

AUCKLAND CANOE CLUB



Newsletter

September 2002

Hello Folks,

Well, I received lots of bits and pieces this month. Many thanks to everyone. Please read the article on Vine House - the Committee needs your support!

Just a note that will assist me.... Some of you are spending time formatting the text before you send it to me. Whilst I appreciate the effort you are making it is actually counter productive as I have to remove the formatting before I can flow it into the newsletter template. So... Keep the articles coming, but don't spent time formatting them, plain text is just fine. Cheers,

Jan

In the Issue

Useful phone numbers and addresses	2	Swim Escorts – For Your Diary	5
Where can you go to get training?	2	Two days in the Life of a Sea Kayaker	5
Safety Policy for Club Trips.	2	Vine House Bach - Expression of Interest	6
Trips and Events Calendar	3	Kayaking terms	6
September	3	Tuesday Paddle	6
October	4	The Ebb and Flow	8
November	4	New Members	9
December	4	Club T-shirts, Caps and Thermal Tops	9
Trip Leaders Course	5	Fiji Night	9
First Aid Course	5		

Deadline for next month's newsletter:

Tuesday 8th Oct 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		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 Gullely, 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 capsized in deep water.
- 5 With night paddling it is everybody's responsibility to provide their own large lens flashlight, or fixed all-round white light on a one metre high pole, in working order and mounted on the outside of the kayak where it can be seen at all times.
- 6 Use a craft appropriate for the trip. A kayak with water-tight bulkheads is essential for open sea kayaking. Sit-on kayaks are usually too slow to be able to keep up with sea kayaks, therefore, are not recommended on trips planned for sea kayaks.

Trips and Events Calendar

Remember to contact the trip leader before you set out. This is important because the leader needs to know the capabilities of those who are coming and to be able to contact you if the plan changes. **Please be aware that you paddle on a Club trip at your own risk. Read the safety policy (page 2). If there is any chance that you may be a liability to the rest of the group or to the leader be sure to inform the leader of this before you set out.**

TRIP CANCELLATIONS

The Club is now using "Newstalk ZB" cancellation service. This can be listened to on 1080AM or 89.4FM. The service runs on Saturday and Sunday from 7:00am. This should eliminate the multitude of phone calls to trip leaders when the weather looks suspect.

Regular Evening Paddles

Because winter is here, evening paddles will be returning after dark and you MUST have either an all-round white light on a pole, or else a large-lens (eg. Dolphin) torch, in good working condition, mounted on the outside of your kayak. This is actually a legal requirement, so, no light, no paddle. It is also recommended that before anyone tries to go out on an evening paddle that they attend a basic skills course and that they are fit enough to be able to paddle for one hour.

Tuesday, Okahu Bay.

All paddlers MUST provide their own night-lights. All skill levels welcome. Meet at Okahu Bay by 5:30pm, ready to be on the water by 5:45pm. An experienced paddler will be rostered on to look after new/novice/slow paddlers. Fitter and more-experienced paddlers can form their own group(s). Trips usually last 1 – 2 hours, destination dictated by tide, weather conditions and skill levels. Club boats can be hired at the subsidised rates of: \$5 to club members, and \$10 to non-members/guests. (At all other times, club boat hire is \$20/day or part day, for members and guests.)

Daytime Paddles

Tuesday Morning Paddle

Tuesday morning group will now depart from Okahu Bay at 9.30 am.
If weather doubtful to contact Rona Patterson on 834 3399

September

Sunday 15 Auckland Stardome. Night navigation for sea Kayakers, for an experience that is truly out of this world, sit back in the Observatory Planetarium, an all-sky, 360* panoramic theatre and enjoy a multimedia experience featuring 3500 brilliant stars, delivered by special effects projectors linked with stunning digital sound, day or night, rain or shine. Learn about what a Kayaker should look for when paddling at night, how Celestial navigation works, about the Moon, Sun and tides, their effects etc, etc, etc..

This will be a great evening and will most likely be a once'er, so please make an effort to come along, the cost is only \$9 per person and there will be an opportunity to purchase the Observatory year book for just \$5. Be there at 5.45pm for a 6 o'clock start, there is seating available for up to 85 people. The Stardome Observatory is situated on the lower southern slopes of One Tree Hill. Enter One Tree Hill domain from Manukau road, the Stardome Observatory is approximately 100m into the park Please register your interest early, contact Morgan Lewis on 6204005 or e-mail morganl@xtra.co.nz.

Saturday 21 Candlelight Hors d'oeuvres + Afterwards Hooly. Club social night, meet, mix and mingle. Meet at Okahu bay 6.30pm for 7.00pm departure, paddle around to Hobson Bay where we will all congregate in the middle and raft up, bring a candle to light plus pate' Terrine de Campagne, cheese's, snacks and bubbles etc, etc.. We remain in Hobson bay till 8.30pm then paddle back to Okahu bay and continue the night's festivity in the club rooms. A BBQ feast will be provided, please bring a salad and BYO for this part of the evening.

Please register your interest, contact Morgan Lewis on 6204005 or e-mail morganl@xtra.co.nz.

Saturday 21/22 Opito Bay, Coromandel Peninsula. Arrive Friday night or Saturday morning, there is some great paddling for all abilities and some good walks in the area. Place sleeps up to 10 people and there is room for tents, pot luck dinner and drinks Saturday night. Contact – Graeme Bruce 07- 3323112 or from September 20 07- 8662582 Opito Bay.

Wednesday 25 **Fiji night** at Auckland Canoe Centre, Peter or Su 815 2073 7pm

Sunday 29 **Brown's Island Clean-up.** As part of the Hauraki Gulf clean-up sea kayakers have traditionally looked after Brown's Island, viewing it as a chance to repay some of the pleasure we gain from the harbour. This year the official clean-up day was on September 8, but we are planning our part three weeks later. Meet at St Heliers Beach at 9.30am for a 10.00am departure; (or at Okahu Bay for a 9.15am departure, allowing 45min to paddle along to St Heliers). Briefing and division into three groups will occur at 10.00am on the beach at St Heliers. Bring snacks, drinks, lunch and walking shoes. The club will provide rubbish bags. We will clean the beaches, establish two rubbish dumps, then meet at Crater Bay on the northeast corner of the island for lunch. A stroll to the summit usually follows. Return time will be mid-afternoon. This trip is suitable for everyone in fine weather, but not for novices in windy conditions. If in doubt, discuss with Colin Quilter. If the forecast is bad, phone **Colin 630 2219** between 6.30am and 8.30am on Sunday to confirm that the trip is on; (it will have to be pretty bad to make us cancel). If the weather is OK, just turn up.

October

Sunday 6 Kawakawa Bay - Sandspit Island - Tawhitokino Bay Meet at 10.00 for 10.15 am start at Kawakawa Bay Boat ramp at eastern end of Kawakawa Bay. It's 17.0 km east of Clevedon. The boat ramp is 1.2 km past the store on the Kawakawa Bay Coast Road. Visit Pakihi (Sandspit) Island, visit the Regional Reserve at Tawhitokino Beach. Approx 18 km total. Beware, Daylight savings starts at 2.00 am on this day. Hence the late start. Low tide is about 1.35 pm. Contact Selwyn Palmer, Home 625 7798, Bus 302 6907, or 025-298 859.

Friday night, Saturday Sunday (11, 12, 13) Trip Leaders Course (Club subsidy - you pay only \$30) For enrolment, please phone Peter Sommerhalder at work, 815-2073, or by email peter@kayak.co.nz.

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.

Friday night, Saturday Sunday (18, 19, 20) Trip Leaders Course (Club subsidy - you pay only \$30) For enrolment, please phone Peter Sommerhalder at work, 815-2073, or by email peter@kayak.co.nz.

Sat 19 Oct Bouys, Beacons and Brown's Island. Aimed at the beginner paddler wanting to gain confidence on the harbour, learn some basic navigational aids and safety, and have a sunset dinner on Brown's Island. Lights are essential. Meet at St Heliers 5.30pm for 6pm start, returning approx 10pm. Alan Edwards ph (021)528417.

Sunday October 20. Crusoe Island. A tiny but interesting island in the channel between Motuhie and Waiheke Islands. Two beaches, and just room for a dozen kayaks. Meet at Bucklands Beach 9.00am for a 9.30 departure; bring lunch and snacks. We'll paddle out via Motuhie and back via Browns Island, so you get three islands for the price of one! Both outward and return trips will be tide-assisted; paddling time about 90 minutes each way. Suitable for everyone in calm weather, but not for novices if the southwesterly is forecast to get up in the afternoon. If in doubt contact **Colin Quilter 630 2219**.

Labour weekend, October 26th to 28th Northland Canoe Club is organising a trip over Labour Weekend to tauranga bay holiday park, inviting Auckland Canoe Club to come along and join us staying at the entrance to Whangaroa Harbour, beachfront sites at Tauranga Bay. Great sea kayaking, short walks, hiking, swimming if you're brave, fishing.... Plenty of room for friends and family. Please let Alissa Good know if you are interested on agood@peace.com or 021 608 448 or 846 2622ah. (see advert)

November

Sunday 3rd First Aid Course - day one phone Peter Sommerhalder at work, 815-2073, or email peter@kayak.co.nz.

Sunday 10th First Aid Course - day two phone Peter Sommerhalder at work, 815-2073, or by email peter@kayak.co.nz.

November 24th 2002 Swim Escort 1.2km Herne Bay to Curran street

December

Sunday December 1. Manukau Heads: Whatipu and South Head. This trip is an old favourite. Meet at Cornwallis Wharf at 9.00am for a 9.30am departure; (don't take the turn-off to Cornwallis Beach). We will be carried by the ebb tide down to Whatipu, land and climb to the top of a nearby hill which gives great views out over

the harbour entrance and bar. Then we'll paddle across to South Head for a picnic on the grassy slopes below the Signal Station. After lunch those who have the energy can take an unforgettable walk (which includes "Rona's Leap") over the headland. The trip home will be tide-assisted. Paddling time will be one hour each way; return time about 5.00pm. Bring drinks, snacks, lunch, shoes or sandals, and a camera. The landing at Whatipu can be tricky; bring a change of clothes in case you go for a little swim with your kayak. This trip is suitable for intermediate and experienced paddlers; (if in doubt phone Colin to discuss). **The trip will only go ahead if the forecast is for winds not exceeding 15 knots.** All those coming must phone **Colin Quilter 630 2219** on Saturday night or early Sunday morning (6.30 – 8.00am) to confirm that the trip is on.

December 8th 2002
Sugar Factory

Swim Escort

Chelsea Sugar Swim 2.36km, Curran Street to Chelsea

Trip Leaders Course

George Gerard is prepared to run two seakayaking leadership courses for club members. The course is designed by KASK to train capable paddlers to become efficient leaders. It involves a full weekend, with lectures starting on Friday evening, and practical sessions all Saturday and Sunday. George would also welcome members who have already attended his courses to help as assistants. A great way to do a refresher. As we have already several enrolments, two weekends have been set aside for two courses. They are 11-13th and 18-20th of October. For enrolment (course fee \$30), please phone Peter Sommerhalder at work, 815-2073, or by email peter@kayak.co.nz.

First Aid Course

We are running an Outdoors First Aid Course again for ACC members. Dates are Sunday, 3rd November and Sunday 10th November, from our clubrooms at Okahu Bay. Like last year our instructors are from Positively Outdoors. They are an experienced lively bunch mixing classroom sessions with realistic scenarios outdoors. To get the First Aid Certificate, it is important candidates will attend both days. Course fees are subsidised by ACC and will be similar to last year, about \$55-\$60 per person, depending on numbers.

For enrolment, please phone Peter Sommerhalder at work, 815-2073, or by email peter@kayak.co.nz.

Swim Escorts - For Your Diary

Dates for the Swim escorts this summer, please keep these dates in mind. The club benefits from acting as Swim escorts so it is important to get at least 30 people as escorts on the water per swim.

November 24th 2002

1.2km Herne Bay to Curran street

December 8th 2002

Chelsea Sugar Swim 2.36km, Curran Street to Chelsea Sugar Factory

February 9th 2003

Eagle Technology Bays Swim 3.21km, St Heliers Bar to Tamaki Yacht Club

March 23rd 2003

Eagle Technology Rangitoto Swim 4.45km, Rangitoto to St Heliers Bay

More details will be publish as the dates come closer.

Two days in the Life of a Sea Kayaker

At the Waiau Pa white water day we were having a little explore and what I thought was a dead puppy turned out to be a sleeping seal pup that woke up in terror when the front of my kayak all but touched it on the bank. It barked, or more likely yelped, appeared to charge and then submerged to reappear about 30 metres away. It stayed there while we all approached whereupon it proceeded to play and generally show off under and around our boats, for ages. So much trust, exhibitionism, skill and ease of moving through the water is a memory that will stay for a long time.

At the Barracuda Breakout on the Sunday morning the wind was SW, reading 39 knots at Tiri. The tide was incoming, against the wind. There were whitecaps; the

waves were probably a metre or more. Gordon, Marcus and myself were on the way back home. Goodbye Motuara, hullo Martins Bay. Across the waves and the wind, almost to the mainland, and then the down wind leg with surfing rides that went on and on, at times I was submerged to the front hatch. Only 7 or 8 km but on arriving at the beach I was more than ready to just sit and recover. And then Gordon came in, standing up.

Vine House Bach - Expression of Interest

Our club is putting in a proposal to the Auckland Regional Council for control of Vine House, a homestead at Lagoon Bay in the Mahurangi Harbour, outlining our intended use and management of the property. It is a short paddle from Sullivans Bay (Mahurangi Regional Park), even shorter from Scott's Landing. We believe the Mahurangi is one of the best paddling areas in the region. For our proposal to succeed, we need to convince the ARC that the bach would be used regularly and be well run and maintained.

Last month, a group of club members paid a visit to Vine House to inspect the property and evaluate it's suitability for our purposes. The result was fairly positive. For a bit of work, TLC, and some patronage, we believe that Vine House would be the ideal home

away from home.

If you are keen that the club should pursue this opportunity and feel that you would make regular use of the bach if it were made available, then please let us know.

In particular, we are looking for a sub-committee of members who would help in actively running the bach. Such duties would include maintaining a booking schedule, collecting hirage money, keeping a regular watch, organising working bees, liaising with the ARC, reporting to the club committee.

If there is enough commitment to the project, then we can proceed. To register your interest, or for more information, please contact Matt Crozier, ph 817 1984, matt@vsl.co.nz

Kayaking terms

Kayaking - The fine art of getting wet and becoming a physical wreck while slowly going nowhere,

Beam Sea - A situation in which waves strike a kayak from the side, causing it to roll unpleasantly. This is one of the four directions from which wave action tends to produce extreme physical discomfort. The other three are 'bow sea' (waves striking from the front), 'following sea' (waves striking from the rear), and 'quarter sea' (waves striking from any other direction).

Bulkhead - Discomfort suffered by paddlers who drink too much.

Calm - ea condition characterized by the simultaneous disappearance of the wind and the last cold beverage (see Squall).

Course - The direction in which a paddler wishes to steer his kayak and from which the wind is blowing.

Current - Tidal flow that carries a kayak away from its desired destination, or towards a hazard.

Flashlight - Tubular metal container kept on board for storing dead batteries prior to their disposal.

Fluke - The portion of an anchor that digs securely into the bottom, holding the kayak in place; also, any occasion when this occurs on the first try.

Pod - A number of paddlers traveling towards a common destination with a shared belief that on arrival, the beverages will be cold and all facilities will be clean and comfortable.

Seabag - 1. Waterproof sack in which a paddler's gear is carried. 2. Aging mermaid.

Squall - Furious activity that occurs after Calm, when paddler realises that, **a**) there is no wind and, **b**) there is no cold beverage or **c**) type of kayak

Zephyr - Warm, pleasant breeze. Named after the mythical Greek god of wishful thinking, false hopes, and unreliable

Tuesday Paddle

Spring has come - the weather has improved - perfect for picnics at the beach. So it was on a recent Tuesday that a small group set out from Okahu Bay, heading for North Head in an endeavour to avoid the wind. Wrong

Once around the head, we were full into a head wind, but the sun was shining and paddling into a head wind means an easy ride home.

On Tuesday paddles, any excuse is acceptable for stopping and this day our first stop was for morning tea, in the sun on Cheltenham Beach. With no agenda and no timetable, the sun, the coffee and the need to sample home baking which was produced from each lunch box took top priority.

With kayaks lighter, and bodies heavier, we took off and paddled around to Takapuna Beach where the ritual was repeated. This time however, we were not alone. An elderly lady visited us thinking we were another group of paddlers. She had run up the beach to give her friends an apple for desert, but on finding we were the wrong

group, she took her apples and left us with the message to tell her friends (if we should meet them) that that had missed their dessert!!!

We received a few splashes leaving the beach and it wasn't long before Yogi and BoBo hoisted up their sail. We were invited to hold on to their kayak and received a tow. What an experience! However, it didn't last long enough because the wind decided it had blown enough for the day.

We returned back to Okahu Bay at 2.20 pm, with the sun still shining. A perfect day!!!!

Rona Patterson

\$110 to climb Mt Tarawera

The news that it now costs \$110 to climb Mt Tarawera is a national scandal. Even worse, access is only permitted by joining a guided tour. This means the days of sea kayakers basing themselves at Hot Water Beach and adding a day on the mountain as part of their activities on this magnificent lake are well and truly over.

Sadly there does not seem much that outdoor adventurers can do about the situation. The Maori owners have every right, it seems, to charge whatever they wish. While many complained about the previous charge of \$23, trampers and kayakers being the equitable people they are, appreciated that ownership incurs a cost and paid the required fee. However, a 378% increase, plus the attitude of the owners that they do not want New Zealanders up there, only wealthy foreign tourists, appears to be a racially motivated action. As well as being a wonderful place to explore in a sea kayak, it is a lake with three very special

destinations; the campsite at Hot Water Beach, the ascent of the mountain that erupted 116 years ago and the walk from the outlet of the Tarawera River to the incredible waterfall where the river comes cascading out of holes in a high cliff. This is why it was always popular as a long weekend destination with sea kayakers.

Although the KASK conservation subcommittee is discussing the issue there seems very little that can be done by just one organisation acting on its own. This is an issue that requires political leadership plus the orchestrated efforts of the entire outdoor community. Don't hold your breath.

Vincent Maire
President Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers
www.kask.co.nz

TAURANGA BAY HOLIDAY PARK

LABOUR WEEKEND, OCTOBER 26TH TO 28TH

Northland Canoe Club is organising a trip over Labour Weekend to tauranga bay holiday park, inviting Auckland Canoe Club to come along and join us staying at the entrance to Whangaroa Harbour, beachfront sites at Tauranga Bay. Great sea kayaking, short walks, hiking, swimming if you're brave, fishing.... Plenty of room for friends and family.

- TENT SITES \$10 PER NIGHT PER ADULT
- CARAVAN/MOTORHOME SPOTS \$11 PER NIGHT PER ADULT
- TOURIST CABINS WITH OWN KITCHEN
\$40 FOR DOUBLE OCCUPANCY AND \$10 PER EXTRA ADULT UP TO FOUR
- TOURIST FLATS WITH KITCHEN
\$60 FOR DOUBLE OCCUPANCY AND \$10 PER EXTRA ADULT UP TO FOUR
- COMMUNAL SHOWERS/TOILETS (TOKEN OPERATED SHOWERS BUT FREE FROM FEBRUARY UNTIL NOVEMBER),
- COMMUNAL KITCHEN (MICROWAVES, GAS COOKERS, FRIDGES ETC)
- CONFERENCE ROOM BOOKED FOR SOCIALISING ETC
- CAMP STORE

Contact Angi and Dave Edwards, Tauranga Bay Holiday Park, RD 1, Kaeo to book, phone/fax 09 405 0436, holiday@igrin.co.nz, www.taurangabay.co.nz. Just let them know you're booking as part of canoe club.

Book early for cabin accommodation, tent sites preferably booked up to two weeks in advance. If there's no cabins available, try Tauranga Bay Motel 09 405 0222 – just down the road.

Holiday Park is 10 minutes from Kaeo, 30 minutes from Kerikeri, 40 minutes from Paihia. The road to the Park is fully sealed, use SH10 north through Kaeo, follow the signs to Tauranga Bay, don't cross the bridge. After approximately 8.0 km take the first road to the right and lookout for the Park sign. Follow the winding road for about another 8.0 km and turn left into Bay.

Can Northland members please let Liz know if they're coming along and Auckland members contact Alissa.

SEE YOU THERE!

Another enjoyable series of guest speakers has just been completed. These well-attended events bring together new members and old in the comfortable surrounds of our clubrooms. Thanks again to our speakers Pelham Housego, Adrian Davis, Kerry Howe, Justin Sanson Beattie and Jennifer Belt. It's time also to thank the people behind the scenes who helped make the evenings a success. Ryan Whittle, Rona Patterson, Jonathon Jarvis, Denise Young, John Hieatt and a special thanks to John's wife Melody who did all the home Baking. We have some excellent speakers already booked for next year's series and if you have any good ideas please let us know.

The club has booked the weekend away to the coastal lodge at Administration Bay on Motutapu Island for November. The lodge features a well-equipped kitchen (pots, pans, crockery everything is there) with gas hobs and refrigerators. The accommodation is in a series of bunkrooms, sleeping 4-6 per room. His and Her bathrooms with hot showers are just down the corridor and a large drying room (great for kayak gear) is adjacent to the generator room a short walk up the hill. The lodge is sited just above the waters edge and has a large B.B.Q deck facing out over the Pohutakawa fringed bay with expansive views of the America Cup regatta course. One of the Saturday events will be the running of the inaugural Club Kayak Fishing championships. There will be prizes for various categories with a trophy for the biggest fish. There is hopefully going to be enough fish for a gourmet feast at the Saturday evening prize giving ceremony. Trips officer Morgan Lewis is accepting bookings for the lodge, which is exclusively ours for the weekend of The 16th November, so give him a ring to secure your bunk.

Anyone who was at Kerry Howe's fishing techniques talk night will have an added advantage in the snapper fishing division. Just remember to keep Kerry's special bait a secret. Justin Sanson Beattie's reputation will be on the line after all the exposure he gave to his fish photo. (Rumour has it that the photo was digitally enhanced).

Last month a group of club members ventured up to the Mahurangi region to inspect Vine House. This is the building that the A.R.C might like us to be custodians of. Things are still at negotiation stage and the inspection revealed that the interior is very tired looking and will need a fair bit of T.L.C. The negotiations are still continuing with the possible availability of the Rangitoto Bach at Islington Bay. Keep your fingers crossed.

Sea kayak racing has been a bit quiet lately but that is all about to change. Starting next month after daylight saving commences there will be racing every Thursday evening down at Okahu Bay. Fergs Kayaks will be reviving their old "dip and dash" series that in its heyday attracted well over fifty entrants on a fine summers evening. The races will cater for all craft and will have a special division for sea kayaks. It will be an on the water start at 6pm for a 5km kayak race that takes in two circuits of the bay with an exhilarating run down the outside of the wave screen before the sprint to the beach for the transition. There is a short 4km run along the waterfront to Mission Bay and back. Times are taken for each section. If you are not into running, just compete in the kayak stage. (Many do.) Entry is free except for a once a month B.B.Q and prize event when there is a \$5 fee. Fergs will let your hire out one of their sleek multi sport craft or a high performance sea kayak for \$5. Entry is on the day; just fill in the entry board prior to the event.

Trips officer Morgan Lewis and his team have been doing a great job keeping the club events calendar full. Some novel events like the Night with the stars at the planetarium and the upcoming candlelight Hors d'oeuvres and Hooley at the club rooms are welcome additions to the social calendar.

Over at the Canoe Centre in Sandringham, Peter and Su Sommerhalder are looking very tanned and relaxed after a week of kayaking in Fiji. On the 25th of this month they are giving you a chance to win a door prize of a 7day eco tour in Fiji. The Fiji Visitors Bureau will be on hand to give you some real Bula Vinaka at their Fiji night promotion.

Gordon Robinson was spotted relaxing in his latest craft last week. It is an open top version of the popular Safari Sea kayak. It has such a spacious cockpit that Gordon was literally lying down having a snooze. These open top craft have proved very popular overseas and the "surfarski" has self-draining venturi's and can be fitted with a spray skirt.

Talking about sleeping in kayaks brings to mind a planned attempt to kayak out to the Chatham Islands by Max Grant the Quality Kayaks man. Max modified a Dusky Bay double for the trip and had taken it up to Lake Taupo for a family holiday. He was giving it a road test to try out the sleeping compartment but gave up in frustration when boaties kept coming alongside and knocking on the deck to see if everything was all right.

There has been increased activity in the Viaduct Basin over the last few weeks with the arrival of all the new team boats. Kayakers visiting the area are bound by the same rules that apply to other craft. On entering Viaduct Harbour all craft must stay on the right hand side of the channels. A new marina wharf is now being completed outside the harbour to accommodate even

larger luxury yachts. On a recent visit Ryan Whittle was admiring two large super yachts. One was called Katana and is owned by Oracle boss Larry Ellison and another new craft, which had just arrived, was called Texas. Ryan thought he heard someone on Katana bragging, "My boat is bigger than Texas".

Spring is here now and its time for our annual shoreline clean up on Browns Island. Colin Quilter our club patron has coordinated this event in previous years and makes it into a very enjoyable day. You can choose which section of shoreline you wish to clean up. The rubbish bags are provided and are left in a stockpile on completion. There is always a bit of a competition to see who discovers the most unusual object and these are displayed at the picnic lunch.

Waikato wilderness adventures are becoming Brian Strid's speciality. He has now completed three forays into the Whangamarino Wetlands and has plans for a bigger expedition that will involve more than just a picnic lunch.

Wanted- Pioneer paddlers to complete and epic island circumnavigation. The voyage will venture into an area that has not been paddled for at least forty years. The last of the rock walls that enclosed the four big oxidation ponds at Mangere has been breached and all we need now is a plucky paddler to stir up the sediment and boldly go on a journey around Puketutu Island. If you start from Hillsborough Bay it will be a 12km trip and when you return flushed with the sweet smell of success (or something else) you can have a good wash down at the launch site tap. Warning – There is still a small portage to be made over the road causeway and around the outfall canal.

New Members that joined Auckland Canoe Club last month

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

Derryn Algie, Peter & Mary Baker/Tahiwi, Amanda Bateman, Anna Bowmar, Paul Bradshaw, Michele Brett, Robert Mark Duckworth, Simon Fordham, Shane Kake, Blair & Roseanne Kibblewhite, Garry, Linda, Sarah, Adam Mabey, Warwick, Sue, John, Kathy Marshall, Kevin McGorman, Andy Miles, John Stairmand, Tracy Watkins, Anna Wells.

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.

Fiji Night

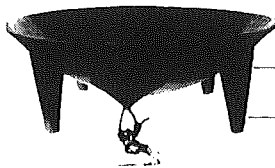
Wednesday 25th September at 7:00pm

The Auckland Canoe Centre has organised a Fiji Night in cooperation with the Fiji Visitor's Bureau and Safari Lodge, Ellington Wharf.

Peter and Su who have just returned from two weeks in Fiji (have you noticed the sun tan?) have organised the evening to show you photographs taken during their recent trips to Fiji.

The Fiji Visitors Bureau will welcome you with a traditional Yaqona (Kava) ceremony and Safari Lodge 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)

As there is limited seating, please let Peter or Su know if you intend to attend. Ph 815-2073, or email Fiji@canoe.co.nz. (or register via their website at <http://www.kayak.co.nz>)



Deadline for next month's newsletter: Tuesday 8th Oct 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: IanCalhaem@xtra.co.nz