

AUCKLAND



CANOE CLUB

Newsletter

August 2002

Hello Folks,

I hinted last month that I would be experimenting and trying new things.....

Since I was sent two photographs I thought that it was an opportune time to try them out. The unknown is how the printer will treat them during the printing process, so no guarantees.

For the technically minded, the photographs were sent as colour images 640 by 480 pixels in Jpeg format. I then converted them to monochrome and set the black and white points. The images were then resized to keep the maximum detail during printing.

If the experiment works, I will draw up a set of specifications for everyone to use when sending photographs.

Cheers,

Jan

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Deadline for next month's newsletter:

Wednesday 10th Sept 2002.

Useful phone numbers and addresses

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

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.

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.)

Daytime Paddles

Saturday, Okahu Bay.

Unfortunately Lindsay Sandes is currently tied up with his new business, based in Rotorua this is taking up most of his weekend time. Until further notice the Saturday morning paddles are "on hold". Unless we can find another volunteer!

August

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 17/18 Barracuda Breakout August 17-18 Motuora Island Gordons barracuda birthday breakout. This is the barracuda boys (and girls) first official club trip so it were pulling out all the stops including water skiing and fishing at our secret location. ALL barracuda owners are encouraged to come along but if your not fortunate enough to have one then come any way; every body is welcome. The doc hut is booked but only sleeps 8 so be quick or bring a tent. Depart Martins Bay at Friday 4pm or Saturday 9am. We have 4 doubles available if needed, some experience necessary. Contact Gordon Robinson wk 09 427 4478 mb 021 620 699 email gr8.co@ihug.co.nz. Gordon Robinson 09 427 4478

Saturday 17 or 18 Manukau trip John Maynard 09 626 4096

Saturday 24 Club Mountain Biking Jamboree Meet at the Woodhill Forest at 10am, bring picnic lunch or BBQ plus first aid kit. There is a small fee payable, for those who don't have a bike you can hire them at Woodhill. There will be a prize for the person with the most bruise's. For more details contact Morgan Lewis 6204005 or 02 567 69294.

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 09 817 9564

Saturday 31 Geocaching, Kendells Bay We're on the hunt for some hidden goodies! We will paddle from Okahu Bay, up the Waitemata Harbour with the tide to Kendall Bay. After some lunch, we'll go for a walk in the bush, looking for an ice cream container cache, given only a lat/long coordinate and a clue. The idea is to find the cache, log our visit, and swap some stuff in the cache for some other stuff. Meet at Okahu Bay at 9am for 9:30 departure. If you don't want to paddle all that way, we can meet you at Curran St by the harbour bridge, and paddle together across from there - please let me know if you want us to meet you!

Bring some walking shoes, some lunch, a small item for the cache if you wish, and a GPS if you have one.

For more info, see http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.asp?ID=672

Contact Matt Crozier 817 1984/Matt Crozier 09 817 1984

September

Tuesday 3rd Guest Speaker Night. Justin Sanson-Beatie and Jennifer Belt will be along to present the final show in this years winter series. Tonights show will feature - A summer cruise along the west coast of Great Barrier Island -- A visit to Stewart island to explore Patterson Inlet and to finish off the night Jneifer will have a special treat that will a delight for all our Pixies and Elves. (You will have to come along to find out). Meet at the clubrooms upstairs above Fergs kayak shop on Tamiki Drive at 7:00 pm. A \$2 door charge gets you a pre show BBQ - supper and helps with a gift for our guest speakers. Ph Roger Lomas 579-8799

Saturday 7/8 Waiwera to Warkworth Trish Dowthwaite 09 846 1456

Sunday 8 Opataia Stream, Onewhero to Waikato river Brian Strid is planning a 30-40klm paddle, Ph ph 238 8084

Sunday 15 Auckland Stardome Observatory Night Navigation for Kayakers Morgan 620 4005

Saturday 21 Candlelight Hors d'oeu've + Afterwards Hooly Morgan Lewis 620 4005

Wednesday 25 Fiji night at Auckland Canoe Centre, Peter or Su 815 2073

October - for your diary

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.

'STORM' STOLEN FROM BAY BEACH HIRE, PAIHIA

A man hired a sea kayak in Paihia on 17th July 2002 but failed to return it. A Coastguard aircraft spent several hours searching the area between Paihia and Russell but found no trace. There's been no sign of the customer or sea kayak, although a member of the public saw a man hauling what appeared to be the boat out at Waitangi River. Given the good weather, it's now assumed that the boat has been stolen. The boat is easily identifiable, being part of an export order to Australia – it's yellow with a red fleck. The paddler also took a paddle float, buoyancy aid and pump. They appeared to be familiar with kayaking, choosing not to take the spray deck given the good weather. If you can help please contact Tony Mason at Bay Boat Hire, 09 402 7905 or 025 279 4222. Tony is offering a reward of up to \$2,000 if you can help track down the thief. The major concern is the waste of emergency services time!!!

Guilty we were, guilty.

By Stephanie Seager

We considered ourselves serious sea kayakers. In reality we had become 'coffee cruisers'. Yes we were the kind of people that took espresso makers along on our outdoor excursions. What else can you expect, we're Aucklanders !

No gung ho adventures on the high seas for us. More like a gentle hours paddle on calm waters followed by a latte and muffin. (The exercise justified the calories.) Essential gear lists included NOT a tow line and camel bak drink system but a good bottle of red, a corkscrew, and maybe some antipasto.

Serious sea kayakers...hmm. The god of all sea kayakers had been watching and was displeased. Our day of reckoning was to come.

The adventure started innocently enough. We, the unsuspecting lambs to the slaughter turned up at 8 am at Omana Regional Park.

A small group – Ryan, Morgan, Alissa, Justin and I. Justin informed us that the wind would be up but all bright eyed and bushy tailed we said "let's go anyway". Ha!

The water seemed calm. Yes there were white caps further out. We knew we'd cope.

The plan was laid down. Paddle out towards the channel. If conditions aren't good we can always turn back. Off we set with

Justin leading the way out into the chop. A brisk south easterly and icky waves made the going interesting. We rolled over the swell and tolerated waves that occasionally slopped onto our faces.

Half way and leader Justin (who was a real sea kayaker and had all the gears) checked on us. We were still smiling. Onwards!

It was at this point that the god of all sea kayakers decided to test his fallen disciples. The wind cranked up. The waves continued to wash over us. It was cold. We longed for the comfort of a latte.

But Waiheke was in sight. We headed towards the shore thinking we're almost there. Ha, ha!

By now conversation had stopped. What was the point. We'd just get a mouthful of water! Heads down we battled around each bay. No matter which way we turned the wind always seemed to be head on. Justin's little flag on the back of his kayak slipped down to half mast....an ominous sign! Even Ryan (a legend who

paddles in all weathers) admitted he wasn't enjoying himself.

My hands were too cold to reach for my drink bottle and I could suddenly see the sense of a camel bak. It became a test.

Morgan sped into the lead as the rest of us cursed and battled on. As I rounded the last point Morgan said "I think this is it."

Relief.

Lodge proprietor, Jack, greeted us. We must have looked a cold, wet, bedraggled sight. His first words to me were "hot showers downstairs."

I raced to the showers and jumped in fully dressed to slowly thaw in the heat.

Once warm and dry our focus turned to food. This was familiar territory for us. We feasted on stew and bread washed down with red wine. For once we had actually earned the right to eat like little piggies! And we did. Apart from a brief sojourn over the hill to vote, we pretty much ate all afternoon.

The champagne flowed as Alissa checked her cell phone messages and discovered that she had secured her dream seaside property. (Coromandel)

Champagne was followed by more red and much food. Justin provided entertainment by blow torching pizza. (If you know Justin you'll know I'm not kidding.) Wood fired pizzas now pale in comparison.

Ryan and Morgan cooked up a storm in the well equipped kitchen.

We grazed, talked, drank and avoided turning on the TV to watch the election.

Retiring early to our verandah front room we all wondered and worried what the next day would bring. But the god of all sea kayakers must have been pleased. We had earned our stripes as real serious, gung ho, hard core sea kayaking types.

We awoke the next day to a much gentler breeze and smaller seas.

Going home was a pleasure. We even stopped for sight seeing around a small island.

Alissa and I began to gossip. This was more like the paddling we were used to.

Journeys completion was held in a café at Whitford. We marvelled at our efforts of the previous day. Yes we were serious sea kayakers. The kind of people whose essential gear lists would now include camel baks, tow lines, and a bottle of good red!

A trip to the Barrier

By Jimmy

Boat: Storm 'The Big Yellow'
Engine : Jimmy
Propeller: Wing blade

Fuel: AM: Porridge, Midday: Chilli sauce, canned fish, Pita bread and wine; PM: varied gastronomical treats and more wine. Occasional turbo charging by French 'Mirabelle' brandy.

Boat: Albatross
Engine : Bernard
Propeller: Legend wing blade

With a trip in mind the regular Tuesday nights at Okahu Bay had become long distance training sessions – the first idea was a one day circumnavigation of Waiheke . A camping trip had more appeal ; time to

go beyond what we can see from the Okahu boat ramp .We preferred the question of navigating the Colville Channel during a period of (so we were told) equinoxial gales , fast tides and big seas ! Obviously our destination was the Barrier .

After two weeks delay due to weather we left Okahu Bay on Wednesday 29 May with a plan to reach Cape Colville before making a final decision about crossing . The Long Weekend meant we could spend two days on the Coromandel coast and still have time to get back to Auckland if the crossing didn't pan out .

The first day was a surf to the East side of Waiheke – 5 ½ hours of interesting paddling . Packing the boats meant we had left the ramp mid – morning and arrived with little time to pick a camp ; the “ \$ 1000 .00 fine or three months imprisonment “ was our suite at Man O’ War Station , courtesy of Mr Spencer of Stony Batter fame .

On Thursday the forecast suggested easing winds for Friday so we decided to make a long dash for Port Jackson and be in position for a crossing if it was right . Leaving the lee of Waiheke and a steadily rising southwesterly meant a lumpy sea as we approached Port Jackson after 5 hours paddling . Hundreds of shearwaters were also enjoying the conditions , skimming the wave tops and turning to just miss us as we rode up in front of them . They looked very happy . Our quick departure and crossing from Waiheke meant we had daylight to make camp at the (empty)

D.O.C. camp , have a (cold) shower and climb a hill to view the options for the next day .The best route seemed to be through the reef (given as “ always breaks “ on the chart) close to land and then keep east of Channel island to the Barrier . The wind was very strong when we closed the tent that evening and we thought we would be canoeing the Coromandel the next day .

Friday – a surprise . Flat sea when we opened the door . A big breakfast , away early on the last of the flood and through the reef , at Channel Island the tide changed and with a west wind picking up we moved rapidly towards Chile. No problem , a course change and we arrived in Blind Bay 3 ½ hours after leaving Port Jackson .It was as easy as that and after all the scary tales something of an anticlimax. However we were to be reminded of how quickly that piece of water changes later in the trip .

The unexpected speed of the crossing allowed us the luxury of an hours kip in a sunny spot , followed by lunch and a wander through possible water only access sections – pleasant thoughts of secluded batches dashed later on meeting a local real estate agent who said the cheapest waterfront properties were selling at a quarter million each!

Next stop a picture perfect camp site , a grassy flat with old pohutakawa , cabbage tree and tea tree . A beautiful place , but were the natives friendly? Pitching the tent and visiting the pub meant it was the next

morning before we contacted the nearest people who assured us it was fine to stay there . Saturday was a holiday – no big paddles . Setting off northwards we passed dolphins who looked us up and down but were not inclined to play. We meandered to Whakaparapara Bay , home of many brown teal and tramped in the rain to the site of an old kauri mill complete with rusting traction engine and decaying iron chimneys . Stopping to fish (unsuccessfully) with rusty hooks and rotten squid donated by the friendly natives meant the return journey was not only wet cold and miserable but also dark . Having observed Bernards sense of direction and night vision (none) on the return from the pub the night before , Jimmy took charge and navigated fearlessly and safely back to the tent .

Sunday was a no paddling day – we decided on the two hour walk to Tryphena . Four hours later we managed to stumble onto the right track and met some people setting off to visit a site of ancient Maori

Dwellings – covered holes in the ground used during migratory farming sojourns .We finally arrived in Tryphena to view local art work and decide we should be heading back as it was quite late . Returning to Okapu (camp site) was easy , catching a ride was as simple as standing on the side of the road .The wind had become fierce during the day and changed the shape of the tent from a tunnel to a rectangle . We were kept awake by the wind trying to make off with the tent for most of the night and wondered if we could get to Tryphena the next day to catch the ferry.

By Monday morning the forecast was being fulfilled – rough seas and SW winds gusting to 60 knots , right in our faces .After striking camp we made a reconnaissance to view the sea outside the bay . The waves were big and time was pressing but we decided to try . We set off and made slow progress against winds funelling round the first headland . The order of the day was to keep far out to avoid the rocks to leeward and to give ourselves time to recover from (potential) capsize . The sea became more impressive as we reached Shag Point where we turned to cross breaking waves . An hour of picking our way carefully through the seas and we turned again to finish the trip as we had started – surfing on big waves .

Boarding the ferry we were instructed to put the boats on the foredeck . This didn't seem a good idea given the sea we had just come through and we moved them to the sidedeck . Fellow travelers , tie down your boats before you leave port ! The first wave over the bow saw Jimmy on deck with as much string as he could find lashing the boats down and then spending the rest of the four hour trip soaking wet and cold.

Some people thought we were crazy to try this trip given the time of year and weather conditions . However , we thought carefully to use the tides and had contingency plans for if conditions became too bad for confident paddling . In the end the “rough” weather made for 6 days of challenging paddling and beautiful winter time scenery – an excellent trip .1

Photo Gallery

Wenderholm trip 14th July



Double Trouble



The Gang

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.

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.

Fiji Night

The Auckland Canoe Centre is planning an evening of fun on September 25th. In cooperation with the Fiji Visitor's Bureau Peter and Su are organising an evening where you can view photographs taken during recent trips to Fiji.

The format will include a Kava ceremony, courtesy of the Visitors Bureau.

More details will be available in the next newsletter.

***** Safari Lodge, Ellington Wharf, have donated a 7 day eco tour as a door prize, worth over \$2000 *****
all you need is to get yourself to Nadi. (eg airfare)

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Tuesday 10th Sept 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, please send them in.

Hoping to hear from you soon...

Send articles to: lanCalhaem@xtra.co.nz