



Newsletter

November 2002

Hello Folks,

Please read the article on Kayak visibility. With increasing numbers of vessels using the harbour it is very important to be seen - both day and night. The Authorities are strongly advising NOT to use a flashing light and have suggested a white light, on permanently and supported by a large white lantern to be shown when needed.

During the day the suggestion is to have a flag 1 meter above the water on a fibre glass pole.

Cheers,

Jan

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Deadline for next month's newsletter: 10 December 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	Alissa 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 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.

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

November

November 24th 2002 Swim Escort It is from Herne Bay to Curran St, approximately 1.2km. Club boats are available hire free for the swim escorts. Please do phone Matt Crozier, on (09) 817 1984 or matt@vsl.co.nz, to let him know that you will be able to assist with this. The Coastguard insists that there must be a minimum of 30 kayakers present before the race can go ahead so please, please, please support this event. Roger will have the barbecue going at Curran St after the race.

November 29/30/1 Tiritiri Matangi weekend The time has come to visit this enchanting island again. Enjoy the dawn and dusk chorus of the amazing array of bird life, walk the many tracks, swim, fish or paddle the interesting coastline with some neat caves to explore. The accommodation is very comfortable with everything provided, all you need to bring is sleeping bag, food and drinks of your choice. All this for \$15 per night. We leave our kayaks on the wharf where we are met by the ranger who kindly puts all our clutter on his truck and delivers it to our doorstep. Does it get any better than that? Departures have in the past been: Friday 9a.m.

Friday 6p.m. Own discretion
Saturday 8.30 am

Return to the real world approx 4 or 5 p.m Sunday.

Our cars are left in secure overnight parking at the Teharuru Bay [next to Shakespears Bay]. The paddle takes approx 1 hr in average conditions. [approx 4.5 km] Tiri channel has the capacity to be a very nasty and testing stretch of water if winds get up or winds oppose tide. The trip leaders decision will govern if the crossing is safe. For those not wanting to paddle there is the option of the ferry from Gulf Harbour or Downtown Ring the trip leader early as space is very limited. Sorry, the answer is NO. camping is not allowed anywhere on the island. Trip leader is Justin Sanson-Beattie Contact ph no 2788090.

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 6th 2002 Caving Come caving on Rangitoto and stay the night in the hut. There are several small caves in the same area as the main caves on the track to the summit but that are off in the bush. They might only be short but one is an excellent lava cave, and the easy way in is to climb down a short ladder. Old clothes, gloves and knee pads are a good idea. Leaving about 7pm, limited numbers. Ring Kevin Jose 6244522

December 8th 2002 Swim Escort Chelsea Sugar Swim 2.36km, Curran Street to Chelsea Sugar Factory

December 21 - Jan 5 Christmas Time Waitemata Harbour Ramble & Magical Mystical Tour For those Kayaking people, lost souls, sea tramps and vagabonds who are not or can't leave Auckland in the Christmas and New Years holiday period, and would like to have companionship and camaraderie this is for you. Join in anytime, meet anytime and leave anytime, telephone somebody and make a place to rendezvous, there could be some magical or mystical moments at every rock or cranny, who knows.

21st- 22nd Dec, Home Bay, Motutapu Is.

26th Dec, Motuihe Is.

27th Dec, Whakanewha Regional Park- Waiheke Is.

28th Dec, Omana Regional Park.

29th Dec, Kawakawa Bay.

30th Dec, Orere Point.

31st Dec-2nd Jan, Otakawhe Bay Lodge-Waiheke Is.

2nd Jan, Palm Beach Backpackers- Waiheke Is.

3rd Jan, Home Bay Motutapu Is.

4th Jan-5th Jan Te Haruhi Bay.

For more information, contact Morgan Lewis on 6204005 or morganl@xtra.co.nz

December 26th - Jan Nancye and Bob Lucas and Wayne and myself are planning to go down to Waikawau Bay on the Coromandel Peninsular from Boxing Day for about 10 days weather permitting and we thought others may be interested also. We'll be staying at the DOC camp. Anyone interested can contact us on: Nancye and Bob Lucas: 267 5873 Pam and Wayne Fitzsimons: 279 46 23.

December 31st - Jan 2 2003 New Years Eve at Otakawhe Bay lodge-Waiheke Is

Join us for new years eve celebrations at Otakawhe Bay, indulge in a sumptuous evening meal on a spacious covered verandah with music and merriment. See the new year in at the stroke of Midnight over looking magnificent marine views. Spend new years day exploring around Rotoroa, Pakatoa and Tarahiki Islands or visit the Te Matuku Marine Reserve. For more information, contact Morgan Lewis on 6204005 or morganl@xtra.co.nz.

February

February 1st 2003 Waiheke Island Trip Destination - from Maraeti Wharf to Matatia (Waiheke Island) Paddle time 2 hours approx, Departure 8.00am Hire Mountain bikes (cost \$15.00) ride into town buy lunch - have a cruise around for a while > > (The bike people will look after our boats for us) Paddle home time 2 hours approx, departure 2.00 pm The trip will be cancelled if the wind is forecasted above 15knots. Contact details can be Garry Mabey 5365048 or 021 898 611

February 15th 2002 A social evening on Rangitoto. A short paddle and a little walk should leave plenty of time for sitting around to eat, drink and talk. It is a full moon on Monday night so here's hoping that we have a clear night for an evening stroll to the summit and back to the hut for the night. Leaving hopefully mid afternoon depending on our baby sitting. Phone Kevin Jose 6244522

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.

1st Swim **AUCKLAND CENTRAL MASTERS SWIM 1.2k**
Herne Bay Beach to Curran Street
Sunday 24th November 2002
Swimmers Assemble 9.30am Start 10.15am Tide 11.09am

Swim escorts - continued

2nd Swim **CHELSEA SUGAR SWIM 2.36k**
Curran Street to Chelsea
Sunday 8th December 2002
Swimmers Assemble 9.00am Start 10.00am Tide 11.19am

NOTE:- CHANGE OF COURSE

3rd Swim **EAGLE TECHNOLOGY BAYS SWIM**
St Heliers Bay to Tamaki Yacht Club
Sunday 9th February 2003
Swimmers Assemble 11.00am Start 12.00noon Tide 1.54pm

4th Swim **EAGLE TECHNOLOGY RANGITOTO SWIM 4.45k**
Rangitoto to St.Heliers Bay
Sunday 23rd March 2003
Assemble 6.15am Embark 7.15am Sail forRangitoto 7.45am
Swimmers Arrive Rangitoto 8,25am Start 9.00am Tide 11.15am

Prez Sez

It will be very soon now that the Auckland Regional Council will make their decision for the Vine House bach in the Mahurangi Harbour. At this stage it looks like our proposal is the preferred option. If we are successful, we will then enter into negotiations with the ARC to sort out responsibilities. Our position is that we would like to take on a trial period to evaluate our usage and management of the bach before investing heavily in it. I've had some good enthusiastic feedback from members, so please keep this up. If all goes well, we should be able to make use of the bach early in the new year.

We often hire out the Devonport Scout's bach at the Rangitoto wharf, and this is proving popular. At the Scout's recent AGM, it was decided to raise the fees from a \$10 base fee + \$2/head to a \$15 base fee + \$3/head. That's effective immediately.

3 of the club's old Storm kayaks have been sold. This leaves the fleet with 2 double and 4 single kayaks.

Remember that you can hire kayaks from Fergs at reduced rates for club paddles if there are not enough to go around.

The leadership courses went very well. Participants were subsidised by the club. We look forward to a trip each (at least!) from these new leaders in the course of the year. Unfortunately the First Aid courses had to be cancelled for lack of numbers. Hopefully we can drum up more interest for another course in the new year.

Don't forget the swim escorts that start this month. If you only paddle once this year, please make it one of the swim escorts. We need your help.

Happy paddling

Cheers, M@

Update: Wednesday, 13 November 2002

The Council Parks & Heritage Committee has today given approval for the ARC to negotiate an agreement with the Auckland Canoe Club to restore and manage the Vine House. They have also agreed in principle for us to budget

funds for 2003-4 to contribute towards this along the lines of the proposal put by the club (ie club contributing labour).

I'd suggest that the club perhaps think about forming a subcommittee to take responsibility for the planning & negotiation for the running of the property & to get a good idea of what skills/labour members are potentially able to contribute. This will give us a better idea of what the ARC would need to fund. For example if you had a plumber/drainlayer who would be willing to contribute expertise, then we could focus on funding other tradespeople.

I will be able to arrange architectural advice so that we can provide detail of what work and materials are required.

Lights and Kayaks

"Rescues" Spring 2002 Page 15

Visibility of Kayaks

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.



Jim Lott - Small Boat Safety Advisor for Maritime Safety Authority

Peter Sommerhalder received a phone call today from the Auckland Harbour Master, James McPetrie, pointing out that there are still seakayakers out in the harbour at night with no lights on.

The message is clear: If you have no light, you are not going out paddling at night.

Whether it is a regular club evening paddle, or you are planning a private outing, seakayakers must have a light fitted and switched on after dark. White divers lights are available from the Auckland Canoe Centre and most marine shops.

Auckland Canoe Centre also has fibreglass poles to mount these lights on, which can be fitted to the rear of seakayaks requiring only a small modification to the deck or rear hatch lid.

There are other options. Clip the ACR light to your peak cap or hat. Carry a larger waterproof torch on your front deck and use it in emergency or "close shaves" to draw attention. Should your planned night paddle be an exception, buy one or two light or glowsticks from a marine shop or The Warehouse and tape it to your hat or the rear of your lifejacket.

Everyone in your party has to wear or attach a light. And should you display a fibreglass mast with the light on top, why not design and attach your own little penant and show it by day. You will not have to paddle harder, but the little flag about one meter above water level, makes you more visible to other, most likely faster travelling harbour users.

Please, let us all show some common sense and avoid accidents.

Peter Sommerhalder

Editors Comment..

How about a Club penant? Surely one of you out there could design a nicely coloured flag for the top of your fibreglass pole?

What about taking it further.... Purely on a voluntary basis, how about a colour scheme where people could choose which colour to fly based on *their* perceived experience level?

Suggestion...

The advice is for a bright Orange/Yellow flag, so perhaps a coloured border indicating experience level.

Red I am a novice and would welcome assistance

Blue I have medium experience

Green I have experience and am willing to assist others

The 'Heaps of Fun Company' Kayak Sail

Hello paddlers,

I've had a number of requests for Rebecca Heap's instructions on making a kayak sail lately. She first published these at an Auckland Canoe Club meeting in 2001. So I've put these in PDF form and you can download them from

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/auckland-kayakers/files/HFCsail.pdf>

or <http://www.geocities.com/tofska/HFCsail.pdf>

If you have any questions about making your own kayak sail, you can send Becks an email at he@kristin.school.nz

Cheers, M@

Padding Stewart Island

I'm interested in contacting anyone who may be planning an attempt to circumnavigate Stewart Island this summer/autumn. If you know of anyone perhaps you could pass on my name/address. I'm still an intermediate paddler but would like very much to try this trip but would need at least two weeks.

Thanks,

Giselle (Clements)

Giselle [giselle.c@paradise.net.nz]

Wanted - Paddling companions in Mahurangi area

Hi, I'm Sue and I live at Snells Beach. I am a novice sea kayaker and own a pink penguin called "Kevin" (the kayak!). However, due to the fact that I don't have the confidence to paddle alone, "Kevin" has been gathering dust in the garage for the past few months, as I simply have been unable to find local paddling buddies with spare time !!. Just 8 local trips last season was a real disappointment.

I run a Bed & Breakfast, hence I am available to go paddling any day of the week, between the hours of say 11.30 am and 4 pm. I am interested in short local trips in the Mahurangi Harbour, Rivers such as Puhoi, Matakana, and Omaha, and the islands and bays of Kawau Bay.

So if you fancy exploring the area by kayak and don't mind a buddy, then give me a call and I'd love to meet you.
Sue Bunce 09 425 6399 Mobile 025 403 299

Leadership Course Reports

When I told Ian Calhaem I intended to take part in the Sea Kayak Leaders's Course that the Canoe Club was going to run, the first thing he said, was that I would have to do a paddle float re-entry. He and Peter have been trying for a couple of years to get me to practise this, but I always had really good excuses why I shouldn't. Most of them being that it was too cold to get wet and anyway the last time I capsized accidentally from a kayak was in the middle of the Fulljames Rapid in 1973 !

So rather reluctantly I agreed to go along to Henderson Pool one night and have a go. Ian said he would teach me as his theory was the same as when husbands try teaching their wives to drive a car.

We started with us rafted up and me using only a sling. This was quite difficult for me as the slings were either too long so I couldn't reach across the kayak properly, or so short I couldn't step up into it. However eventually I was able to pull myself in a couple of times. Next I tried just a paddlefloat re-entry. The combination of having had polio in my right leg, and now with arthritis in my left knee and right shoulder, made it very difficult to pull myself up and twice just as I achieved it I leaned the wrong way and fell out. I was very relieved I was trying all this in a tepid pool. Finally I tried the combination of sling and paddle float. This was a still a struggle but quite a bit easier and twice I managed to get back in alone.

Last week I decided to go to the pool again, this time with a selection of sling lengths and a paddlefloat. It was a case of trial and error until I found a sling length that suited me, and also a method of getting in. Because of the weakness in my right leg and the fact that it is extremely supple, I realized that rather than try and keep one hand on the paddle and one on the kayak, it was much easier to leave the weaker leg on top of the paddle and use both hands to get into the kayak. Not a very elegant method and achievable only if you can just about do the splits, but after trying this a couple of times I was able to re-enter the kayak alone in less than a minute. Quite a difference to the previous attempts.

However, the reason for writing about this, is that I was shocked that it took me so much effort to initially get back into the kayak. In a real life situation I would probably have had more assistance from others but my time in the water would still have been considerable. I now strongly suggest that paddlers have a go at self rescues, using a paddle float and / or a sling, before you get yourself into a situation where it is needed. Most people without a dis-

ability will find it much easier than I did, but most of us also don't fall out in calm weather. If you at least know the technique that you personally need for a self rescue, it can only make you a safer paddler. But don't leave your paddlefloat at home.

Big thanks go to George and his helpers Rebecca and Matt, for the interesting Sea Kayak Leaders Course. I didn't envy Morgan's scenarios. Also Garry, did your "seasickness" really have to sound and look so authentic?

KASK Leadership Course

"There is a lot of talent amongst club members," were George Gerard's words after the completion of two leadership courses with a total of thirteen trainees. Practical exercises and scenarios took place in biting cold winds, rain and rough sea conditions on both weekends. George was supported by five volunteers from the club. We congratulate the following members for successfully finishing the leadership course:

Ian Deverick, Dan Hawthorn, Alan Edwards, Lindsay Sandes, Colin Harrington and daughter Sarah, Adrian and Rosmary Davis, Morgan Lewis, Garry and Shane Kake, Su Sommerhalder and Bruce Jackson.

Tom Ten and The Bi Yellow make an adventure

Sat 28 Sept. to Thurs 3 Oct.

I own an 18 foot Hartley Trailer Sailer which is easy to sail and really good for mooching around the Gulf in. However, after a few days on the boat it is really nice to set foot on dry land, but towing the dinghy in such a small boat is a real nuisance and its use is really limited to short trips only. Sailing and kayaking, the perfect combination - go somewhere in the sailboat, anchor in a nice spot and then explore in the kayak.

I made a spray cover for the kayak and got away on the falling tide on Saturday. A wind shift at the mouth of the Tamaki and I tacked past Point England, dodging ferries and launches. The kayak tows perfectly. I anchored at the bottom of Motuihi and lazed the afternoon away, recovering from the weeks exertions.

Sunday was good, a nice sail through Sandspit passage and across to Te Kouma harbour, catching supper just as I arrived. I have it on good authority that contrary to popular belief, fish generally taste better after aging rather than being eaten fresh. This one aged for fourteen minutes and thirty-six seconds. Lovely! After supper I paddled a leisurely circuit of the harbour which is small and protected from everything except a howling westerly. There was an awful noise coming from some trees, like a squeaky door being pushed open and shut very quickly and I went to investigate. It was young shags in a colony in some pines, squawking and stabbing with their beaks at the full crops of their parents. Up until then I had never heard a shag make any noise at all, maybe they horrify themselves when they are young and decide to give it away as they grow up. There was the usual gang of common gulls and black-backs loitering on the rocks below waiting for good things to fall from heaven.

The next bay down was shallow and rocky and had some tough looking cows eating seaweed from the rocks. On the far side was a small redstone cliff with the names of visiting yachts carved into it. A lovely place, and as I snuggled down for the night there were a few flickers of lightning and the howling westerly arrived. After an hour of dozing I felt the boat give a lurch and set off downwind dragging its anchor with it. Of course, by this time it was pitch black and pouring with rain. I went on deck and let out some rope then hopped back into bed. The anchor held for another ten minutes then we were off again. I could see the tops of some trees through the window and this time they were very close and moving very fast. I got back up on deck and let out rope to the bitter end. We stopped dragging but the stem was almost on the rocks. I started the motor and as the boat yawed across the wind I reversed into deeper water. Then before the boat swung the other way I ran to the stem and recovered rope. It was risky, if the anchor broke out or the motor stopped then the boat was on the shore. I managed to recover rope twice then drove over the anchor to break it out and motored into deeper water. The far side was better than the shallow bay as a refuge but it was so black I couldn't make out where the shore was. I pushed in as much as I dared then put the anchor down. We weren't out of the wind but there was nothing close to leeward which would give me more time to recover if the anchor dragged again. The preceding incident had lasted about twenty five minutes but the rest of the night lasted two centuries and I didn't sleep at all. To date it is the worst night I have spent on a boat. In the morning the shackle the kayak towrope ran through was gone and the padeye the rope was tied to was broken, but by chance I had looped the rope through the lines on the kayak and they had held, so at least I was spared an early morning wade among the mangroves to collect the kayak.

The wind was still banging away when I left Te Kouma Harbour and motored round the corner into the Coromandel Harbour to have some breakfast and sleep. I paddled into town after some recovery time and met a Swiss girl standing on the slipway waiting for her friend to bring the van and pick up their inflatable kayak. They had been camping around the harbour and had missed the worst of the wind but it must have been a hard boat to use in anything more than a breeze. They said they had been sailing the day before using their anoraks on their paddles.

The westerly wind was setting a pattern for the trip getting back to the boat from town was a slog and when the forecast called for a brief respite the following day (Tuesday) with more to come after That I decided to get back to the east side of Waiheke while the getting was good. I had a nights sleep and set off in the morning. I made good time and anchored in a small cove near Hook Bay, about half way between Shag Island and Gannet Island, both of which I was determined to visit by kayak. Shag Island was first on the list, in the lee of Poenui Island and beckoning in the early evening .1 paddled over and after a landing on the west side and a short stroll (the beach is twelve metres long) went round to the east side. It is a magical place, with rock gardening galore hoping to emulate my earlier fishing success I was towing a lure, which was immediately taken as I came around the corner. In the excitement of managing to haul the fish in whilst in some tricky currents near the rocks the paddle slipped unnoticed over the side and I was gazing with pleasure at the fish sitting on my spraydeck when I realised what had happened. In the moments stunned pause that followed the fish made good its escape, followed by the fishing reel. Some frantic flailing got me to the paddle, and I got the reel back too but the fish was gone We both had a lucky escape, I wasn't carrying a spare paddle. Further on was the reason for the islands name, pinnacles rising out of the sea, each with its own colony of shags and the juveniles hopping about clumsily or peering out from the tops of the rock. They looked like punk rockers and by way of a special welcome copious amounts of excrement were being jettisoned from above. Paddling in a shower of shag shit is just so much more authentic than being gobbed on by Sex Pistols! The etiquette must be in the aim because... they all missed. I paddled back to the boat in the evening lull and decided to get up early and visit Gannet Island before the forecast westerly set in.

Early morning in the lee of Waiheke was fine but the westerly had kicked in during the night and sharp gusts were falling off the hills and just getting across Hook Bay to Thumb Point was a struggle . As soon as I got round the point and into the westerly I knew I wouldn't be doing any sailing that day .1 continued across to the island and the spectacle of the birds soaring and floating in the air on the windward side of the island. I have been there many times by sailboat, the problem is that the best view is when the wind is up which means you can't relax and enjoy the birds with a lee shore under you. I thought kayaking over would solve the problem but the waves bouncing back off the sheer side of the island were interfering with the new ones coming in and throwing up a horrible pointy chop, which made me feel very insecure. I paddled around to the sheltered side then made a dash back to the boat deciding on the way to try sailing again in the evening , I was already a day late for work and was feeling under pressure to make some progress towards Auckland.

I set off after fretting the day away and made my way along the route I had followed earlier. As I rounded the point the evening lull which had lasted about half an hour stopped and the wind picked up again .1 was blown towards Gannet Island and realised there was no way I could travel against such a blow .1 turned to run and got a big scare when the boat slid off a wave and went sideways . The next wave caught up as I tried to turn the boat and crashed into the cockpit The kayak was on that wave and it came into the cockpit too, flying past my head and hitting the boom before I shoved it back where it belonged. For a moment I wondered whether the boat would recover or capsize9 and I would be unexpectedly paddling back to Auckland. I got back into the Waiheke Passage and tried to carry on in the dark against the tide but progress was slow and I finally gave it up and anchored in Man O' War Bay. Next day was just sailable and I slogged down Tamaki Strait until I thought I had enough fuel to get to the mooring then turned on the motor and pounded the rest of the way home.

Six hours to get to the Coromandel and three days to get back, hard work and not much decent paddling into the bargain The concept is good, though, and when I have put another set of reef points in the sail and tightened up the centreboard case I'll have another go at it.

Ngunguru River Ramble

Jodi Yeats

The Ngunguru River ramble on Saturday, 5 November was a delicious taste of summer and an interesting exploration of the area's history by the new famous five. Our group was, Sue, Craig and Sue's sister Annie-who-lives-in-Ngunguru, another Sue from Snells Beach and myself – one of the smaller club trips I have been on. The day started well with Sue bringing me a thermos cup of coffee since I hadn't been able to get the gas working at the holiday park. It went from there – a leisurely paddle amongst lovely bush covered hills and mangroves with great company and lashings of food – a real famous five adventure!

Sue and Annie had prepared maps in plastic bags for us that marked out historic spots and they and Craig helped out with plenty of local history. We went upriver to where the coaltown of Kiripaka had been from the 1880s until the end of the 1920s. While there are only empty fields there now, large puriri and flame trees hanging over the river were a reminder of that history. We shared a fabulous picnic in a glade by the river, then drifted back downstream in the sun. We were out of the wind and it was a glorious respite from a cold and stormy spring. Craig and Sue had planned the trip so the tides were perfect – assisting us both ways. So before too long we were at the next beach stop where we walked up a track through puriri, macrocarpa and other trees uphill to a settler graveyard. Weathered wooden crosses and marble headstones leaned heavily amongst the trees. This eerie spot reminded us of how harsh life was in the early days – if you lived into your 30s you were doing well.

It wasn't far then to Ngunguru and sad farewells to our simply wizard new friends.

The Ebb and Flow

By Roger Lomas

This summer the ramp at Okahu Bay will be even busier with the upsurge in popularity of outrigger paddling. The Orakei Club has increased its fleet and they are now sharing the clubrooms of the Auckland Sailing Club. Unfortunately the Cafe has closed – it was a bit of a treat whilst it lasted. Real sea kayakers however are a resilient lot, fully self sufficient, and can now be seen enjoying a cuppa of their own brew outside the club locker. With the demise of the café, supervision of the shower and toilet area was no longer on hand. A rogue element of the outrigger brigade (not the Orakei or Hauraki clubs) has abused the facility and the vandalism has caused Fergs Kayaks to lock the doors. A public convenience is located further down the ramp by the launch ramp jetty.

Looking for a bargain? The second hand kayak market is very active and this reflects the booming state of our sport. Fergs Kayaks and the Auckland Canoe Centre both have an extensive range of used craft as well as all the latest models. The Trade and Exchange is also worth a look in their water sports section, but rapidly becoming the bargain hunters favourite haunt is the clubs e-mail chat line run by Matt Crozier. Have a peek.

Recreational sea kayaking in New Zealand probably started in the late 1800s. There are records of Hokitika canoeist George and James Parkes making coastal trips around this time. One remarkable voyage occurred in 1890 when the brothers took their beamy singles across Cook Strait. The Fitzgerald brothers crossed the strait in a double canoe in 1895 and a year later a young 16 year old lad H.V. Shearman left Wellington in an 18ft craft and paddled over to Picton to catch the ferry home. Back then their craft were not referred to as kayaks and went under the classification of canoes. Old club names including ours reflect this. The Auckland Canoe Club had a pioneer sea kayaker back in its formative years. Ray Forno was our club secretary in 1956 and made many sea voyages in craft which he designed and built. These included trips to Great Barrier Island, Cuvier Island, Tauranga, Whangarei, North Cape and some big coastal journeys in the South Island. Ray experimented with sea kayak design and constructed many different models. One of the sea kayaks he built was a big rugged V bottomed craft. It had a specially designed cockpit that allowed him to stay on board for extended periods, cooking and sleeping at sea. In rough weather Ray would throw out a sea anchor and go below, closing off the spray skirt opening to ride out the storm. Another sea kayak he built was constructed out of aircraft grade plywood. It was 5.5metres long and weighed less than 16kgs. (This would be a remarkable feat even today using the latest composites). Grahame Sisson imported a Nordkapp mould and started making composite sea kayaks in 1977. Sea kayak legend Paul Caffyn used one of these Sisson craft in a series of voyages to circumnavigate the three main islands of New Zealand. The books of this remarkable journey have inspired many to paddle in his wake. Probably the biggest boost to sea kayaking occurred when the plastic craft arrived on the scene. Max Grant produced a model called the Puffin at his Quality Kayaks factory in Ashhurst and it was this craft arguably more than any other that helped popularise sea kayaking in New Zealand. It was seaworthy, low maintenance, easy to get in and out of and most importantly it hit the market at the right price. During the nineties when the sport of sea kayaking boomed, the Puffin would dominate the fleet of any club outing, Today we are spoilt for choice in New Zealand with local designers producing top class products, which are exported to the world market.

Demolition has been decreed for a couple of Hobson Bay landmarks. First to go will be the green dinghy lockers on Tamaki Drive. These achieved fame back in the 1980s when the Rainbow Warrior saboteurs were spotted launching their inflatable by vigilant yachties using the locker as a vantage point to look out for thieves plundering their moored craft. The other demolition will involve the big concrete encased sewer line the snakes its way across the bay and impedes access to the upper reaches of Purewa Creek.

Mayday-Mayday. A rescue with a difference. Last month a couple of Barracuda boys out for an early morning paddle spotted a 20ft launch in trouble just off Okahu Bay. The engine had failed and the wind and tide were taking it perilously close to going under the Orakei Wharf. Quick to the rescue, the lads took on a couple of tow lines and hauled the stricken craft into the bay out of the current and then back to the safety of the launch ramp jetty.

For many years now the Ebb and Flow adventure department has been carrying out extensive exploration of the waterways under the port wharf area. Two sandy beaches have been mapped and a survey team has gone ashore on both for a cuppa. One is relatively easy to locate but the other one is rather elusive. It has been named "Midnight Beach" for a very good reason but be warned, watch out for rogue waves and surf when landing. Happy Hunting.

Also on the subject of under the wharves, a couple of years ago the Ebb and Flow ran an article on the "water window" which is located under the Princes Wharf redevelopment. Apparently this has proved difficult to locate. Here's how. It is possible to venture under the wharf only at mid tide as longitudinal bracing beams prevent low tide access and high tide clearances are minimal and dangerous with frequent ferry wake wash. Look for the three big round

ventilation louvers on the side of the central structure on the wharf. Paddle under the middle one on the ferry wharf side watching out for cables haphazardly strung from the piles and look for the smiling shark

Access to the Viaduct Harbour is now restricted on race days. This is when the cup boats and their armada of support craft are manoeuvring in and out. Good kayak spectating can however be obtained at the entrance channel where you can get very close to the departing yachts. Whilst you are up there you can have a look at the billionaire super yachts (the ones too big to enter the viaduct basin), which are berthed at the new marina wharves outside and away from general public viewing. Just across the water on the western side of Princes Wharf is the big Italian sail training ship. Paddle close alongside and gaze up at the tall spars and under the huge fluked anchors.

It has been an imbalance of nature long overdue for correction. Since he started kayaking some 35 years ago David Lomas has paddled with orcas, whales, sharks and seals, but strangely no dolphins. This Jonah jinx was finally lifted last month when David enjoyed the company of 50 or so dolphins for over two hours on the harbour.

The R and D department at Paddling Perfection has been tinkering with a couple of new craft, which will be released soon. Rumour has it that they will be a lengthened version of the Euro X and the long awaited new Sea Bear.

He was out for a quiet paddle up past the wharves and was enjoying the early morning sunshine on his back. Suddenly his serenity was shattered by the booming blast of a ship's horn at close range. A big bulk carrier decided to exit its berth just as Wolfgang Pohl was passing. The ship's crew enjoyed the spectacle of seeing the De Niro's Sea Bear accelerate to planing speed, a previously unachievable feat.

Summer is here and its time for those extended voyages up and down the coast. Brian Strid in a Barracuda Discovery and Doug Howard in a Sea Bear set off early this month heading for Tauranga. Club members are planning other adventure voyages to the Far North and around East Cape. Where are you planning to go?

Our senior club instructor George Gerrard ran another two trip leader skills courses last month and was assisted by Brian Strid, Ian Calhaem, Rebecca Heap and Matt Crozier. Well done everyone.

Gear review - Point 5 thermal top.

Recently I was given the chance to test out the Point 5 top. It is a close-fitting (0.5mm) neoprene material, well made and finished. I have used it for a wide range of canoeing activities, from white water and multisport training through to sea kayaking. It was particularly good for sea kayaking as it kept me warm in blustery spring conditions. During a sea kayaking course I was in the water for several minutes doing wet rescues and I was still plenty warm enough. I also used it for multisport training but found it too hot for the pace I was training at. I think it would be good for long endurance races but for high intensity paddling it is probably too warm to wear, but good to have for an emergency.

The first lesson I learnt was that you need something underneath or it is hard to get off but, despite being close fitting it is still comfortable. In general the top provides a warm layer that does not let cold water in but in strong winds an additional wind proof layer is sensible (as with a wetsuit). Overall, it looks an excellent product, ideal for sea kayaking, white water and in the adventure racing kit.

If you want to get yourself a Point5 Top, or find out more about them, then go to www.point5.co.nz. They can be purchased online.

Adrian and Rosemary Davis

New Members that joined Auckland Canoe Club last month

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

Brian & Robyn Brown, Gareth & Abby Cronin/Turbott, Jeanette & Tony Dumper

Aaron & Nicola Goodwin, Susan & Stephen Levett. Jennifer Marshall, Geraint Rees-Jones

Trevor, Sam, Esther Weeks

Deadline for next month's newsletter: 12 December 2002.

Thanks for the response this month - even some articles over for the December issue!

Send articles to: IanCalhaem@xtra.co.nz



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