to provide your own batteries if you wish to use them.

Lindsay Sandes is storing the Club's two VHF radios at his place, and will keep the batteries charged. If you wish to use the radios, phone Lindsay on 522 3344.



## Around Kawau.

By Erica Law.

This seemed to be a trip that was meant to happen – for those of us prepared to 'go for it anyway' against a very unpromising marine forecast at the beginning of the Anzac four day 'long' weekend!

Actually I was thankful for a very inclement day on Anzac Day (Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>) as it gave me an excuse to catch up on sleep and build up some energy for what was to come.

Friday morning, weather forecast still not brilliant – a low over the country. I was still at home, and undecided about what to do. But a cell phone call to trip organisers Morgan and Jonathan sealed my fate. "Where are you?" "On the water", says Morgan "and it's dead flat." They had set out from Martin's Bay that morning heading for Kawau.

So I got packed and headed north in time to catch the 9am ferry from Sandspit to Kawau. The ferry dropped me off at Vivian Bay in the north, and I spent a pleasant two hours exploring down the coast, and up North Cove before heading for Pah Farm at the head of Bon Accord Harbour. Here I met up with the others, for a pleasant evening in the comfort of the camp kitchen, followed by the restaurant/pub.

Saturday – the sky still looked threatening over the west and south, but was calm and merely cloudy over Kawau. Being unable to make cell phone contact with Alison who we thought was coming over, probably arriving mid afternoon, we could do little about setting up a rendez-vous. So we decided to head south, and explore southern Kawau, and carry on round from there if it seemed feasible.

Leaving about 10am, first stop was Beehive Island, a bit of a highlight for me, with the unexpected bonus of seeing a number of uncommon wader birds feeding on the rock platforms. Near a small colony of white-fronted terns, and a pair of oystercatchers, I spotted a (Lesser) Knot, in almost full breeding plumage (a bit late making its journey to the northern hemisphere). On the other end of the island, there was a pair of New Zealand dotterel, and another bird, which totally flummoxed me. I got close enough to see its blue/red band on its leg, and I figured later from the bird guidebook at home that it was a Shore Plover. Apparently this species only had a very limited distribution on Rangitoto Island in the Chathams Group. A few years ago, the Department of Conservation decided to transfer some to Motuora Island, to try to improve the chances of the species surviving. These birds clearly didn't like their new home, and immediately took off to find other habitats more to their liking. And here was one of them, on Beehive Island.

From Beehive Island, we carried on round past South Cove to explore the rock gardens, and nooks and crannies around Elisabeth Point, Archway Island, Twins and Brownrigg Point. The water was calm and beautifully clear, a lovely coastline, with some really interesting rock formations and sculptural shapes. Spent a very enjoyable hour or so pottering about and

around to the east side of Bostaquet Bay, where we decided to have lunch, just on the inside of the gap with Little Kawau Island. A very good decision to have a rest and refuel here rather than round the corner at Burgess Bay, as we discovered the moment we paddled through the gap, and out to the exposed East Coast.

It was with some trepidation that we paddled out of the shelter of the bay, giving the surf at Little Markham Island a wide berth. The two metre plus swell took a little getting used to, and I took a quick 360 degree glance skywards to reassure myself that there was no obvious bad weather likely to come our way, as I followed the others on our 'dash' up the east coast. A landing at Burgess Bay, the only significant beach on the south east coast, would have been out of the question for us – surfs up. A long two and a half hour slog up the coast with no decent beaches to make landfall if there was trouble. Mostly a rocky coast with cliffs, and only a couple of very small, fairly rocky beaches, but no obvious way off them up on to the rest of the island until near the northern tip. Fortunately the sun came out and the weather became better and better as the day wore on.

As we neared the Northern Channel between Kawau and Tawharanui Peninsula, we encountered what looked like a tide race, or else two opposing currents meeting. Decided to give this a miss, and paddled out past the little island, which amounted to little more than a few rocks, and came up the northern side. The sea was still a bit confused here not knowing which way to go. But at last with a slight breeze behind us, we were paddling up the Northern Channel, past Kawati Point, and into Vivian Bay, at about 4pm.

A short rest before the final leg back to Bon Accord Harbour and Pah Farm, arriving back about 5.30pm (at almost high tide). An awesome day, sore shoulders and back, but very satisfying to have circumnavigated Kawau Island, a distance of some 30 kilometres.

Sunday, we decided to explore the northern shore of Bon Accord Harbour, soaking up the beautiful silence (apart from the call of the bush birds) now that most of the weekend boaties had departed. Then we slogged across to Takangaroa Island (one of the Mayne Islands) against a stiff northwesterly.

Amazing seeing the rain showers stalking to the south and west and north of us, feeling like we were next, but instead being treated to a spot of sun for lunch. And from that location, looking round Kawau Bay, just surrounded by great kayaking destinations, it was magic! A short lunch break in the lee of the island. Then another short slog across to Point Mullet, and then round the coast to finish the trip at Martins Bay. Thank you Morgan and Jonathan.

And despite the unpromising land and marine forecast for the 'long weekend', the only decent rain I encountered was on the drive back to Auckland as the southwesterly front closed in.

## Padding the Ponds of the South Island.

By Nancye and Robert Lucas.

During the winter of 2001 we planned a trip to the South Island, taking our double kayak, and staying at motor camps on the edge of lakes and suitable beaches.

After a few days of bad weather in Cook Strait, resulting in cancelled trips and then delays, we had a smooth early evening crossing. We had dinner, watched the sunset and arrived in Picton with its lights all aglow.

Our first morning at Waikawa Bay, we drove to check out the nearby ramp for our first supposedly 2-hour paddle. The sea was calm and the tide was high. We rounded the far point, saw the Arahura disappear and decided to follow. Two hours later, after much rock gardening along the way, we arrived in Picton. Bob went ashore to find some lunch, which we enjoyed on the grassy waterfront.

On our return we stopped at Bob's Bay, and in knee deep water, we gathered a bag-full of huge mussels. Over the side went the trawling line and bingo we caught a kahawai. A second one spat the hook on the surface. Fish for entrée and mussel fritters for dinner.

Over the hills we drove to Te Mahia, Kenepuru Sound. Once again we found more huge mussels. We had a paddle. The wind came up, so up went the sail. The return was a hard paddle into an increasing wind, which continued into the next day. If we can't paddle we may as well move on. On to Croiselles Harbour. Wind still blowing, so we drove to see the tremendous outgoing/incoming current between D'urville Island and French Pass.

Kaiteriteri Beach was just perfect. We made our preparations for 4 days and 3 nights paddling Able Tasman National Park. We loaded the kayak, parked the car, and we trolleyed to the beach and into water, watched by many curious people. Passed Marahau where many more kayakers would follow us. Our first night was Te Puketea Bay. Two kayakers and three Americans, who had been dropped off by water taxi. We spent a great evening looking at the stars while an opossum was eating their bread.

Next day on to Tonga Island watching the Seal families frolicking in the water, then up the lagoon behind Sandfly Bay, which had a fast flowing incoming tide passing through a narrow channel. We passed two double kayakers heading out. One was successful, the other had several attempts but did not succeed in conquering the strong inward current. Eventually they pulled the kayak around the channel. We attached our towline but by the time we had had lunch the tide was slack.

Mosquito Bay would be our campsite for two nights. We had a day trip to Awaroa Inlet. We walked to Awaroa Lodge, with its own café and bar, set among the trees. Too expensive for us, we had lunch sitting on the steps on the new DOC hut, in the sun.

The tide was out when we left for our return trip. We were the only ones who had a trolley to haul our very heavy kayak 200m to the sea. The 25 other kayakers were manhandled or pulled. The sea was very rough and confused, so we had a difficult and wet 3-hour paddle back to Kaiteriteri. As we passed the point at Anchorage we had problems coping with the 10 water taxis zooming past, creating more havoc, and we hoped they would see us. Overhead a spotter plane kept circling above us. Later we heard that the Coast Guard keeps a watchful eye on all sea traffic in the area.

On to Golden Bay, but the tide was out during the day. We went on a trip to Farewell Spit and left – we decided it was time to try out the lakes. Lake Rotoiti was calm, with great reflections of Mt Robert. Then a breeze came in and up went the sail. Lunch at Coldwater Hut and a hard paddle back to St Arnaud.

At Lake Brunner our campsite overlooked the lake with the train track between us. Many coal trains passed by day and night, along with the Alpine Express travelling between Christchurch and Greymouth.

A visit to the Hokitika Wild Food Festival was interesting, especially the Huhu grubs, Hokonui Still alcohol (dispensed by sheep drench gun), mountain oysters and Buffalo droppings.

Okarito Lagoon with a backdrop of Mt Cook and snow covered Southern Alps made this magical.

Jackson Bay – the end of the road – was surprisingly calm compared to the rest of the west Coast. We just had to have a paddle.

From Cromwell we paddled the Kawerau and Clutha rivers and Lake Dunstan.

Lake Wakatipu proved too windy and cold. Snow had fallen during the night on the Remarkables. We sailed on the Earnslaw to Walter Peak Station for a sumptuous barbecue lunch. Next day the lake was calm, out came the paddles, and with the Earnslaw steaming towards us we acquired a great photo shot.

"Warbirds over Wanaka" proved to be a great experience. That night more snow fell in the hills and mountains around Glendhu Bay where we were camping. It was time to pack up our tent for the last time and move on, but first a paddle on Lake Wanaka, dressed in very warm clothing.

Through the hot and arid countryside of Otago, up to view the snow covered peak of Mt Cook and on to Lake Tekapo, where we paddled past the stone church, on turquoise waters.

From Mt Somers (which we understood to be on a river) we were told about Lake Clearwater which was 25 mins

drive, partly on a metalled road. 35kms later we arrived. There were a few whitecaps on the water. A windsurfer was getting organised. We hummed and 'arred. Then, why not? We paddled hard into the wind for 10 minutes, then up went the sail and off we went with the rudder singing, the fasted we have gone under

sail. 70km round trip, a long way for a 20-minute paddle.

Our final two days were spent from Picton across to Queen Charlotte Sound, into Lochmore Bay, and more mussels from Bob's Bay.

## Queen Charlotte Sound, February 2002.

By Susan Hill.

My eyes popped open – dark, no idea of the time. What is it that wakes you so suddenly? I was alone in my tent on a sliver of a beach on Ruakaka Bay, off Queen Charlotte Sound. The wind had not really risen, though the tide had, and I could hear lapping of waves just a few metres away. But my boat was pulled well up, and tied to a tree, so what had wakened me?

There it was again: a rustling in my food bag in the vestibule of my tent. I slapped at it through the screen, with memories of mice chewing through a clean bag containing clean plastic bags left on a bench-top in a tent on Lake Waikaremoana, where food bags were hanging safely from wires. No sign of a scuttling beastie, but I decided to unzip, unpack, and re-pack just to make sure. I didn't want to have to alter plans because of foolishly contaminated food. Piece by piece, packet by packet, to the bottom of the bag, dreading what I might find. Nothing. Oh well. Awake now, might as well pee and try to get back to sleep.

The clear blue skies and unexpectedly glassy water of the day before had changed. The forecast had been for a front to come through with thumping rain by midday of the previous day, but there had been none of the high thin clouds that usually presage such events, and Dino, a guide with the Marlborough Sounds Adventure Company who had lent me a map and suggested a route, had said we would probably not be affected. His sentiments were reflected by a yachtie I had stopped to chat with around lunchtime.

I launched from a beach in Picton, filing a tentative "right plan" with the Adventure Company (I usually try to let a couple of people know what I'm up to when I head out alone, though it's not always been possible on this trip), wondering as I headed out whether I'd get impossibly confused trying to navigate these unfamiliar waters. I paid more attention than usual to landmarks and directions (not so much of an issue on a simple coastline), and had no trouble.

But as I said, skies were unexpectedly sunny and waters unexpectedly calm. I tried to poke along the shores, but I have to confess that these are not as interesting to me as the varied coastlines and rock-gardens, and caves between Auckland and Bay of Islands. Beautiful, no question, and I'm glad to be here, but not as interesting to me. By lunchtime, I found myself at Kumutoto, where I had thought I might spend the first night. Had I felt lazier, or had there not been a nearby fizz-boat with a yippy little dog, I might have pulled up for the afternoon or tramped about for a couple of hours (connected with a piece of the Walkway?), but instead I paddled on.

My reward was a couple of seals, one on the rocks and one in the water at the end of the next point. They were absolutely untouched by my presence, the water-logged one doing lazy log-rolls and hanging upside down to flap tail flippers in the air, the sun bathing beauty taking a quick dip to cool off and slithering back onto the rock. There I did linger a while.

The campground at the end of Ruakaka Bay looked charming – a protected beach, and lots of flat mown grass with trees interspersed – but there were half a dozen kayaks pulled up and another half a dozen people on the water practising rolls and rescues. "A club?" I asked. "No, we're from Nelson Polytechnic. A course on adventure tourism." I'm sure they were nice (and they proved it later), but I wasn't looking for a group experience, so I went back around a bend to a picnic site that had barely enough grassy space for my tent. I picked some mussels along the way, which formed the basis for my evening meal. These weren't the green-lipped mussels I was accustomed to, but rather dark blue, tasty, and about a third of them with tiny pearls.

So, two in the morning, no mouse in my food bag, high tide not threatening, but clouds now hiding the stars. I wasn't concerned: it was to be a fast moving front.

I woke again at dawn to a bellbird. Radio reception was good, and the weather forecast said fine for Wellington, Nelson, and Blenheim. But it was not. Skies were grey with fast-moving clouds. My little cove was well protected, and though I could see chop further out, there were no whitecaps. What to do? Curl up with a book and wait for the promised improvement, or pack up the dry tent and get back just as the sun emerged? The book won. And it started to rain. The radio kept saying it was fine. Was this a passing squall? Back to the book. Rain stopped. Finished the book. Dark skies and more wind. Start re-reading. Radio still said fine. Next poke outside revealed a few blue patches, so I decide to go for it. Stuffed packs, shook out the tent as best I could, put on the paddle jacket that has been worn as much by Alison as by me and which reveals the colour my life jacket used to be.

Out of my little cove and into the bay, I hit wind and chop, but nothing at all challenging. But at the mouth of the bay entering the Sound, the chop was significantly larger, very confused, with many whitecaps and strong wind. Nothing I hadn't handled successfully before – Cape Colville most recently – but I was alone, and figured three hours to Picton under good conditions paddling steadily and directly. It was hard to see the

extent of the roughness, but at some point I'd have to cross the Sound. As I sat, in-going and out-going ferries passed in the channel in front of me. I retreated around the point to escape their wakes and consider my options.

Around the point behind me came the armada, the group from Polytech. "It's pretty wild out there. What's your plan?" I hollered. "poke along the edge a bit and see how it goes" Helen, their Instructor. " May I join you?" "No problem." Whooping and hollering, we blasted through the rocks, around the point, and into the maelstrom. No problem, as I expected, but alone I choose my risks differently.

Less than half an hour along that shore, conditions had improved somewhat. We figured that the mouth of Ruakaka catches the funnel from Tory Channel, magnifying the effect of almost any wind. The group was headed for my lunch spot of the day before, so I

split off and crossed the channel into what I hoped would be the shelter of the other shore. Reality was unpredictability. Steep valleys and convoluted waterways twist the wind, and between patches a relative calm, I found myself battered from every direction except north. As I approached The Snout, which divides the relatively short Waikawa Bay from the deep reach of the Picton Harbour, I actually considered bailing out there and hitching back to my car in Picton. At one point, I saw a curtain of white cross in front of me, water whipped upward by some freak gust of wind.

But around The Snout, I was in a different world. The chop was gone, the gale was a slight breeze, and the last half hour belied the previous experience. I even saw two couples who had been out on guided day trips in the Dove Arm, completely sheltered and calm. Wind continued for another eighteen hours, and my tent dried in Rarangi.

## **Club T-shirts, Caps and Thermal Tops.**

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.

Thermal tops, just what you need for those crisp winter days. Navy, with white logo on each arm. \$35.

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

## **Classified ads...**

### **Found: Paddle.**

Some poor kayaker has lost their paddle, probably off the roof of their car as they were going home after (I hope) an adventure. I found it and picked it up and put it in my pocket (car). If it's yours please ring/e-mail and give me some defining information about where you live, when you lost it, what sort of paddle etc... so I can returned it to its rightful owner. Cynthia Borne, phone (09) 297 7267, e-mail [merwoman@yahoo.com](mailto:merwoman@yahoo.com)

### **For Sale: Wing Paddle.**

Brand new Canoe Sports S2000 speed wing paddle. Carbon composite blades with graphite shaft. \$220. Phone Jonathan on 578 1545.

### **For Sale: X-Factor – Kevlar sea kayak.**

Blue and Yellow deck, white hull. One careful lady owner moving overseas. \$2800. The perfect boat for all your sea kayaking adventures. Contact Jane Robinson on 521 1896.

### **For Sale: Sea Bear Double – Kevlar sea kayak.**

All in mint condition and always looked after. Includes paddles, spray skirts and life jackets. Asking \$3800, negotiable. Phone Steve Cunnold on 579 6005, or 021 606 514.

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

We have one space (on the top shelf) 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 hone 522 3344.

## More ads...

### **Wanted: Sea Kayak.**

Plastic – Penguin, Puffin, Storm, Squall or similar. Please contact Simon Fordham on 274 1828 or e-mail [simonf@clear.net.nz](mailto:simonf@clear.net.nz)

### **Wanted: Kayakers for Motu Challenge.**

The search is on to find five kayakers to complete the teams being assembled by a local cycling club. The kayakers will need to be able to cycle and run as well as paddle, because they will be doing the multisport section (27km kayak, 8km road bike, 3km flat run) of the Motu Challenge. You will need to have a Grade II White-water Certificate. Anyone wishing to try out their multisport skills might be interested in this. Phone Phil Christopherson, on 576 3545. Details on the Motu Challenge can be seen on [www.motuchallenge](http://www.motuchallenge)

## **Deadline for next month's newsletter: Tuesday 11 June 2002.**

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

I still have one more article by Susan Hill, but it wouldn't fit into the space below, so maybe next time. I'm assuming I'll still be the editor after the AGM, but that depends on whether or not I get voted in. Ian Calhaem has offered to stand in as editor if the trip to Australia goes ahead, but plans in that area are looking a bit shaky at the moment, so I might be here for another year.

If anyone has any small articles/stories that might be of interest, and would fill small gaps like the one below, please send them in.

Once again, thank you to all the people that have contributed to the newsletters over the last year. Without your help I could not have produced them. Give yourself a pat on the back, say "Well done", and go and write another story!

Hoping to hear from you soon...

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

## The Ebb and Flow

**By Roger Lomas**

Our first guest speaker club night was well attended with a few late arrivals missing out on seats. Pelham Housego quickly warmed up his audience when he displayed a slide of his beloved Fiat 600 with a kayak atop. When the laughter had subsided, Pelham recounted how the vehicle, although rather minuscule, was very practical for the kayaking of the era. This was back in the 60s and remote, river-running was all the rage. Access to launch sites was often across farmland and if the little rear-engined Fiat became bogged down it was easily manoeuvred to more tractable ground. Try that in your big (bugger) Toyota.

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*Tuesday night paddles are all about male bonding and shared adventure. Yeah right, nothing to do with the lovely Tuesday night ladies is it lads?*

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Recently in the news was the story about the outrigger race drama in Tauranga where crews were capsized in strong winds and needed coastguard and police rescue. Last month some of our Okahu Bay based outrigger paddlers rescued a kayaker (not a club member) who had capsized at St. Heliers Bay and was clinging to a harbour beacon.

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*When our trips officer was banished to the wastelands of Waiouru the club calendar was left in limbo. "Cometh the moment, cometh the man." Morgan Lewis has stepped forward and with a group of enthusiastic assistants will keep things on track.*

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Life can be a bitch, especially when a neighbourhood nasty nicks your car. Our Rosie Thom was the victim and to make matters worse the kayaking gear was inside the car. Luckily the sleek white X Factor was safely stored at the Okahu Bay locker and our plucky paddle is still able to venture out to sea. A borrowed scooter gets her down to the bay and a regular visit to the Takapuna Sunday markets is now taken via a scenic coastal route.

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*Strong wind and a low river level did not stop a big entry in the Cambridge – Hamilton River Race. Good results in the sea kayak division came from Graham Bruce (3<sup>rd</sup> Vet Men) in his homebuilt craft. Ryan Whittle (1<sup>st</sup> Open Men) in an Albatross and there were good battles further back between the lads with Peter Moses (X Factor) ahead of Lindsay Sandes (Barracuda Expedition) and Rob Gardner (Mirage). The stand out performances would have to be Jimmy Thompson's 5<sup>th</sup> outright in a Storm and Jenni Douglas (1<sup>st</sup> place woman) in the Cutlass.*

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The other big event this month was the international surf ski race around Rangitoto. Lindsay Sandes paddled out to spectate and was motivated to do well in his next race (Cambridge – Hamilton) where he won a more powerful motivator, a wing bladed paddle. Watch out Ryan and Jimmy.

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*Just who is the best-dressed sea kayaker in town? A recent survey revealed that our Ian Deverick now holds that title. Ian was spotted paddling into the bay resplendent in the latest club polypro top (ocean blue), which was enhanced by a club terracotta cap. The survey was conducted by Jonathon (Arkwright) Jarvis.*

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There was a glut of surplus Slingshots on the market after the Mizone Endurance Race. Steve Davy was quick to snare one and has been spotted exceeding the 5-knot speed limit in the bay.

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*Talking about new craft. Fergs Kayaks have the big new Tasman Express available for a demo in the store now. This is the latest creation from Quality Kayaks and is a long plastic Sea Kayak aimed at the expedition paddler with a \$2400 launch price. Good reports from test paddlers so far.*

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Across town, Peter and Su at The Canoe Centre are pleased with their Cambridge – Hamilton Race promotion that had a record entry. New in their shop is a lightweight-folding kayak to compliment their already large selection of these craft.

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*Eagle eyed entrants at the Cambridge race may have spotted a prototype entry of what could well be labelled the worlds fastest Sea Kayak. Gordon Robinson has been tweaking up a race hull at the Barracuda factory in Silverdale and the new craft will be released shortly.*

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Don't forget next month's guest speaker club night at our clubrooms. Justin Sanson-Beattie and Jennifer Andrew will be along with some more superb kayak and tramping slides. Justin will show you how to have an adventure in your own back yard (the islands of the gulf) and then the Dynamic Duo will be off to Lake Tarawera for a summer holiday before they finish up with the eagerly awaited shots from the "River Bash". Arrive early and catch up with all the latest gossip, meet fellow paddlers and enjoy a pre-show B.B.Q.

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*Two club members deserve the merit awards this month. The big bouquet has to go to Rebecca Heap for organising and instructing at two very successful practical skills courses at Long Bay recently. Applause also for Mike Randall and his skills session at Sullivans Bay in April. Mike was spotted at St. Heliers Bay last week and he certainly has the wet re-entry and roll technique perfected.*

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## Trip Planning.

As you probably know, Rob Gardner has flown the coop and moved down to Waiouru, so we have been left without a Trip Planning Officer. Morgan Lewis has kindly offered to stand in for Rob, but he needs your help. Below is a trip planning form, and if you would like to lead, organise, or suggest a trip, please fill out the form and send it to Morgan.

### Proposed ACC Trip.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number (home and / or work) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Trip title / destination: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Trip duration (day, weekend, long weekend) \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any special requirements to take into consideration when scheduling this trip?

(eg tide times, daylight length, full moon) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date preferences      First choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Second choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Third choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any dates that are not possible for you? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to be the contact person for this trip?      Yes      No

Do you want to lead this trip?      Yes      No

Would you like to have/be an assistant leader?      Yes      No

*Please provide advertising details, to be included in the newsletter, 1 – 2 months prior to the trip.*

*Please return the form to:*

Morgan Lewis, 5 Whitworth Rd, Mt Eden, Phone 620 4005  
[morganl@xtra.co.nz](mailto:morganl@xtra.co.nz)

