



Newsletter

May 2003

Hello Folks,

Almost the start of another year (doesn't that sound better than - the end of last year!). The Club has had a busy and successful year, full of events and trips. We have welcomed a number of new members and seen new faces at club nights and on trips. Some of you have taken up the challenge of leading trips for other members, others will no doubt be planning to do so in the coming months.

In this issue you will find details of the AGM that will be on the 20th May in the Club Rooms, Okau Bay, together with the nominations and notices of Motion. We hope to see you all there.

Cheers,

Jan

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Deadline for next month's newsletter: 10 June 2003

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.

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

Remember... 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. As discussed in a previous Newsletter, the Coastguard, do not recommend the use of flashing lights. It is apparently difficult to judge their distance and they are also used to signify danger. Also, it is advisable before going out on an evening paddle that you attend a basic skills course and ensure you are fit enough to be able to paddle for one hour.

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.)

May

May 10-11th May Saturday/Sunday - Working Bee, Vine House This is it, the first working bee. The priority task will be to construct a good track from Lagoon Bay up to the house. We need people willing to get their hands dirty. Bring your own spade and sleeping bag. We'll provide Saturday dinner and a good time (promise!). Aim to meet at Sullivans Bay at 8.30 am Saturday morning. **Ring Stephanie Seager to register your interest in this exciting project. Ph 8345 769.**

May 17th-18th May Saturday/Sunday - Bay of Islands for all abilities Another trip to the winterless north. Staying in a bach at Parekura Bay (out towards Rawhiti) gives easy access to the beautiful Urupukapuka Island or if you want to go further Cape Brett. A few minutes drive gives you access to the east coast and paddle to Whangamumu. Always trip to do regardless of the wind. Max 10 people **Contact Kevin Jose 6244522**

May 18th May Sunday - Mucking about on the Manukau. Lunch on an uninhabited island; 40 minutes paddle each way. Meet Colin Quilter at the reserve at the bottom of Goodall St, Mt Roskill at 1045 for an 1100 departure. Bring a thermos and lunch. Home by mid-afternoon. The trip is suitable for beginners. If the weather is fine just turn up; if it is doubtful **phone Colin 630 2219.**

May 18th May Sunday - Journeys End. The tiny community of Journeys Ends rests on the shores of the Kaipara Harbour due west of Wellsford. I have never kayaked there before but believe it has an all-tide boat ramp and a number of interesting options for sea kayakers. These include islands at the entrance to the Oruawhero River, Hargreaves Basin, extensive sand islands and weather permitting, a visit to Tinopai. The best route to Journeys End is either via Helensville. Kaukapakapa, Hoteo turning into Tauhoa Port Albert Road about 1km north of Tauhoa. Follow this road until it links with Run Road and at Tapura turn left into Journeys End Road. The other alternative is to drive up SH1 and 3km north of Warkworth turn left into Kaipara Flats Road and take this to Tauhoa. Meet at Journeys End at 9.30am. It is recommended that you allow two hours driving time from the city. And use a map as cell phone coverage is marginal in the area. This is not a trip for novice or beginner paddlers as this area is prone to strong currents and high wind. High tide is noon so we will miss the really strong currents. Listen to NewstalkZB for a cancellation. The trip leader is Vincent Maire (09) 424-2293, 025-2766032, vincent.maire@xtra.co.nz The <mailto:vincent.maire@xtra.co.nz The> tiny community of Journeys Ends rests on the shores of the Kaipara Harbour due west of Wellsford. I have never kayaked there before but believe it has an all-tide boat ramp and a number of interesting options for sea kayakers. These include islands at the entrance to the Oruawhero River, Hargreaves Basin, extensive sand islands and weather permitting, a visit to Tinopai. The best route to Journeys End is either via Helensville. Kaukapakapa, Hoteo turning into Tauhoa Port Albert Road about 1km north of Tauhoa. Follow this road until it links with Run Road and at Tapura turn left into Journeys End Road. The other alternative is to drive up SH1 and 3km north of Warkworth turn left into Kaipara Flats Road and take this to Tauhoa. Meet at Jour-

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20th May Tuesday - Annual General Meeting (AGM) 7pm Okahu Bay clubrooms. Election of officers to the committee, and presentation of and voting on given motions. The meeting will be run by a list of speakers, speaking to each motion. **See Page 000 for details.**

24th May Saturday - Continuing with the exploration of Sandspit and Kawau Bay waterways. This time out from Sandspit and up the coast to explore the coastline and bays. This, of course, depends on winds, but there are alternative paddles in the area. Meet at Sandspit (7km out from Warkworth) at 11am, by the play area opposite the Motor Camp. Finish about 3 pm. High tide about 2pm. As usual, I will be available for informal skills practice session after the trip. **Contact Mike Home phone: 09 528 1377 Postal address: P.O. Box 25 131, St Heliers, Auckland Mobile phone: 025 736 806 email: mike-randall@xtra.co.nz**

24 - 25th May - ROTORUA LAKES. Meet 9.30 am at Lake Tarawera landing for a day paddle to Hot Water beach, approximately 22Km return. The paddle will be suitable for all levels of paddlers. Saturday nite we will stay at Blue Lake Holiday Park (07-3628120), either camp cabins or motel. Sunday is your choice – walks – biking or kayak another lake. **Contact Graeme Bruce on 07-3323112 after 6pm.**

Queen's Birthday Weekend - 31st May - 2nd June - Lake Ohakuri - Winter Kayaking. Enjoy this tranquil lake and its setting. Camping with your kayak and vehicle right beside you enables you to bring all the necessary warm clothes and creature comforts. You will need WARM clothes as it can get to -4 degrees overnight!

\$5 per night, 2 3/4 hours drive from Auckland. Paddling to Hot Pools, reading a book, walking or enjoying good food and win, we do it all. Pot luck dinner on Sat night. **So come and enjoy it with Jennifer & Justin. Ph: 278 8090 or 025-868 177**

June

1 June Sunday - Crusoe Island. A small but interesting island in the channel between Motuhie and Waiheke Islands. Two tiny beaches, and just room for a dozen kayaks. Meet at Bucklands Beach 9.45am for a 10.00am 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.**

22 June Sunday - explore the wonderful Nikau limestone cave at Waikaretu. Nikau Caves are on private property at Waikaretu, a rural community on the west coast due west of Huntly. The owners welcome visitors and take guided trips through the caves, which have some incredible 'mites' and 'tites' plus some fabulous glow worms. The tour last 1.5 hours and other than a small section which requires potholers to crawl on their hands and knees, the trip is through large and capacious caves. You will need to bring a complete change of clothes, as you will get wet in the caves. Tramping boots are recommended and old clothes for in the caves. Torches and helmets are provided. PLEASE READ THE NEXT BIT VERY CAREFULLY. Allow 1.5 hours travelling time from Auckland – even more if you don't have these instructions and are prone to getting lost. There is no cellphone reception in the area. If you do get lost try and find a telephone and call Nikau caves on (09) 233-3199 and they will guide you there. Turn-off SH1 at Mercer (your destination is 49km from here) and take the road to Pukekawa and Glen Murray. Just south of Glen Murray turn right and stay on the road until you reach Waikaretu School. Stay on the road heading in a westerly direction and 3km from the school (through winding, almost gorge-like countryside) you will come to a driveway on your left marked with large rocks and the sign P&A Woodward. Go up the limestone drive to the house and you are there. Family members are welcome but children under seven may find the journey through the cave a bit difficult. The cost of the tour PLUS morning tea is \$25. Aim to be there by 10am which means you must be leaving downtown by 8.30am. The trip leader is **Vincent Maire (09) 424-2293, 025-2766032, vincent.maire@xtra.co.nz <mailto:vincent.maire@xtra.co.nz>** For more information visit www.nikaucave.co.nz <<http://www.nikaucave.co.nz>>. No need to bring your sea kayak!

28th and 29th June - Tarawera Weekend An Almost mid winter Paddle Lake Tarawera (Weather permitting) Depart from Boat Shed Bay 10.00am (5k past the Tarawera Landing) For a cost of \$10.00 per car we can get the security guard to keep an eye on the cars for us. Paddle over to Hot Water Beach and from here we can do a little exploring and decide whether to set the camp there or not (depending on number of campers) - Cost to camp \$7.00 per night. If the camp is busy we know of some awesome little bays to pitch the tents in. Shared Dinner Saturday night and yep bring togs and a bottle of something nice!

Sunday again weather dependant a little exploring and a lazy day back to the cars around 2.00pm A good trip for all levels paddling time allow 2hrs either way! but please ensure that you have the necessary equipment for winter i.e. warm clothes and a good tent For Details please **phone Garry on 2727748 or 021 898 611 or email gmabey@subaru.co.nz**

August

3rd Sunday - Bottle Top Bay Papakura 12.30pm assemble at Bottle Top Bay Paddle 8k up to the Motorway at Drury. Have an early afternoon tea. Depart with the turn of the tide 2.00pm at the Karaka Road Bridge learn to ferry glide across the currents learn to lean and turn with moving water or play in the rapid that forms with a 4.0 meter tide. Its a neat paddle and a chance to explore a part of the Manukau Harbour that's not often thought of as paddable. Nothing hard but a great chance to experience moving tidal water! For Details please **phone Garry on 2727748 or 021 898 611 or email gmabey@subaru.co.nz** Come and improve your kayak skills

Pres Sez

I hope you all enjoyed the Easter/ANZAC break. I'm sure many people, like me, took the 3 days off in between to make an extended holiday. Three club trips over Easter attracted over 40 members. On my way back home from Ahipara, I dropped in to one of my favourite camp sites - Mimiwhangata - which I'm glad to report is looking pristine with the grass cut and two sets of brand new loos (no longer the requirement for a portaloos in the boot on entry!).

Vine House

I was sorry not to be at Vine House over Easter (can't be everywhere) but very glad to hear the weekend was popular - so much so that some had to be turned away. Because there is only one septic toilet, numbers are typically limited to 15. Please don't be put off - there should be ample opportunity in the future. Even though the weekend was meant to me more for a relaxing time, there were some that just couldn't wait to get into some of the chores. We'll be concentrating more on those this coming weekend (10-11th) for our first working bee. This is an opportunity to see what work we're getting ourselves into before the AGM, where we confirm our interest in the project.

Membership

Thanks to nearly half of you that have sent in membership renewal forms, attached to last month's newsletter. If you've put it off, then do it now! Otherwise next month will be your last newsletter. Remember that new members who have joined from January 1st 2003 have membership right through to March 31st 2004.

Waterfront Development

As a club we are concerned that any development in the Okahu Bay area will impede our club activity and our kayaking. Any proposed development should at least preserve our access to the clubrooms, kayak shed, and the water. The more submissions to the proposal the better, so we would like to encourage you to contact Frank Dunne ph 575-8648 with your concerns, quite soon, to find out how you can help. See below from Des Matthews for more information.

The new marina at Okahu Bay

(adapted from the Tamaki Drive Protection Society's may 2003 newsletter)

There are plans for a new marina at Okahu Bay, these are the details that I have managed to find out so far.

A marina at Orakei landing is once again proposed and subject to a resource application. Both the Auckland City and Auckland regional Councils will require consent and the plan is to erect a breakwater, provide berths for 170 boats and to extend Akarana clubhouse. The application is similar to one proposed in 1990 with the exception that this latest proposal includes a greater number of boat berths.

The concerns we [the protection society] have at this time are the taking of public space for the use of private individuals, the extra traffic and how this will be managed and the restricted access for the public in the area. They are particularly concerned that there may be extra traffic lights, which will increase delays at peak times [including Tuesday night]

The Tamaki Drive Protection Society is submitting objections to the proposal. If you would like to add your thoughts to their objection or you would like extra information to enable a separate objection to be lodged, contact the society as soon as possible. (details below) **Submissions close 15 may.**

Contact Frank Dunne ph 575-8648 of the society

The St Heliers library has information about the proposed development as is usual with resource applications.

You don't have to object, you can support the development also but some reasons for objection include -

- Few public benefits- only private benefits
- Is there genuine demand for berths, in view of berths available at Westhaven for leasing, and purchase?
- How many residents of the eastern suburbs require the marina?

The marina will deny the residents of Auckland, in perpetuity the enjoyment of this area of the harbour as it is likely

that for security the piers and possibly the walkways will be locked during the day as well as the night. Cf. Westhaven, Outboard Boating Club.

The projected area of the marina is at present used for small boat sailing and instruction for kayak enjoyment (outriggers etc) these activities will be impeded. The area for car parking is grossly inadequate (141 parks). At least 2 parks per vessel is the norm at most marinas and ideally four to cope with demand on some days. I.e. at least 600 parks. The objectors are looking for 2000 objections as last time they had 1700
Submissions due by the 15th so act soon.

Annual General Meeting

Last but not least, the Annual General Meeting is at 7pm on May 20th. The pre-AGM think tank at the end of last month was well attended with about five items up for discussion. The result of which are given by motions or covered in the President's report.

Published in this newsletter are the motions to be passed and nominations for committee. Speakers for each motion will be called for and then spoken in turn.

Resources

Copies of the AGM 2002 Minutes and financial reports will be available.

Minutes of last years AGM can be found online at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/auckland-canoe-club/files/AGM02/minutes02.pdf>

The club Constitution can be found at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/auckland-canoe-club/files/Doc/Constitution.pdf>

Any other materials (eg, financials) will be published on the web site when available.

If you would like any these documents sent to you, I'll do that for you.

Agenda

- Apologies
- Matters arising from AGM 2002 Minutes
- Annual President's report
- Annual financial reports
- Election of committee
- Processing of motions

See you there!

Cheers, M@

Motions

Vine House (Andrew Frances / Matt Crozier)

- Motion that the Auckland Canoe Club support ongoing negotiations with the Auckland Regional Council in establishing a relationship with the Vine House Project
- Motion that the Vine House Subcommittee manage the agreement under the direction of the Auckland Canoe Club executive if and when it is agreed upon

50th Anniversary (Peter Sommerhalder / Alissa Good)

- Motion that a sub-committee be set up to organise the Club's 50th anniversary celebrations and that up to \$30 per head be set aside to subsidise these events.

Club membership subscriptions (Ian Calhaem / Alissa Good)

- Motion that the Committee be empowered to review and set club membership subscriptions for the following year.

NOMINATIONS: committee

President:	Matt Crozier (Lindsay Sandes / Rosie Thom)
Vice President/Gear:	Lindsay Sandes (Matt Crozier / Morgan Lewis)
Treasurer:	Alan Edwards (Alissa Good / Lindsay Sandes)

Secretary:	Rona Patterson (Matt Crozier / Peter Sommerhalder)
Trips Officer:	Morgan Lewis (Lindsay Sandes / Ian Calhaem)
Safety & Training:	Ken Marsh (Rosie Thom / Alissa Good)
50th Anniversary:	Peter Sommerhalder (Rosie Thom / Alissa Good)
Publicity:	Roger Lomas (Morgan Lewis / Peter Sommerhalder)
Editor:	Ian Calhaem (Rosie Thom / Matt Crozier)
Vine House:	Andrew Frances (Alissa Good / Matt Crozier)
Members:	
	Brian Strid (Morgan Lewis / Matt Crozier)
	Phillip Noble (Roger Lomas / Rosie Thom)

In the 'Zone'

Lindsay Sandes

The recent newsletter and stories of club members courting favour with the weather gods prompted me to write a catch up story from 'round the Islands'.

I snatched time over the Christmas & New Year break and paddled in lazy summer conditions, rediscovering our wonderful coastlines, secluded bays, fishing pools and reefs out around Rangitoto, Motutapu, Rakino, Noises, Waiheke, Motuihe, and Browns Island. The weather and sea conditions on my paddling days were so good that I kept paddling further & further, often extending an overnight to multi nights away. Home Bay became my 2nd home for a while and is a good base for extended trips around the Noises or Waiheke. Maps, marine radio and remaining in touch with the Coastguard and local boaties ensures good all round safety when paddling alone.

Sleeping under the stars, cold chardonnays, great food, and energetic walks over the Islands made for a wonderful summer. At these moments it was difficult to picture the coast line seething with wild swells and gusting winds from past events. It seems that although my unplanned trips strike good weather & sea conditions, most of my planned club trips have an element of challenge about them.

Mid winter 2002 - one of my Circumnavigate Rangi trips offered challenging conditions as Wayne & I set off for a day in the zone. Unfortunately an old shoulder injury prevented Wayne going beyond the tip of Rangi, however Steve Davey made an appearance. Having waited many months for his leave pass, nothing was going to stop Steve from having a great day out and after some debate, we set off to complete the circumnavigation in strong easterlies, paddling in a clockwise direction.

The eastern side of Rangi was tough paddling, into ever increasing swells. Once we reached Gardiner Gap we stopped in perfect, sheltered conditions for lunch, and then headed off into the channel for a wild roller coaster ride home. Big following seas made for great, continuous surfing which eventually got the better of me.

Steve put rescue into practise when I was trashed by a larger than expected wave, and within minutes I was back in my kayak and paddling onto the next swell. His rescue reinforced the importance of practising re-entry as his actions were swift and automatic in testing conditions.

We finished our trip on an absolute high, feeling as if we had pushed ourselves beyond the normal comfort zone. Wayne paddled back to base with Morgan & day trippers and all paddlers had some great stories to share.

Easter Kayaking 2003

Justin Sanson - Beattie

Good Friday, an earlyish start, well Jennifer would say it was early. On the road for Sullivans Bay, Maharangi West at 6.30am.

As usual I can't stand being late. Mind you as most people are aware, even if Jen & I arrive an hour ahead of schedule, we need all that time because we have that much gear to pack. We arrived to find David - a day paddler, Steve - an over nighter, Lindsay & Rosemary who were along for four days, rearing to go, well almost. Light winds were forecast with good old Auckland showers.

Meanwhile after Lindsay finished loading his kayak we lifted the kayaks down to the water. As usual a few extra hands were required to lift the mother ship down to the water. Around an hour after a beautifully still crossing we landed at Motuora Is. to find a small city of tents & fizz boats at one end of the camping area. After some "hard persuading" we decided to head for the far left of the campground where we had the whole area to ourselves.

Everyone settled in, Jen set up our tent while I had a play. At Christmas Jen & I were down at the Able Tasman where a kayaking guide pulled in with a group of kayakers & set camp & then proceeded to set up three times a normal size

fly with two paddles in the centre of it to act as poles. After seeing this & knowing the forecast for Easter wasn't flash I dashed around on Thursday afternoon sourcing a large ground sheet. So now that may shed some light on what I was playing with. The ground sheet was roughly five meters square & we used our paddles in the corners & driftwood in the centre. This made for a great shaded area & a communal gathering/cooking area.

Rosemary, Steve & David went for a walk while Lindsay, Jen & I contemplated going for a walk. That was as far as we got. The food & laziness were too hard to say no to. Later that afternoon Lindsay & I went for a paddle around the Is. as we thought it was a bit early to hit the booze. Paddling around the back of Motuora gave quite a different feel with towering rocks & cliffs covered in low vegetation. Lindsay caught his first fish just before we went around the point & then lost it as he pulled it into the side of his kayak. I decide to target kingies with a larger sinking lure. After Lindsay caught a decent sized kawhai around the back I thought "bugger this - the kingies can wait, I've got a reputation to uphold." So I changed to my normal bone lure. A Trevor special. Blow me Lindsay's caught another one & I had nothing. It was not through a lack of trying.

Back at camp around 2.30pm & we were starting on the nibbles, drinks weren't far away. David headed back & Rosie arrived around 4.00pm to join us for the evening. We smoked Lindsay's fish & got ourselves mentally adjusted for the relaxed evening ahead. After making a small dent in our food supplies we all sloped off for bed.

The next morning was hard. I just wanted to stay in bed & play catch up on some sleep. But my mind was saying "SUN RISE & HIGH TIDE" all of which should make for great fishing. After paddling around the Is. twice I had caught zip. Well there's not much more to be said on that except now for the first time ever I was starting to doubt my trusted lure. After Breakfast we headed for Moturekereke & explored the rocky out crops & Lindsay was almost tempted into some small sea caves except he was getting sucked into my addiction of "here fishie." Jen took a few photos & around the point we went. I had intended to go around the neighbouring Is. before exploring the ship wreck but blow me, I spied the birds working. Off I raced & after having another good try I got nothing.

Earlier that morning Lindsay mentioned he may be interested in trying a sail at some point. Like a few other things I have spare, so I hooked my spare sail up to Lindsay's kayak & after chasing the fish we both had a good sail in light winds back to the shipwreck.

Neither Rosemary or Lindsay had been to this area before & they both soaked it up. After pulling up on the beach & devouring an assortment of food we were on the water again. For some reason my back had started playing up. Rosemary, Jen & I headed for camp & Lindsay shot around the back of the Is. Under sail breaking waves beam on & a reef on the other beam. The last thing Lindsay was wanting right now was a fish on his line. "Bastard". After being a little flustered, Lindsay managed to drop the sail, get away from the rocks & land the fish. Well I was not left to forget, three nil Lindsay reminded me. After a repeat of the previous evening we indulged in more good food & wine. To round off the evening we had chocolate pudding with boysenberries & cream.

Sunday morning, my bad back had cleared up, thank goodness. Bacon, eggs, fried mushrooms & tomatoes for breakfast. Well after that all we could do was be lazy & play Gammock for two & half hours, a game similar to Backgammon. That afternoon, you guessed it, the boys were around the back of the Is. fishing again. And guess what, my Old Faithful finally worked. I caught the first fish. By the end of our excursion I had three kawhai & Lindsay had five. Yet again we didn't eat anything we brought from home. Seafood chowder for starters with garlic pita bread followed by smoked fish & several cheeses for dinner.

With the odd showers over the weekend, it was not a problem with the awning. It just meant packing everything up on Monday morning, things were a bit damp from the precipitation. Back at Sullivans we divided up all our left over fish & headed home. Great weekend enjoyed by everyone.

Cheers to everyone for an enjoyable weekend

Far North Easter Trip Report

Vincent Maire

Firstly the *dramatis personae*: Karen Finlayson, Roger Finlayson, Doug Howard, Steve Levett, Brian Strid, Patrick Miller, Marian Wolland, Ryan Whittle, Liz Jolley, Cynthia Borne, Warwick Drake, Doug Wilson, Matthew Crozier, Alison Wagstaff, Judith Wesley, Kevin Killelea, Bruce Somerville, Anne Schofield, Tony Greaves, Mike Randall, Charlie X and I apologise if I've forgotten anyone.

The decision to base ourselves at the Ahipara camping ground turned out to be a good one. It is an excellent location from which to run a sea kayak trip in the Far North and the camp is very well run and very tidy.

On **Good Friday** those of us who had already made it to the campsite the previous day we drove north to Hohoura. The weather was good with a 10-knot nor-easterly blowing. The tide runs at quite a pace up down this harbour. When we launched we were under the impression that it was still an hour off high tide yet it was running out at quite a rate. Off the launching ramp is a small island where we gathered to play in the 3-knot rip that created a small bow wave and wake around this island. Once everyone was together, we headed out into Rangaunu Bay. Brian Strid took the opportunity to make his mark on the trip by becoming stranded on a rock and capsizing. Thanks for the laugh Brian.

Rounding Perpendicular Point we found ourselves amongst quite high swells and the nor-easterly breeze. Houhora Bay was filled with buoys for some kind of aquaculture venture, from a distance they looked like a pod of sea kayakers. We investigated these plus a cave then landed on a small cove backed by a steep cliff. Here we had lunch. Back on the water we elected to continue north but after awhile, it became apparent that there was little to see so it was back to the harbour. As we passed the buoys Patrick and Mariana from the Northland Canoe Club said they wanted to land and explore Houhora Bay – but more on their adventures later. As we entered the harbour Doug Howard suggested we land and climb the headland to a Māori pa site. What a great idea. It didn't take long to climb to this point, which lies below Mt Camel (236m). The views were fantastic. Indeed, if it hadn't been for the tall pine forests to the west, we may well have seen Ninety Mile Beach. Not all of us climbed this hill. Steve, Ryan and Charlie found a great line of surf in which to play and we enjoyed looking down on them as they made the most of waves that seemed to take forever to break. Steve's capsize and subsequent self-recovery made for great entertainment. Before we returned to Houhora a number of us had a turn in the surf and Roger became capsize victim number three for the day. That evening, around 8pm Mariana and Patrick returned with a tray load of crayfish. While walking along the beach they came across a cage half-buried in the sand. It contained 31 crays. Thirteen of these were recovered and so the weekend was devoted to trying to eat as much crayfish as we could. Life is just hell sometimes, isn't it?

Saturday was Whangape Harbour day. It took us about 45 minutes to drive there and the sight of a long convoy of kayak-bearing vehicles must have been something of a surprise for the (few) locals in the area. The road ends at a backpackers not too far from the harbour entrance. The drive down to the launching spot gave us some wonderful views of a harbour surrounded by very high hills (300m+), a number of small and pretty churches perched on hills and headlands, and views of what seemed like any number of arms and channels to explore.

We launched our kayaks and with two hours of incoming tide decided it best to start with an exploration of the entrance. This is what we had come for and we were not disappointed. The entrance to Whangape harbour is more like a river than a harbour. It is 3.5km long but only 300m to 400m wide. Steep sloping hills rising to 326m on the south side and 287m on the north only adds to the feeling that you are exploring a river far, far inland. The hills are covered with a strange triffid-like plant that no one had seen before, but Patrick who works for DoC in Whangarei, believes they are an imported pestilence from the Himalayas. The tide moves at a very fast pace down this narrow entrance and we found ourselves making good progress up the back eddies that ran along each shoreline. The entrance itself was pounded by large breaking waves and we were unable to get too close to catch a glimpse of the Tasman Sea. On the return trip we stopped on the southern side where a valley meets the narrow harbour entrance. Half the group decided to walk the Golden Stairs track, which runs along the southern side of the entrance and the rest of us continued up harbour. President Matthew joined the walkers and later reported that with someone high up on the track in communication with someone in a kayak by VHF, it would be possible to guide the boat-bound person over the bar. (We all believe you Matt!)

Whangape harbour is formed from the meeting of the Rotokakahi River and the Awaroa River. Those of us who went up harbour paddled up the former and along the way we came in close to the marae and church at Pawarenga. First we paddled some distance up the river and seeing only river, we backtracked, then side-tracked into the loveliest mangrove forest I have ever explored. Even though the tide had turned we still had plenty of water to skim between large, healthy trees that were spaced far enough apart for easy access. It was like paddling through a grove of mature orchard trees. We then stopped for lunch and Brian got talking to a local (actually he lives in Wellington but was spending Easter with the whanau) and heard some of the local history. (But we will have to wait for Brian's trip report to get the facts) After lunch we decided to explore the Awaroa River but somehow, we lost steam and everyone was happy to divert back to the cars.

We had intended to explore Herekino harbour but time and tide (I know, it's a cliché, but this *is* a kayaking trip report) were against us. Those who did drive down to the harbour reported a very long walk from the carpark to the water.

Back at base camp Alison and I drove into Kaitaia and mounted a serious expedition in the local Pack 'n Save. Just before leaving Auckland club trips co-ordinator Morgan Lewis telephoned me to say the club was donating \$60 towards a shared meal. So we bought up plenty of BBQ sausages, Pavlovas, canned fruit, etc. Oh what a pleasant relief from all that crayfish! Steve and Charlie (both members of Yakety Yak) manned the BBQ and what a great job they did too. We had a fabulous meal, lots of food was eaten, plenty of wine was drunk, Easter eggs were shared around and I am sure plenty of lies were told too.

On **Sunday** we returned to the east coast. Our destination was Rangaunu harbour. This harbour has the biggest mangrove trees in NZ and our goal was to get amongst these forests for a closer look. Our drop in point was Rangiputa but on arrival, we discovered the mangroves many miles up-harbour so taking Warwick's advice, we opted for a paddle along Karikari Bay. Good choice it was too. This area is very reminiscent of the west coast Tiritiri Matangi Island; low, bush covered cliffs above basalt rocks and white sandy beaches. Our goal was Puheke, a 136m high hill of volcanic origin. Along the way a storm front came up and although it only clipped us with a few gusts and the odd spot of rain, it did blow up the waves a bit. On landing some of us came out of the kayaks in the surf. Not even pride was hurt and indeed, it only added to the fun. On shore we sheltered in the dunes and forced down more crayfish. But those black clouds were a bit concerning so this is what happened. Judith and Kevin walked up the hill and said it

was very worthwhile with great views over Doubtless Bay. Doug Howard volunteered to hitch a ride back to Rangiputa to get his van so that Alison and Liz and maybe one or two others could recover their boats by land. The rest of us kayaked back. Very soon the sun came out, the wind dropped and we landed back at the cars in perfect weather.

It was here that a minor hitch in planning occurred. As we beached the cry of dolphins went up. Two (or maybe three) were charging down the channel out to sea with Ryan in hot pursuit. I must apologise to everyone for the poor timing of this event. I had arranged for the dolphins to meet us as we entered the harbour but their timing was out by about five minutes. Perhaps they had been side tracked by crayfish. I will try and get it right next time.

On **Monday** the party split. Some went to Mangonui for a trip to Taupo Bay, some went to Whangarao Harbour and some went home. I know I had a great time so let's do something similar next year.

PS Over dinner one evening a group of us had a brainstorming session on how the club could celebrate its Golden Jubilee in 2004. Lots of ideas were shared and noted down, but that's another story for another newsletter.

Cooper's Beach

Keith Edwards

Over the last six months I've given Sheryl a few kayaking lessons and loaned her my Spectrum for a bit of practice; so when she and her husband David invited me to Coopers beach for Easter I took my Horizon. Just to keep it interesting Sheryl announced that she was taking her brother's Albatross (greater love hath no man than he lends his sleek Kevlar sea kayak to his beginner sister!).

Our first paddle started in Mill Bay on a lovely morning that threatened the odd shower but changed its mind. We practiced some paddling without the rudder (that's where we're up to with the lessons) and then headed off up the Mangonui harbour. The tide was going out so we turned round when we spotted that the sea gulls were walking.

We went paddling at Kohanga Bay at the mouth of the Rangaunu harbour with a couple of the youngsters in the party taking turns to paddle the Spectrum. It looks like a good place for future exploration though a local told us that the tide ripped through the main channel. On another day we went paddling with Bill, another member of the party just to show off what this kayaking lark is about.

But Sheryl is a bit of an adventurous soul and what she wanted to do was paddle across Doubtless Bay. I was having a quiet read one morning when she returned from a shopping trip and announced that today was the day! Right!

So we loaded the kayaks and some of the youngsters who wanted to go and explore the beaches of the Karikari Peninsula and off we went. We launched at Whatuwhiwhi and headed across the bay. It was a still afternoon and the surface of the water was only slightly rippled but there was the remainder of a swell coming in from the Pacific. Unlike Auckland, other traffic on the water was scarce so we paddled along gently heading for Coopers beach. After an hour or so we came to deeper water marked by a line of flotsam and a change to a deep blue colour.

Over the land clouds were building up and we saw some showers further south. As we paddled on there was a particularly grey spot over Taipa with rain falling and a rainbow colouring the land behind; lovely. We had a couple of stops, drank some water and ate our apples, chatted to the occasional fisherman. At one stage we had the strange sensation of paddling steadily but simply not making any progress along the distant Taipa beach. But all good things come to an end. After a journey of three hours we landed in a 20cm "surf" at Coopers beach well satisfied.

On another day I headed over to Whangaroa for a bit of exploring while David and Sheryl went walking. I launched at Totara North and paddled down the harbour to Peach Island. Whangaroa is a fascinating place with tall, rugged hills and lots of arms and inlets to explore.

The next day Sheryl and I returned and headed for the entrance. We came across Kingfish Lodge nestled in a cove just inside the eastern headland and paused there before heading out into the Pacific. There was Stephenson Island and along the coast were the Cavalli Islands. The desire to turn and paddle along the coast was immense but we had to get back. So with some reluctance we retraced our track. Of course the wind suddenly sprung up and there was a bit of a current running out of the harbour. It just made the return a bit more interesting!

Returning to Whangaroa is only a question of time. It's a wonderful place to paddle. The Cavali Islands also look interesting being so close to the shore. Does anyone know if it's possible to land and camp on any of the islands?

We had some simple adventures on this holiday, nothing big perhaps but adventures none the less.

Mirage

Paul Rosier

Further to the comments by Roger in "The Ebb and Flow." Regarding Rob Gardner's Mirage.

For the record I went over to OZ last year to watch the AB'S and the Wantabee's slug it out for the Bledisloe Cup, but we won't talk about that. I managed to get up to Gosford and have a look around and payed a visit to Mirage Kayaks. Well the rest is history. I brought myself a 580, much to my wife's disgust and all my paddling companions in Tauranga. However most of them, who have had a paddle have been suitably impressed. When my kayak arrived from Australia it had two Australian (Flags) transfers on the deck. They where removed immediately and replaced with a New Zealand flag and a digital photo send back to OZ for good measure. I still get a hard time from my mates about owning an Aussie boat, but I think they are jealous. Also for the record . A chap in Taupo has brought one in as well . It is has a black and white paint job with a silver fern on the side. It looks quite smart. So that is four that I know about. Word is slowly getting out. The Aussies can make a good product.

Thesaurus defines "Mirage" as...

Hallucination, optical illusion, illusion, vision, delusion, fantasy! Ed.

Kayak Storage

Tired of lifting ,securing and transporting your kayak on the car?. You can change this by hiring storage space for your kayak at the club lockup, situated right on the water at Okahu Bay. We have 5 spaces available at \$130 per 6 months. **Call or email Lindsay to secure a space- 021 865 940, ljsandes@xtra.co.nz <<mailto:ljsandes@xtra.co.nz>>**

Adverts

Kayak for Sale

Perception, Contour, \$1300, Never used.

Contact David Yates 021-457 692 or 445 9284

Kayak Wanted

10 - 12 years ago Quality Kayaks were assembling a sea kayak called an Horizon. I know that Peter sold a few of these and I would like to buy another one. So if you know of anyone who has an Horizon just gathering dust somewhere please ask them to contact me. Keith, Auckland 5288696.

New Members

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

Roger Crum Dianne & Dave Demler/Cook Alex, Janette, Anthony, Joseph Hos

Liz Jolley Susan Lott Peter Richards Russell, Desna, Devan Smith

Deadline for next month's newsletter: 10 June 2003

A new year, A new Committee - what do you want in the next Newsletter - start writing now...

Send articles to: IanCalhaem@xtra.co.nz



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