

# AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB



*Newsletter*

*July 2002*

Hello Folks,

Well, this issue is a combined effort from many different hands! My thanks to all who have assisted in the production. It just goes to show what a team we have in the Auckland Canoe Club.

As those of you know, Margaret was elected (appointed... persuaded!) to be the Newsletter editor again for 2002-3, but then unexpectedly, went on her travels to Australia. I had, in a weak moment, offered to assist Margaret if she required it this year, so.... When I returned from an overseas trip to Fiji (more about that later) I discovered an email congratulating me on being the Editor.

A number of calls offered support and encouragement, and this issue is the result. I suppose the good thing is that it leaves plenty of room for improvement, and no doubt that will be possible as the months pass. For now I am feeling my way, grateful to those who have assisted and thankful that the first issue is out!

Cheers,

*Jan*

## **In the Issue**

Useful phone numbers and addresses	2	Winter solstice weekend on Rangitoto.	5
Where can you go to get training?	2	Waipu Cove	6
Safety Policy for Club Trips.	2	Did you know...	7
Trips and Events Calendar	3	Club T-shirts, Caps and Thermal Tops	7
Three islands	5	Classified ads...	7

**Deadline for next month's newsletter:**

**Friday 2nd Aug 2002.**

## Useful phone numbers and addresses

<b>Club address</b>	PO Box 147-282, Ponsonby, Auckland		
<b>President</b>	Matt Crozier	817 1984	<b>Publicity Officer</b> Roger Lomas 579 8799
<b>Patron</b>	Colin Quilter	630 2219	<b>Safety &amp; Training Officer</b> Peter Sommerhalder 815 2073
<b>Secretary</b>	Rosie Thom	376 8636	<b>Storage &amp; Club Kayaks</b> Lindsay Sandes 522 3344
<b>Treasurer</b>	Alisa Good	846 2622	<b>Merchandising</b> Jonathan Jarvis 578 1545
<b>Membership</b>	Matt Crozier	817 1984	<b>Newsletter Editor</b> Ian Calhaem 579 0512
<b>Trips Officer</b>	Morgan Lewis Morganl@xtra.co.nz	620 4005	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](http://www.nzkayak.co.nz)

Rolling, Surfing, White water and Navigation courses run on request.

### Positively Outdoors, Liz Maire and Christine Mcleod, 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.

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## Regular Evening Paddles

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**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.)

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## Daytime Paddles

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New event to cater for paddlers over the winter months.

### Saturday, Okahu Bay.

All skill levels welcome, but check the details - different paddles on different days for different skill levels! 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 to 2 hours paddling, destination dependent on tide, weather, and skill levels. Leader is Lindsay Sandes. For more details contact Lindsay on 522 3344.

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## July

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**Sunday 14 Wenderholm to Puhoi.** This is a trip suitable for all levels (as long as participants can paddle 8km possibly into a headwind) We will predominately be paddling in sheltered water but it can get a bit choppy at the wenderholm end if the wind is up. The plan is to meet at the wenderholm boat ramp at 8.00am for a 9.00am departure (this allows us time to organise a car shuttle) keener paddlers might want to paddle back to Wenderholm with a group appointed leader, but the general plan is to just paddle the one way and have morning tea at puhoi then return to wenderholm by road to pick up the remaining cars (we will see what the consensus is on the day). Please let me know in advance if you wish to come on this trip & if the weather looks dicey on the day give me a ring or listen to the 1ZB cancellation service Contact John Hieatt 828 9673 or 025 620 5899.

**Saturday 20 Fitness paddle, Okahu Bay.** Contact Lindsay on 522 3344

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

**Saturday 27 Coffee Cruise, Okahu Bay.** Contact Lindsay on 522 3344

**Weekend 27-28 Waiheke Lodge. Waiheke, Otakawhe Lodge**

We will meet at Omana Regional Park at 8.00 am, to be on the water for an 8.40am departure. This will be a relaxed 1 hours crossing to Waiheke, then a quiet hour & half tiki tour down the western side to the Lodge where we are staying at the top of the Waiheke Channel. We will stop for lunch here and then in the afternoon explore the old homesteads of the Waiheke Channel from the water. Sat night will be a pot luck dinner and relaxation. Sunday will be a relaxing tikitour home. This trip will be for intermediate paddlers plus, and limited to 10-12 people. Parking at Omana will be \$5 per night, with the Lodge costing \$17 for the night. Call Justin on 278 8090 and leave a message.

**Sunday 28th Little Huia All Day.** Meet at Little Huia (2 km past Huia before the road heads inland to Whatipu, immediately past the ford in the Marama Stream) at 9.30 for a 9.50 start. Use the ingoing tide to cross the Manukau harbour inlet towards Wattle Bay, Orua Bay, Big Bay and as far as Grahams Beach. High tide is 1.00 pm.

Aim to return to cars at 4.00 pm. Return trip no more than 25 km and will cut short as required. There are usually choppy waters for about 1 km across the channel. Medium level skills required. Keep in touch with leader. If winds are strong the trip will be modified to launch at Cornwallis and explore Big Muddy Creek etc. on the N. Coastline, a shorter trip. Contact Selwyn Palmer, PhH 625-7798, Bus 302-6907, 025-2988591, remlaps@clear.net.nz

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## August

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- Saturday 3**      **Fitness paddle, Okahu Bay.** Contact Lindsay on 522 3344
- Saturday 3**      **Breakfast at Devonport** Meet at Okahu Bay at 8:00 for a 8:15am start. Provided the weather is good we will paddle to Devonport for breakfast at a cafe. If the weather is not good we will revise the destination and maybe end up in St Helliers or Mission Bay. This is a very easy kayak, ideal for novice paddlers. Contact Alissa Good on 846 2622, 021 608 448 or Alissa.good@firstbase.co.nz for details. Alissa Good 021608448
- Sunday 4**      **Orewa to somewhere**      Harry McGillvray 094261239
- Tuesday 6**      **Guest Speaker Club Night** Kerry Howe will tell us how to really catch fish whilst kayaking. Meet at clubrooms upstairs above Fergs Kayak shop on Tamaki Drive at 7pm \$2 door charge - supper and pre show BBQ. To be followed by a video "Kayaking in extreme conditions". Contact Roger Lomas 579-8799
- Saturday 10**      **Waiau Pa White-Water Day**      Trevor Arthur 098177357
- Sunday 11**      **Port Waikato-Hoods Landing** 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 17**      **New and Novice paddle, Okahu Bay.** Contact Lindsay on 522 3344
- Saturday 17/18**      **Barracuda Breakout**      Gordon Robinson 094274478
- Saturday 17 or 18**      **Manukau trip**      John Maynard 096264096
- Saturday 24**      **Club Mountain Biking Jamboree**      Morgan Lewis 096204005
- Sunday 25**      **Mathesons Bay to Takatu Peninsula via Ti Point Omaha and return,** approx. 20km, 9am high tide. Meet at 9am for 9.30am start. Bring lunch and drink. Trip will be cancelled if north-easterly blows or wind speed over 15 knots. Leader Bruce Somerville. Phone: 443 5364, 7pm – 9pm.
- Saturday 31**      **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 hardy souls, and then paddle back. The option exists to do a one-way trip but individuals need to organise their cars for this. It is critical that 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, or (021) 608 448, or email Alissa.good@firstbase.co.nz for details.
- Saturday 31/1**      **Motuhihe Is weekender**      Ian Dererick 098179564
- Saturday 31**      **Kendells Bay**      Matt Crozier 09 817 1984

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## September - provisional

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- Saturday 7/8**      **Waiwera to Warkworth**      Trish Dowthwaite 098461456
- Sunday 15**      **Auckland Stardome**      Observatory Night Navigation for Kayakers Morgan 6204005
- Saturday 21**      **Candlelight Hors d'oeu'vere + Afterwards Hooly**      Morgan Lewis 096204005

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## October - for your diary

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**Weekend of 11th, 12th and 13th. Elliot Bay** (14km south of Cape Brett). Renovated shearers quarters sleeps four at \$25 per night per head. Extras in tents at \$15 per night per head. Minimum four persons, maximum twelve persons as limited facilities. Pay on arrival. Surf landings/launchings may be required. Trip will go ahead regardless as there are bush walks and coastal walks if sea conditions are poor. From Auckland 2¼ hours drive to Oakura turnoff just past Hikurangi, then ¾ hour on metal road via Helena Bay and Whakapra to Elliott Farm. Phone Bruce Somerville – 443-5364 – 7pm to 9pm.



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## Three islands

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### By Vincent Maire

Recently I went on a tree planting expedition, visiting three islands in the process. Each of these is of interest to sea kayakers so I thought I would share what I discovered on the trip.

Motupapa Island (aka Cocked Hat Island) is 420m long slab of volcanic rock situated at the entrance to the Kerikeri Inlet. It is part of a reserve that includes both headlands of the inlet. Up until 1989 Motupapa was privately owned and supported a population of goats. When the Crown purchased the island a planting programme was begun and since 1992, it is estimated that more than 7000 plants have been planted there. Hardy species like flax and Pohutukawa have been selected as the ground is very rocky. The volunteers have also been fighting Moth Plant (aka Kapok Vine) and we spent some of our time on the island cutting back this invasive plant which has been referred to as Northland's equivalent to Old Man's Beard. Motupapa is not home (yet) to any unique bird species and its population of Norway rats means it is unlikely to become an island reserve, however, it is an interesting spot and when the vegetation takes hold (which it is doing), it will be an interesting destination for sea kayakers to visit.

The other island that benefited from my spade and sweat was Motukawanui, better known as Big Cavalli. I have explored the Cavalli islands in my trusty Albatross and consider them one of Northland's top destinations for sea kayakers. Motukawanui was farmed for almost 100 years until the early seventies when it was purchased by the Crown. With the annual burn-off at an end, much of the island reverted and today, as much as 80% of it is covered with vegetation. Local volunteers have been focussing their tree-planting efforts at

Horseshoe Bay. This faces south-west so looks directly at Matauri Bay. It is a steep boulder beach and the site of a very, very dilapidated farmhouse that once served as a DoC hut. The really great news for sea kayakers is that the Motukawanui management plan calls for the building of a 12-bunk hut on nearby Waiti Bay (next bay to the north) and this is due for completion in mid-2003. Waiti Bay is just lovely; sandy, protected by a reef and within a very easy paddle from Matauri Bay. I cannot imagine a better place from which to explore the more than 30 islands and islets that make up the Cavalli Islands.

Motukawanui is 340 hectares (850 acres) in size and a track runs along the central spine of the island. It is a 1.5 hour walk from one end of the island to the other and there is a fabulous view of the surrounding islands and coast from the highest point of the track.

Our visit north was based at Aroha Island. Even in mid-winter it is a lovely place and we spent quite some time each evening looking for kiwi. We heard plenty but only saw fast moving shadows – but they are there!

Aroha Island is 12kms from Kerikeri on the road to Opito Bay. It is connected to the mainland by a causeway and operates as a QE11 Trust, which means its kiwi preservation status is protected in perpetuity. To help finance these activities, the owners operate a small campsite. I cannot recall staying in a more peaceful or more beautiful campsite. You are surrounded by lovely mature forest, the kiwi come calling at night and you are right on the Kerikeri Inlet. The only change to Aroha Island from when I was last there is the extending of the toilet/shower block. Must be all those sea kayakers that are visiting there.

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## Winter solstice weekend on Rangitoto.

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### By Charles Pritchard

After deciding that I could get in touch with my feminist side and take part in artistic activities with a bunch of girls, I booked in with the Winter Solstice Artist's Retreat. The idea of sitting in front of a fire sipping mulled wine and playing with clay with a bunch of girls must have been too tempting for Gordon, Morgan and Rayon because they decided to come as well. Gordon and myself were not affected by the "weather bomb" and set out in a Discovery and the new Safari from Okahu bay while the others went by ferry. Morgan had told Gordon that the venue was Islington Bay. I guess he thought the competition was getting too tough with all this young blood, and sent us in the wrong direction.

On our way out to Islington Bay, we decided to stop at Rangitoto wharf for a bite to eat. The fishing was no good and it was a bright sunny day good for site seeing. While eating Nutella and sardines on bread, Stephanie bowled up and asked if we needed help with our gear.

After a little confusion we realized Morgans plot.

It was still midday and everyone went off in different directions for walks and discoveries. Since no body came by kayak there were only the best boats available for paddling and they were soon taken up. Gordon and I went to the scout hut to settle in. The fire was on and we were made a cup of tea by giggly Alison. Soon after Joan came in with some bits of wood which were soon McGuyvered into a duck and placed on the window sill. As everyone started returning from their missions, the hut became busy with activities. Clay was being turned into decorative tiles and crayons were being scrawled onto paper and washed in clothing dye with amazing results. The wine was flowing and some were preparing food in the kitchen. Morgan had the biggest pot and waved the biggest spoon, but could not see into the depth of his cauldron. So I rigged my torch above the stove and now my batteries are flat! Alissa worked on her tapestry while Alison fried a fillet steak in tin foil in a

frying pan and in the fire. It was great!

After an amazing three course curry meal we all started to settle in for a comfortable evening of chatting and drinking mulled wine when Stephanie summonsed us for the main event! My spine chilled when I heard we were to do some rituals in the dark! So off we went, stumbling down to the wharf, with candle and wine in hand, to burn bits of paper on which wishes of secret were written. We sat on the jetty and hummed ominous chants while the fish looked up at us and told us we were nuts!

Three of us went back to the hut and the rest decided to sleep under the shelter down at the wharf. Cant report on that. Next morning it was walks, paddling the only two kayaks and a clean up in the hut. It was discovered after the weekend that one of the girls has a fetish for men with shaved legs. Why didn't she do anything about it?

We paddled back to Okahu bay with no luck with fishing and out of Nutella and sardines. Back at the club all we got was fishy questions.

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## Waipu Cove

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### By Stephanie Seager

I set the scene.....

A comfy bach with awesome sea views, an open fire, free flowing G&T's , the boys on the deck tending to the barbeque, an unending supply of old House and Garden magazines to flick through, and jazz music wafting in the background.

The company...

Alissa, Morgan, Ryan, Rob and Nancy, a jovial band of merry makers.

Yep, this was holiday heaven!

Even the weather obliged for us most of the weekend. It might have been raining in Auckland but we got mainly fine!

And a fine old time was had by all.

Saturday was a laid back affair. Our one big foray was to the Waipu Caves.

The mission: find the glow worms.

The catch: a serious lack of torch power.

We stumbled upstream for a few metres to be bewitched by our glow worms and the cave was really quite spectacular. But not totally prepared for caving, we decided two penlight torches between six people in pitch black ain't really sufficient. So we shuffled out with thoughts of returning another day with more gear for a better exploration.

On the return journey, Alissa (bless her) had the foresight to stop and buy a bottle of gin. I believe that she has now started a tradition. I can foresee many a trip day being drawn to a close with G&T's as the sun sets.

Drinkies were followed by a barbeque dinner (and more drinkies).

As we sat around the table- eating, talking, laughing, - I was reminded of Colin Quilter once saying something along the lines of "life doesn't get much better than this" (on a similar canoe club outing)

But it did get better! Nancy added to the bliss by passing around her fab chocolate cake for dessert. (Must get the recipe)

Now totally stuffed with food and drink, some toddled down to the beach for a walk whilst others headed for the nearest couch to collapse on!

There end'th our first day.

Sunday arrived. This was canoeing day.

A hearty cooked breakfast was eaten in anticipation of the day ahead.(Yes more food!!)

We set off at a very sociable mid morning hour and arrived in Waipu to find around 15 Whangarei paddlers raring to go.

An immediate rapport was struck up with this very friendly group.

Our river paddle was at a comfortable pace that allowed for lots of chatter. Even a brief shower of rain didn't stop the talk. Both groups enjoyed the chance to meet new paddlers.

We meandered upstream until a fallen tree blocked our way. Then we turned and ambled down again. We swapped notes on the most popular boats in each club (quite different) and the amount of club members etc. Although Northland Canoe Club has a membership of around 40, they regularly get good numbers of 15 or so turning up for trips.

Rain eased as we paddled back to our start point. Not yet ready to part company with our new found friends, it was suggested that we have closure in a pub/restaurant down the road.

We all sat around a large wooden table and ate far more pizza than was justified for our mornings exertions.

The common thought was that the clubs should combine forces more often. I believe this will happen and I look forward to meeting these people again.

All good things come to a close. We returned to clean up the bach and left that evening somewhat reluctantly. Thank you Alissa(and her sister) for use of your bach. Thanks also to Ryan, Morgan, Rob and Nancy for their company.

T'was a seriously cool bananas weekend!

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

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The Committee extends a warm welcome to our new members...

Carl Brown      Andrew Morton      Carol Mills      Carol and Ray Twist      Ida Vassin

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

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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.

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### Did you know...

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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.

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### Licensing of kayaks

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Rumours are circulating that the Auckland Regional Council might pass new legislation for privately owned kayaks to be registered. This is not the case, assures me Hans Swete, the Council's Maritime Officer.

The Auckland Regional Council ensures that commercial and non-commercial operators in the Auckland area are operating safely. To do this Navigation Safety Bylaws have been put in place.

The guidelines issued by SKOANZ (Seakayak Operator's Association of New Zealand) are recommended as model for commercial operators and canoe clubs. Commercial hire operators (like Outdoor Discoveries) are requested to have a licence and are inspected by the Auckland Regional Council.

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### Classified ads...

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**Storms for Sale:** ex Club hire fleet, \$1200 each. Some repairs needed. Please contact Lindsay Sandes to arrange this. Email [ljsandes@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ljsandes@xtra.co.nz) or home 522 3344.

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### Deadline for next month's newsletter: Friday 2nd Aug 2002.

Thank you to this month's contributors. Keep up the good work, and happy paddling.

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.

The deadline is a little earlier next month as I will be leaving for Rarotonga and then on to Fiji for the rest of the month. (Sorry folks I DO have bag carriers and it is called WORK... well sort of anyway!)

Hoping to hear from you soon...

Send articles to:      [IanCalhaem@xtra.co.nz](mailto:IanCalhaem@xtra.co.nz)

**Sender:** Auckland Canoe Club, PO Box 147-282, Ponsonby, Auckland