



Newsletter

June 2002

Hello Folks,

Congratulations to the new committee and a huge thank you to all the people that came to the AGM in May. I think we must have had a record turnout for an AGM, and it really was fantastic to see so many faces there. If you don't already know the results of the elections, have a look at the list of who's who on page two. Basically everything went according to plan, with one minor hiccup – a last minute nomination saw me competing against Jonathan Jarvis for the role of Vice President. Votes were called for and Jonathan and I were sent out of the room while everyone tried to work out who was the winner. We both refused to come out of hiding when the rabble called for speeches to help them decide, so they had to make the decision without our help. To cut a long story short – I won! Have you ever heard the nursery rhyme “Hey diddle, diddle, the cat and the fiddle...”? Well, I think I know how the cow felt! Thank you very much for voting me in, and thank you Ann for nominating me.

At the end of the meeting, Trevor Arthur was presented with the Evan Stubbs Memorial Award, in recognition of all the work that Trevor has done for the club “above and beyond the call of duty”. Well done Trevor and best wishes for your retirement (from the club committee). An additional surprise was a bunch of flowers awarded to Rona Patterson, as a thank you for the work she has done as the Club's Secretary. They even gave me a bunch of flowers as a belated thank you for the work I did as secretary before Rona took over. Thanks guys, it is appreciated.

Matt Crozier has taken up the reins of Club president, but has already had to deal with one blow – I have had to resign from the role of Vice President, and this will be my last newsletter. The trip to Australia has finally been given the green light and Laurie, Ray and I will soon be going walkabout/cycle-about/drive-about/maybe some kayak-about in Australia. I think that must have been the shortest term for Vice-President in the history of the club. My humblest apologies to all those that voted for me (but I'm still chuffed that you did). Maybe I'll try again when I come back. In the meantime, the role of Vice-President will be left vacant (Jonathan has declined the offer of taking over), and Ian Calhaem will be Editor.

New faces on the committee include Rosie Thom, Alissa Good, and Morgan Lewis. Morgan is trying to get the trip calendar bursting with exciting trips, but he needs your help. Don't be afraid to suggest trips, and if you are not confident to lead a trip on your own, try getting a few experienced people to co-lead the trip with you – Morgan can help to arrange this too. Our Safety and Instruction Officer, Peter Somerhalder, is currently trying to schedule some more leadership courses, so if you would like some training in group management give Peter a call and get your name on the waiting list.

Well, that's all for now. If I don't see you before I leave for Australia – Goodbye and happy paddling. And don't forget to have a look at the Ebb and Flow – looks like a fine example of a budding editor to me.

Cheers,
Margaret

In this issue...

Visibility of Kayaks, by Maritime Safety Authority; **Reflections on Harbour Use**, by Peter Sommerhalder;
Opoutere to Papa Aroha, by Dan Hawthorn; **Nelson Lakes**, by Susan Hill; **Ebb and Flow**, by Roger Lomas.

Useful phone numbers and addresses

Club address	PO Box 147-282, Ponsonby, Auckland				
President	Matt Crozier	817 1984	Publicity Officer	Roger Lomas	579 8799
& Membership			Safety & Training Officer	Peter Sommerhalder	815 2073
Patron	Colin Quilter	630 2219	Storage & Club Kayaks	Lindsay Sandes	522 3344
Secretary	Rosie Thom	376 8636	Merchandising	Jonathan Jarvis	578 1545
Treasurer	Alissa Good	846 2622	Newsletter Editor	Margaret Thwaites	292 7883
Trips Officer	Morgan Lewis	620 4005	Newsletter Co-Editor	Ian Calhaem	579 0512
	morganl@xtra.co.nz			IanCalhaem@xtra.co.nz	

The Club maintains two e-mail groups:

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

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

Where can you go to get training?

Auckland Canoe Centre, phone 815 2073.

Basic confidence course, Henderson Pool, Tuesday evenings - \$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

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 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 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. Not suitable for novice/new paddlers over the winter months, try the new Saturday morning paddle instead. Meet at Okahu Bay by 5:30pm, ready to be on the water by 5:45pm. Leaders are no longer rostered on, therefore one will be nominated on the night. 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.)

Regular Daytime Paddles.

New event to cater for new/novice paddlers over the winter months.

Saturday, Okahu Bay. All skill levels welcome. Meet at Okahu Bay by 7:45am, ready to be on the water by 8:00am sharp. (Late-comers will be left behind!) Trip format will be similar to the Tuesday evening paddles, i.e. 1-2 hours paddling, destination dependent on tide, weather, and skill levels. Leader is Lindsay Sandes. For more details, contact Lindsay on 522 3344.

June

Reminder: Subscriptions for the period April 2002 – March 2003 are due. If you haven't already paid this year's subs, there will be a membership application form attached to this newsletter and this will be your last newsletter unless you pay-up. If you have any queries regarding your membership, please contact Matt Crozier on 817 1984, or e-mail matt@vsl.co.nz

Saturday 15 Morning Paddle, Okahu Bay. New regular event, see above for more details.

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.**

Saturday 22 Morning Paddle, Okahu Bay. New regular event, see above for more details.

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.**

Weekend 28 – 30 (or day trip on the 30th) Waipu. This trip could be a weekend away or just a day trip on the Sunday. For those interested in a weekend away I have access to a batch in Langs beach and can access alternative accommodation depending on numbers. The plan is to explore the land on the Saturday (Maybe the glow worm caves) and on the Sunday paddle up the Waipu river to Waipu for lunch. Langs Beach / Waipu is less than two hours from Auckland so a day trip is quite achievable. **Contact Alissa Good on 846 2622, 021 608 448 or Alissa.good@firstbase.co.nz for details.**

Saturday 29 Morning Paddle, Okahu Bay. New regular event, see above for more details.

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 5th 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

Tuesday 2 Guest Speaker Club Night. Adrian Davis will take us on a 300km canoe expedition in the Canadian Yukon Wilderness. Meet at our clubrooms upstairs above Fergs Kayak Shop on Tamaki Drive at 7pm. \$2 door charge - supper and pre show B.B.Q. **Contact Roger Lomas 579-8799.**

Saturday 6 Morning Paddle, Okahu Bay. New regular event, see above for more details.

Saturday 13 Morning Paddle, Okahu Bay. New regular event, see above for more details.

Saturday 13 Manukau Harbour – Go with the Flow – Cornwallis to Weymouth. Meet at 8am for 8:30 departure at Cornwallis Wharf. Suitable for Intermediate to Advanced paddlers. (May be Advanced only depending on the weather). The idea of this trip is to see how far across the Manukau Harbour we can get with the current before having to turn back. Will we make it to Weymouth before the tide turns? Bring your charts and GPSs! This is an all day trip, potentially with no land stops in between - essentially an open water crossing. So you must know if you can stay in a kayak seat all day, you **MUST** know how to get back into your kayak and be comfortable staying with a group. Please ring me if you intend to come. M@ (alias Matt Crozier) @ 817 1984, or 025 662 3842.

Sunday 14 Wenderholm to Puhoi. Contact John Hieatt on 828 9673.

Sunday 14 Lower Waikato River. Meet 11.30 hr at Hoods Landing (drive via Waiuku onto the Waiuku-Otaua Rd, turn right at the southern end, and first left should be Hoods Landing road), on the water by 12 Noon. High Tide 13.30 hr. Returning to Hoods Landing approx 4 pm. Easy exploring amongst the islands of the lower Waikato River. Bring lunch, fishing gear, camera. **For information phone Peter Sommerhalder at work on 815-2073.**

Saturday 20 Morning Paddle, Okahu Bay. New regular event, see above for more details.

Saturday 20 Riverhead Pub, afternoon trip. Contact Trevor Arthur on 817 7357.

Saturday 27 Morning Paddle, Okahu Bay. New regular event, see above for more details.

Weekend 27-28 Waiheke Lodge. Contact Justin Sanson-Beattie on 278 8090.

Sunday 28 Goat Island. Meet at Mathesons Bay at 9:30 for 10:00am start. This is a fantastic trip when the weather is right – rock gardens, sea horses and lots of fish. We will paddle from Mathesons Bay to Goat Island, have lunch, and a snorkel for those more hardy souls, and then paddle back. The option exists to do a one-way trip but individuals would need to organise their cars for this. It is critical you contact Alissa if you are planning on going as this trip will be cancelled if the wind is up. **Contact Alissa Good on 846 2622, 021 608 448 or Alissa.good@firstbase.co.nz for details.**

August – September Provisional Calendar

Saturday 10 August

Waiiau Pa White Water Day. Contact Trevor Arthur on 817 7357.

Weekend 17/18 August

Barracuda Breakout. Contact Gordon Robinson on (09) 427 4478.

Saturday 7 September

Candlelight hors d'oeuvre and afterwards hooly. Contact Morgan Lewis on 620 4005.

Anyone Interested in Regular Mid-Week, Day-Time Paddling???

Rona Patterson is looking for paddling buddies that would like to share her company on the water in the daylight. The suggestion is to meet on Tuesdays at 10 am.

If anyone is interested, please contact Rona, at home, on 834 3399.

Rotorua Lakes Sea Kayaking Symposium 21 – 23 February 2003

Mark this date in your diaries. There will be lots of interesting activities, with an emphasis on getting to know the Rotorua Lakes, including a dawn paddle to Mokoia Island to hear the dawn chorus. The event will be similar to the very successful Coastbusters Symposium held earlier this year, but with more paddling, and a DJ and party on Saturday night. More information will be published closer to the date, or else contact Graeme Bruce (07) 332 3112.

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

Anderson Family – Roger, Hazel, Meg and Rory
Rosemary Gatland
Brian Kettle
Lawrence Raffles
Ken Sewell
Sally Wallis

Richard Harding
Gary Lane
Andrew Peddie
Ron Sperber

Claudia Edwards
Kerry Howe
Rachael Lodge
Charles & Liane Pritchard/Schuyler
Bruce Vickerman

Sherilyn Evans
Ken Jewel
Sylvia Paul
Nigel Webb

Life Membership – Daniel Sommerhalder

After 25 years as a member of the club, Daniel Sommerhalder was awarded life membership to the Auckland Canoe Club at the last committee meeting. Congratulations Daniel, and best wishes from the committee.

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.

Visibility of Kayaks – Boat Notices.

From Maritime Safety Authority.

There have been a number of collisions and many near miss situations involving kayaks and other vessels on lakes, bays and on the coast.

It is the duty of every vessel's skipper to keep a careful lookout using all available means. Power craft must give way to kayaks. However, in reality it is very difficult, and at times almost impossible, to see kayaks at a distance of more than a few metres. Kayaks are very low on the water, easily lost from sight amongst even small waves, and do not appear on radar screens.

It is essential, therefore, that kayak skippers make sure they can be readily seen by the operators of other vessels. While brightly coloured hulls and clothing assist to some degree, a much more effective means of being seen is required.

A brightly coloured (orange or yellow) flag on a whip or thin pole at least one metre high and brightly coloured paddle blades both assist greatly if kayaks are to be seen at a safe distance by day.

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.

The practice of carrying a flashing light or strobe light is dangerous. Such lights are used to indicate a person in the water after falling overboard. Other vessels are likely to investigate allowing close quarters situations to develop.

Reflections on Harbour Use.

By Peter Sommerhalder.

The Auckland Regional Council invited harbour users to a three-monthly meeting. It was acknowledged that kayakers were well represented by Chris Gulley (Outdoor Discoveries), David Oosterdyke (Fergs Kayaks), Adrian Davies (Manukau and Waitemata Canoe Clubs) and Peter Sommerhalder (Auckland Canoe Club and Auckland Canoe Centre). The Outrigger paddlers also were represented. Discussions and presentations were very informative, and we left with a positive feeling that paddlers are still welcome in the Auckland Harbour.

The most important message concerning paddlers was this comment, made by skippers of launches and pleasure yachts: 'We can't see you guys out there.' This refers to night and day paddlers. A white light (not strobe) visible from all around is a must for kayakers paddling in the dark. As the harbour master mentioned to us privately after the official meeting, when we enjoyed a drink and fingerfood: "For God's sake stick a light on you, any colour, but a light." Unfortunately, a twirling red bikelight, or a flashing strobe, will sent a message of "Man Overboard – Emergency" to other harbour users. And they will only respond once to an "emergency" when finding a lonely paddler is enjoying him or herself. This is a serious matter. Please do not bother turning up to our weekly night paddles if you have not fitted a night light or do not carry a white, waterproof torch on your front deck. And for day use, design your own flag and fly it on a mast on the rear deck.

Every Wednesday night the Waitemata Canoe Club is having time trials on the Henderson Creek - in the dark. Trying to get paddlers to fit a light to their craft or themselves, so they could see each other after rounding marker buoys, where the leaders headed straight into the chasers, proved to be a difficult task. This winter some smart brain developed a waterproof miniature sausage, containing a tiny, bright LED bulb

connected to a hearing aid battery, selling for just a few dollars. And bingo, dozens of silent fireflies are now gliding on the smooth Henderson Creek. For practical samples and ideas on night-lights see the staff at Auckland Canoe Centre immediately.

The Harbour Master and his team have received reports of several incidents where kayakers had to be rescued by passing boaties cruising in and out of the harbour. Their comment was that kayakers should not be out there in such small vessels. Little do these boaties know about the safety drills and paddling skills of seakayakers. To them there is no difference between an Auckland Canoe Club paddler and a freedom hirer out for the first time, ignoring basic advice given out by kayak hire companies. Our guess is those rescued paddlers have signed instructions, saying not to go outside the wave-screen. They ignored this advice, got into trouble in Auckland Harbour, and dragged all other kayakers into disrepute. But the spirit of this meeting was, that all paddlers are welcome to use the harbour. But please look after each other and play it safe. The Coastguard Education is offering courses like Day Skipper, use of VHF radio and offering free handouts on all safety and marine matters. The Coastguard Education Officer is Sue Tucker, and can be contacted on 489 1850, ext 211, or by email sue@cbes.org.nz.

Unfortunate drownings and accident investigations amongst rafting operators and jet-skiers have led to strict safety regulations drawn up by Government Departments for those industries. I believe jet-skiers have to register their personal watercraft, so they can be identified in case of accidents. If seakayakers or white water paddlers do not behave responsibly, registration of personal watercraft could become a possibility. Surely, most paddlers would resist such restrictions. Commercial operators already are registered, adhere to a strict code of practice and pay annual licence fees. In return they get access to

regional parks, DOC facilities, and are communicating with Regional Authorities, Harbour Masters and most important the Coastguard and rescue services.

Auckland Regional Council and the organiser of the Eagle Harbour Swims passed on special thanks to kayakers who helped with cleaning-up campaigns and swim escorts. They are counting on paddlers enthusiastic efforts again for next summer.

Opoutere to Papa Aroha.

By Dan Hawthorn.

Well, not really. With a week to go Morgan found that the Opoutere camp was closed for the winter and rescheduled us to Papa Aroha. Damn I thought, Firth of bloody Thames, muddy water, oyster covered rocks and short sharp waves. Felt a little more cheerful when I looked at the map, Papa Aroha is about as close as you can get to the Motukawao group of islands while still onshore. This is the group that includes Happy Jack.

And then waiting for Friday and watching the long-range forecasts which were only so-so and there was that depression growing off Queensland and those isobars making long lines from the cold south, but hey I want some company and lets be positive, yes? I am away by 3 on Friday and crawl south past a pile up, an hour to Drury and I get to Coromandel, after dark, for fish and chips, then on to Papa Aroha and find Morgan helping Trish explore the NZ wine industry. We go to bed, with Morgan extracting promises of a brisk and early start. Trish and I wake early and consider leaving the sleeping Morgan a note, (pure mischief) but we are all on the water by nine. It is raining, no wind but more water than there needs to be. However we re-discover that once you are afloat mild rain doesn't really matter and there are numerous gaps between the showers. We simply head out to the nearest island and our plan of action is simple, we shall go round it, point to the nearest island after that, go round it and keep going until we run out of islands. It's not a bad plan.

The islands are a delight, Moturua is the nearest and we land on a boulder bank and stretch before deciding that it's warmer inside the kayaks, and carry on. Trish tries trolling for Kahawai and catches a beauty but her reel goes over the side at the same time as the fish bites and she is left with a massive snarl of bundled nylon and a large and lively fish in the boat at the same time. Trish also makes a discovery that she does not like killing fish so we admire it and let it go. Morgan has gone the other way round the island and comes back to be told that his dreams of baked fish are back in the sea, he is disgusted. Another island, another circuit, Motukaramama is smaller than its name but we rock garden gently and feel pleased with ourselves. The water is deep clear blue, it is very relaxed paddling and the islands are populated with blue herons and fishermen. For \$20 you can get yourself marooned on an island beside a good snapper spot and because of the way the islands have eroded these come with rock roofs over rocky ledges so that you can retreat into shelter between casts. We are all delighted by the rock formations and these become spell binding when we go across to Motuwi, a double island with high domed spires that still have gannets resting on what must be busy colonies in summer. There is one cliff face in

particular with caves exposing layers of rock beneath and the face ending in a sort of undercut ragged skirt that has me thinking of a ruined curtain-wall of some desolate but wondrous castle. It is sombre and splendid and the dark sky and subdued light adds to the effect, we pause and sit just to take it in, there is not a camera amongst us. And then back home, Trish has been rock gardening with the happy immunity of the plastic kayak owner and with much restraint Morgan and I do not leave her to slowly paddle home alone (just to drive home the drawbacks of plastic) while we streak away in our unscratched barracudas. We have spent five hours covering maybe fifteen kilometers and have for once had all the time we wanted just to admire the coast we met, it's been a joy. In spite of the rain we come back happy and feeling that the trip is already giving us just what we wanted.

As we cross back to Papa Aroha we spot two kayakers in the distance. They turn out to be Ryan and Wayne who have driven up early Saturday and also gone to explore the islands. Comparing notes later, they must have been opposite us on a number of the islands. We land and meet up and the rain suddenly pours down. In the kayaks we were warm, if a bit damp, but now we are cold and wet. The camp has hot showers, the cabin has cups of tea, and canoe-talk is exchanged. Outside it pelts down. Jackie and Sylvia arrive, the rain retreats to showers and we plan the next day.

Sunday and there is blue sky and a cold wind from the south. We are going to look at the islands closer to Coromandel; Motuoruhi, Motukopake, Waimate and Motutapere and further if we feel like it. "We" means Morgan, Jackie, Sylvia, Wayne, Dan and Ryan. Pam had gone down to the beach and felt the bite of the Southerly and told Wayne it was simply going to be nicer ashore. Since she also volunteered to put on our roast dinner for us we forgave her. Trish has gone beyond the pale entirely and is going out with friends in a Parkercraft! It is Sylvia's first paddle and Pam kindly lent her Pam's Squall. We wonder if we are doing a bit much for someone's first paddle but decide to take it an island at a time and turn back if needed. And so we island hop, rock gardening and enjoying ourselves. The time passes and the wind is a bit stronger, we stick to the sheltered sides of the islands but in the gap between Motuoruhi and Waimate the sea is lumpy and Sylvia is a bit queasy and a little tired. Time for lunch. Morgan has promised Jackie a beach with palm trees for lunch. This seems a bit optimistic given the harsh rock shore but on the west side of Waimate he finds us a beach and if not palms there is a set of giant yuccas with old flower stalks towering up seven meters. We lunch in sun and shelter and Sylvia recovers.

The wind has strengthened and the sea between us and the mainland now looks lively with lots of whitecaps. There is a gust that shifts all the beached kayaks and we see spray torn off the water in the gap between Waimate and Motukopake, no more islands, it is time to go. Home is seven kilometers away and the wind is doing 25 knots with stronger gusts. The sea is not that large, maybe a meter with a few larger but the waves are close together, almost side on to us, coming slightly from behind. Every so often they crest and whitecaps form beneath our hulls. Morgan, Ryan and Jackie form one group of three up ahead and they are finding the conditions interesting. Wayne and I are back with Sylvia and I am thinking that we are likely to have both a rescue and a long hard tow. Sylvia however is gutsy, she is still learning how to be effective with her paddle but she is shifting her weight really well and waves break under her hull and beside her and she stays upright. (It helps to be a skier.) Wayne keeps up a

needed flow of encouragement and chatter beside her and we keep making ground, partly towards home and partly towards the rather rocky shore. We get there, Sylvia is still, most impressively, upright and now we need to land through small surf. Ryan goes north to look at a stream entrance and is swept inshore in a tangle of white water. I go in to the middle of the beach and land in a rush and the others follow in safely almost before I am out of my canoe, Sylvia remaining upright to the last! Pam and Trish had been watching our crossing and had been a little worried, at times not all of the party could be seen, and viewed from the shore the sea looked fairly hostile. So we finished with a sense of achievement and a big roast dinner to follow, to which Pam had added apple and apricot pies! Good company, and a good coastline.

Thanks Morgan for a trip which was highly enjoyable and made the wet weather largely irrelevant.

Nelson Lakes, February 2002.

By Susan Hill.

I'm at lovely Maruia Springs, watching the mist and rain through the window-wall of the Japanese-style bathhouse. For \$13 one can stay in the "campground" (an almost-level grass-covered rock field) next to the hot pools. Worth it to me. My next route was to be through Arthur's Pass, invisible in this mist. So it's a day to catch up on doing "nothing" – reading and writing.

I spent the last few days in the Nelson Lakes, admittedly overwhelmed enough by the sandflies that I altered plans and changed activities. But decisions were based partly, too, on a dismal weather forecast. I arrived in early afternoon, having driven up the Wairau Valley from Blenheim, stopping at a new Fresh Choice supermarket to be sure I'd have appropriate food for whatever I decided to do. The DoC information centre had the forecast posted: winds building, stronger of course at higher altitudes, and heavy rain starting midday the next day. I watched for a few minutes as serious backpackers revised their plans, one wiry grey-beard heading out for five to seven days on his own deciding to do his trip in reverse, hoping to be at certain river crossings and particular ridge trails when weather was better. Well, I'd rather be miserable at water level than above the tree line, so I decided just to paddle Lake Rotoiti, to stay at the far end, and to come back in the morning before the rotten weather.

Lake access was easy – able to unload the boat within a couple of metres of water's edge, no waves or tide to consider so the boat could be packed half in the water – but packing was hell because of the sandflies. As soon as I stood still, I was the centre of a cloud, and though repellent keeps most of them from biting, it doesn't actually repel them. I only hoped that enough of my mind was operating on automatic pilot that I wouldn't forget anything essential. As it was, needing neither tent nor thermore, my hatches seemed so empty that I didn't trust myself.

But I had to get moving or I'd lose it completely. Whatever I'd forgotten, I'd either paddle back to get or make do without. On the water – bliss. Once the few beasts in the cockpit had been mashed and I was moving, I was again at peace. I headed for the middle of the lake, a black mirror reflecting the grey sky and steep dark mountains, but as soon as I stopped, the flies were around me again. No Matter, it's easy to move enough to keep away from them, and since the shore is more interesting, I moved in that direction.

Beech trees, manuka and hebe in bloom forming clouds of white among the multi-green, and a water-weed that looks like asparagus fern with wild strawberry-like flowers poking above the surface. Most places, the steep bush comes right to the water line and the mountain descends steeply to imposing clear depths. Other places, grey pebble or cobble beaches indicate where small streams come down the hillsides. I passed a fisherman in a small tinny with an unexpectedly quiet motor trawling south. He waved. "Not much luck," he reported cheerfully.

It's not a big lake. Two lobes at the south end – Kerr Bay from which I'd launched, with a small campground and the DoC info centre at the edge of St Arnaud; and West Bay, with another campground and the outflow that is the source of the Buller River – these narrow and bend slightly between high, steep walls of green, with bush line and landslide areas visible, fading in layers in the distance. Sun sets in the valley and the shadows start to move up the east wall as I reach the opening of the Travers River plain at the north end of the lake. I'd intended to go to the Lakehead Hut, and said so on the intention sheet I'd filled out at DoC Headquarters, but I see now that although it is probably still in the sun, it's a bit of a walk up the valley from the east side jetty, while the Coldwater Hut is just steps from the jetty and beach at the west side of the inflow. Easy choice.

Now in shadows, I'm cold, and again plagued by sandflies, make quick work of unloading the boat and getting gear through the door into the hut. It's a relief to have to carry the boat only a few feet over stony beach onto grass, with no surf or tide to consider. The hut is small. A half-wall of stone creates a front porch with picnic table, fireplace, and drying wire. Inside are six bunks and a narrow table and bench. I'm quickly into dry clothes and cooking up a pot of stew (not from a can), enjoying my solitude.

Morning is again still and grey. My fantasy of getting up before the sandflies was just that, a fantasy, but I'm more efficient at loading the boat from this end. Just as I'm about to push off, a German boy with a backpack

appears. "Which way to the Angelus Hut" he asks? I hadn't studied the trail map that carefully, and I say so. (I ran into him again later that afternoon at the Bushline Hut near the top of Mount Roberts.) He tells me there were fifteen in the Lakehead Hut, a group I later see as they take their morning tea break on a beach halfway back the Lakehead Trail.

Blue skies back at Kerr Bay. Time to change gears, change muscles, and find a tramp. It's not worth planning a trip to the Nelson Lakes just to kayak – there's not enough distance or variety – but if you have your boat, take a day or two as an alternative to the different challenge that is backpacking. And two hours away is Maruia Springs with its limitless hot water and misty moist views.

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...

Wanted: Storage space for car.

Up to 12 months covered storage required from beginning July. Contact Ray Clark on 2927 883.

Wanted: House sitter – Titirangi.

Up to 12 months accommodation in fully furnished town-house, from early July. Contact Ray Clark on 2927 883.

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Tuesday 9 July 2002.

A final jolly big "thank you" to this month's contributors. This will be the last newsletter from me (Margaret) for a while – I'm off to go walkabout with Laurie and Ray in Australia. Ian Calhaem has offered to help with the newsletter editorship, so all future articles will have to be sent to him. Please keep those articles rolling in – I couldn't have produced these newsletters without your help, and I'm sure Ian will appreciate your help too. Keep up the good work, and happy paddling.

Send articles to: Ian Calhaem.
E-mail to: iancalhaem@xtra.co.nz

The Ebb and Flow

By Roger Lomas

Camping in style has become the hallmark of a Justin Sanson-Beatie adventure paddle. You can join him later this month when he leads a weekend away trip to Waiheke Island. Will there be a visit to the Mud Brick Café for lunch? Probably not this time but some of Justin's own gourmet flare is bound to be on show when the group settles into the Orapiu Bay lodge out at the southern end of the Island.

No names and we won't even mention dumb blonde jokes. It was a new white spirits stove with easy to follow instructions and then suddenly there was a tent with unwanted central heating and a damsel in distress.

Strong easterly winds delayed Bernard Moyersoan and Jimmy Thompson's planned departure for a paddle out to Great Barrier Island last month. Later when the wind changed to a southwesterly blast they were off. After overnighing at Waiheke and Port Jackson they completed a very fast crossing to a campsite north of Tryphena. A bumpy wet ride back to Auckland on the Subritzky ferry rounded off an exhilarating week away that cost our sea kayakers less than \$100 each.

Getting out on the water before sunrise in winter has its rewards. The dolphins are back in town and yes it's the early paddler that gets to play with the pod.

It's all on again next month at the clubrooms. Our guest speaker this time will be veteran kayaker Adrian Davis. Back in the late 80s, Adrian organised and led a canoeing expedition through the wilderness of the Yukon region of North West Canada. Come along to see and hear about this 300km adventure paddle. It's our usual format, arrive around 7p.m. for a pre show B.B.Q. and a chance to chat with fellow club members, enjoy the expedition talk and slide show and then it's supper time. Mark it on the calendar now – first Tuesday of the month all through winter.

With the shortest day of the year just around the corner it's an opportunity to indulge in some mid winter madness. Rumour has it that the Barracuda Boys are holding their annual get together which involves all night revelry on a prominent off-shore Island. The singing of salty sea shanties is followed by a game of mud ball when the tide recedes. It's then down to the end of the wharf for the "Undie 500" dip and dash, which is usually done minus something. Back to the B.B.Q. pit to warm up before the spectacular "Fire Tail" event and more sea shanties. Novices are inducted with a secret ritual during the night's revelry but for some strange reason not many have been turning up lately. If anyone has seen Tony Greaves could they pass on the info? There is the usual sacrificial maiden thing and the ritual burning of an old wooden Sea Bear before the trek to the summit to watch the sun rise. A severe shortage of maidens and old wooden Sea Bears has created problems in recent years. Lock up your daughters.

More civilized indoor revelry will be conducted at Wolfgang's De Niro's Restaurant in the Mt Eden Village on Tuesday 25th June. Unruly types will not be admitted which means all club members are eligible but with numbers strictly limited you will have to contact event organiser Rona Patterson first. Quick, ring her now. 834-3399.

Our newly elected club president Matt Crozier was quickly into the leadership role last week when an unfilled gap in the club calendar arrived. An overnight visit to the Rangitoto Bach was quickly arranged via the club email event reminder. Out on the Island Matt led the weekend participants to a secret location where a buried treasure cache was unearthed. It's all part of an enterprise that Matt launched on his chat line some weeks back called geocaching. Players in this treasure hunt game need to have a hand held G.P.S. to compete. It appears that perhaps only Matt and Wayne Fitzsimons can play so come on Mr President, how about letting us all in on the fun? Give us a few clues and a tatty torn segment of map in the next newsletter please.

For safety reasons (its cold, dark and miserable) the club has ceased running the Tuesday night paddle roster. A much better option is now available thanks to Lindsay Sandes' early morning generosity. It means getting up early on Saturday mornings and being down at the sunny Okahu Bay ramp ready for a prompt 8am departure. Lindsay plans to be on the water for about an hour and then it's back to the ramp and up to the café for a cuppa. Be warned when Lindsay says depart at 8 am he means it, so plan accordingly.

Our new committee convened last Tuesday and you can sleep soundly with the knowledge that everything went smoothly with everyone rolling up their sleeves to get straight down to business. New faces around the table are Rosie Thom Secretary, Alissa Good Treasurer, Morgan Lewis Trips Officer and Ian Calhaem will be back in N.Z. soon to run the newsletter.

Guess who? – An accomplished white water paddler. – A skilled sea kayaker. – A very fast sea kayak racer. – A competent expedition paddler. – An experienced trip leader. – A former club secretary and event organizer. – A well-respected safety issues adviser. – A feisty debater at committee meetings. – And a very popular club newsletter editor. Yes she is one of the big cogs in the gears that make our club work and our well-liked Karaka chook farmer is flying the coop, off for a big Aussie outback experience. Bon-voyage and well done Margaret.



Trevor receiving the Evan Stubbs Trophy



The new look committee for this year.
From Left: Jonathan Jarvis, Colin Quilter, Rosie Thom, Lindsay Sandes, Alissa Good, Morgan Lewis, Margaret Thwaites, Matthew Crozier,
Peter Sommerhalder, Roger Lomas