



Newsletter

June 2003

Hello Folks,

As you will see from the activity reports — Summer may be over, but there is plenty of activity on the water. Indeed, I find that the weather is often more settled during the winter months and it is a great time to paddle. So... wrap up warmly, be sure that you have a change of clothing in case you do happen to get wet (Hypothermia is always a potential danger) and get out there paddling.

Then of course, get writing and send me the details of your exploits!

Cheers,

Jan

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Deadline for next month's newsletter: 8 July 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
Vice President	Lindsay Sandes	522 3344	Safety & Training	Ken Marsh	828 0701
Patron	Sue Sommerhalder	815 2073	Storage & Club		
Secretary	Rona Patterson	834 3399	Kayaks	Lindsay Sandes	522 3344
Treasurer	Alan Edwards	522 6566	50th Anniversary:	Peter Sommerhalder	815 2073
Membership	Matt Crozier	817 1984	Vine House:	Andrew Frances	021 142 4857
Trips Officer	Morgan Lewis	620 4005	Newsletter Editor	Ian Calhaem	579 0512
	Morganl@xtra.co.nz			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

June

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!

22 June Sunday 10:00am - Self and assisted rescue training. On these dates the tide is right and we'll have someone rostered on to help.... **Contact: Ken Marsh 828 07 01**

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 gmbey@subaru.co.nz**

July

- 1st July (Tues) Guest Speaker Night – Clubrooms.** Meet at 7pm for a 7.30 start. All welcome & bring a friend. A \$2 door charge covers your supper and a gift for our guest. See page XXX. **Ph. Roger Lomas 579-8799.**
- 2nd July Wednesday – Auckland Canoe Club mid winter dinner** -- Where: De Niro's Restaurant - licenced and BYO, When: 2 July 2003, Cost: \$27.50. Numbers are limited, so please register your interest with Rona by 23 June. **Contact Rona Patterson – 834 3399**
- 5/6 July – Vine House Working Bee.** We've had some very successful working bees. It's time for another. We need to complete the steps leading up to the house. There are a number of other smaller jobs too. Bring your own spade and sleeping bag as per last time. Also bring \$5 for dinner on Saturday night (I promise not to make vegetarian this time...chefs are welcome!) **Ring Stephanie Seager for more details. Phone 8345 769.**
- 6 July Sunday – Three Peaks.** Leave Okahu Bay and visit Browns Island, Rangitoto and North Head. Climb to the top of each peak to enjoy the view. This is usually a long day, so your fitness levels need to be OK, especially if a headwind comes up in the afternoon. Bring walking shoes, plenty of drink and food. There will be numerous compulsory opportunities for eating and drinking. Bring dry clothes for when ashore. **Contact Ryan Whittle on 4192672(H) or 6303554(W)**
- 6 July, 20 July, 3 August, 17 August, 31 August Sunday 10:00am – Self and assisted rescue training.** On these dates the tide is right and we'll have someone rostered on to help.... **Contact: Ken Marsh 828 0701**
- 18-20 July – The Three Harbours and Islands Coromandel.** Kick the winter blues and join us on Friday night in Coromandel township. Spend the weekend exploring the Three Harbours and Islands south of Coromandel township (Coromandel, Te Kouma, Manaia, Whanganui Is, Ranigpukea Is and Wekarua Is). Catch up with the now local legend Wally Gillmar in the Coromandel Hotel for a night of camaraderie, merriment and mayhem. **For more details please phone Morgan Lewis on 6204005 or email morganl@xtra.co.nz.**
- 19 July – Geocaching at Motukarakara Island** If you've got a toy GPS and you don't know what to do with it, then try geocaching! Use the GPS to find hidden treasure, and make a swap. There is one hidden on Motukarakara Island, just off Beachlands. Don't worry if you don't have a GPS - we could still do with the extra pairs of eyes! For more info, see http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?ID=69222 Meet at Cockle Bay at 9am for 9.30 departure. It should only take about 45 minutes to paddle to the island. Listen to 1ZB cancellation service if the weather looks dodgy. Other caches in the vicinity that we can paddle to (if people are still keen!) are 'Mangemangeroa' - http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?ID=11202 'River View' - http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?ID=51823 **Contact Matt Crozier (817 1984 or matt@vsl.co.nz).**
- 20 July, 3 August, 17 August, 31 August Sunday 10:00am – Self and assisted rescue training.** On these dates the tide is right and we'll have someone rostered on to help.... **Contact: Ken Marsh 828 0701**

August

- 3 August, Sunday 10:00am – Self and assisted rescue training.** On these dates the tide is right and we'll have someone rostered on to help.... **Contact: Ken Marsh 828 0701**
- 3 August 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. It's a neat paddle and a chance to explore a part of the Manukau Harbour that's not often thought of as paddlable. 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
- 17 August Sunday 10:00am – Self and assisted rescue training.** On these dates the tide is right and we'll have someone rostered on to help.... **Contact: Ken Marsh 828 0701**
- 31 August Sunday 10:00am – Self and assisted rescue training.** On these dates the tide is right and we'll have someone rostered on to help.... **Contact: Ken Marsh 828 0701**
- 30th & 31st August – Opoutere Weekend** - Attention all New Members If you have not been on a trip - consider this one! Come and explore the beautiful Harbour inlet, less than 2hr Sth. of Auckland. Options to head out to Islands if weather safe to cross bar, or put in at Whangamata. Consider bringing Mountain bikes, walking boot and fishing rods or just a good book and relax in the peaceful surrounding of Opoutere Youth hostel. Accommodation reserved for 20-30 from Friday night. Shared Theme dinner Sat night " Lets go Indian " Hostel has small river kayaks to play in too. **Contact; Jackie Hillman 09 634 5042 or 021 303 337** if anyone has spare room for an extra kayak or person to take down- please let Jackie Know Cheers

Trips Officers Trip Program

These trips will occur over the rest of the year and into the next year. Dates and schedules will be published in the Clubs newsletter as the year progresses. If you are interested in any of the trips below, please contact Morgan Lewis on 6204005 or email morganl@xtra.co.nz.

1. Expedition to Inner Kaipara harbour from Pahi.
2. Expedition to lower Manukau harbour and Waiuku river from Clarks beach.
3. Expedition to Tauranga harbour from Omokoroa beach.
4. Exploration of coastal region and Kawakawa Bay, Pakiki Is from Orere point.
5. Exploration of Wairoa river, paddle from Ruawai on the rising tide.
6. Expedition to Kawhia harbour, staying at Kawhia beachside S.Cape.
7. Trips Officers dinner at De Niro's, special guest speaker.
8. Exploration of Hen and Chickens Is from Whangarei.
9. Exploration of coastal region, Waikawau, Little Bay and Tuatawa from Colville.
10. Expedition to Mokohinau Is from Leigh.
11. Exploration of Waihou river from upper reaches to Firth of Thames.
12. Exploration of coastal region from Whananaki to Rimariki Is.
13. Expedition to Poor Knights Is.
14. Exploration of the Rangitaiki river from Murupara to Thornton beach.
15. Expedition to Three Kings Is from Spirits Bay.
16. Expedition to Whanganumu harbour exploring coastal region to Cape Brett, Piercy and Dog Is.
17. Exploration to the Hokianga harbour from Opononi.
18. Expedition to Motiti Is Bay of Plenty from Papamoa beach.
19. Swamp paddle.
20. The Great Waiheke circumnavigation.
21. Urupukapuka and surrounding Is from Rawhiti.

Self and assisted rescue training

Come down to Okahu Bay and practice. Sunday 10:00am 22 June, 6 July, 20 July, 3 August, 17 August, 31 August. On these dates the tide is right and we'll have someone rostered on to help....

Contact: Ken Marsh 828 0701

Auckland Canoe Club 50th Jubilee

Next year, 2004, our club will be 50 years old! I believe everyone will agree that celebrations are called for. Suggestions and ideas for marking this event are already coming forward. The group paddling over Easter in the Bay of Islands passed on the result of their brainstorming session. Prior to arranging jubilee activities I will get in touch with some older club members and research some history.

These are some suggestions we would like to follow up: Create a Jubilee logo, run kayaking activities like day and weekend trips, 111km Waikato River Race (done before by the club), Family day where children and non-paddling "retired" club members can participate, Vine House "Handing over of the Key", a multi-day seakayak race.

Jim Mason, a founder member, has black and white 35mm movies from canoe trips in the early fifties. We suggest asking Jim if these could be digitised and kept as a historical record. The costs to be paid by the club. Perhaps our Jubilee activities should be recorded on video and kept for the future? Other highlights could be a kayak exhibition, including old kayaks built by club members, historical slide shows, a public donation assisting a paddling related cause, establishing annual achievement awards.

To publicise Auckland Canoe Club and the 50th jubilee we will need a website. This would be a useful tool for promoting the jubilee events, a source of information, and to create a register for the grand celebration.

A Jubilee Committee will be formed, and we invite club members to pass on suggestions and ideas. I can be phoned during the day on (09) 815-2073, or by email peter@kayak.co.nz.

Peter Sommerhalder

Pres Sez

It seems to be a month where we're all heading down south to do our paddling in the freezing cold - two trips to Lake Tarawera and Justin's traditional trip to Orakei Karako. I joined Graham Bruce with Wayne, Pam, Evan, and Linda for the first Tarawera trip to Hot Water Beach. The second day, Wayne and I crossed the lake and walked to the falls on a successful mission to find a couple of geocaches. As I had some work to do later in the week at Waiouru, and spent the next couple of days and on the way home doing a lot more of the same! It was good to catch up with Rob Gardner, who seems to have settled nicely in the town 'closest to God'. He describes paddling on Lake Maowhango as getting back to the grass roots traditions of 'Greenland' kayaking. He's quite keen to meet up with any paddlers passing through, and we may meet up with him on a trip down the Wanganui River at some stage.

Membership

Over half of last year's membership has rejoined at this stage. Note that this will be the last newsletter for those who have not rejoined by the end of this month. Email event reminders and notices will also cease for those people. If you need a membership renewal form, you can obtain one from the web at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/auckland-canoe-club>.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM last month was deemed a great success with the proceedings dealt with in record time and unanimous passing of all motions! Maybe next year we 'can' hold the AGM between dinner and desert - yum! If you missed the meeting, you can read the minutes and president's report at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/auckland-canoe-club/files/AGM03>

The new committee (see inside cover) has just had its first meeting, and it's good to see such enthusiasm. Morgan has come up with a good list of trips to follow up on. Peter has the planning for the 50th anniversary celebrations underway. Ken has some ideas for training, possibly a session on wing paddling, and maybe even regular pool sessions. Andrew is taking the reins for Vine House as we head closer to forming an agreement with the ARC, hopefully around July. Roger is kicking off the winter series club nights next month. If you have some ideas for club nights or would like to help organise the series, please let Roger know.

For the Tuesday night paddles, we aim to have a roster of committee and other members who can take charge on the night. This will involve catering for new members, making sure hired kayaks are paid for, liaising with Fergs if more kayaks are needed, logging intentions, etc. This may be more than a one-person job, so if you're a regular then please be prepared to help.

Happy paddling - M@

Vine House Working Bees

You're all gorgeous, wonderful and nice and I can truly say that I have grown to adore a good many of you.

Forgive me for such outbursts of warm, fuzzy drivel. It's an occupational hazard for teachers. We tend to go all mushy over those under our wing. Usually 5 year olds are the recipients.

So when I was asked to coordinate working bees for Vine House, I had no idea that I would also fall in love with all you lot!

At first I was daunted by the thought of organising grown ups. As the weekends have gone on I have begun to realise that there is not that much difference between 5 and 45 year olds. Perhaps it was Rosie and Brian arguing over the pink bucket in the sandpit that led me to this conclusion. It could have been the times I shared a branch on my favourite tree with Keith. Maybe it was Des playing frisbees with the boatshed tyres. Granted, this was a good game until Judith got in the way and it became quoits. My thoughts were totally confirmed when I saw the boys (Andrew, Ralph, Matt, Brian and Ken) frolicking in the mud. Lagoon Bay's phosphorescence revealed that many an inner child was alive, well, and splashing all over the place. Much wholesome fun has been had and it takes me back to the days of building a fort in the back paddock. Trevor Arthur staked our new territory with a toi toi banner and like kids we've gathered at our den. Our big people's worries left behind on the other side of the water.

It hasn't always been playtime though. I need to acknowledge the hard work that has been done. People have come in droves and gladly given hours of their weekends. There has been so much interest that I've even turned some away. I sincerely thank those who couldn't stay because of a lack of space yet still happily worked a full day and then went home. There will be many more opportunities in the future for you to have a weekend there.

Special gold stars must also go to some who have put in supreme efforts.

Thank you to:

Jim and Phyll Sneddon for giving us back hot water,
Rosemary Gatland and Andrew Francis for working from sun up to sun down,
Martin Ball for organising the barge and boat,
Shawn Diedricks for his building expertise and
Rosie Thom for being such a honey!
Robert Brassey of ARC who is our Santa Claus

Finally I am most grateful to the house itself. This teacher has learned some lessons of her own over the last few months. I risk being labelled corny and sentimental, but I'll say it anyway....

In the act of giving we sometimes receive more than we could ever hope for.

Winter cruise to Crusoe Island

Colin Quilter

A cold, grey and windy Sunday morning in June. Five of us met at Bucklands Beach for a paddle out to Crusoe Island which lies in the channel between Motuihe and Waiheke Islands. I was there because I'd advertised the trip in the newsletter and couldn't now think of sufficient excuse to cancel it. Erica was there because she wanted some exercise, (which she certainly got). Ian was there because he wanted to try his brand new Mirage, (but no scratches in the gel coat please!). Paul said he was of two minds about coming, but we lifted his boat off the car before he could change his mind. Grahame was there because if you dislike the city as much as he does, remote and rocky islets seem attractive in comparison.

The outward trip was down-wind and down-tide. The southwesterly increased steadily as we ran out towards Motuihe, the wind like a hand pushing firmly between our shoulder blades. Landing to stretch our legs on one of the white sand beaches on the eastern side of Motuihe, a small wave swamped the cockpit of Ian's Mirage. The electric bilgepump emptied it in a jiffy. An ELECTRIC BILGEPUMP! We were struck dumb with amazement. It was worth a long day on the water just to see that pump.

Crusoe Island drew near. It is about the size of two tennis courts, with off-lying reefs and strong tidal currents on both sides. I had boasted of the island having two "beaches" on the western side, but today this was exposed to the bitter wind. Besides, Ian was unconvinced. He looked at the pristine surface of his kayak, and he looked at the two rocky "beaches", and he wasn't happy. To placate him, and also to find some shelter, we sought the eastern side. Here there is a tiny pebble beach about four metres wide, reached at low tide by a narrow rocky cleft lined with sharp oysters, through which one kayak can just pass. Ian's face grew longer. "You said this was a beach. It's not a beach. Beaches have sand." However he was over-ruled. It is well known that the definition of a beach depends on how hungry is the kayaker, and five hours after breakfast this looked like a beach to me.

It was a pleasant spot, sheltered from the wind. We discussed the cancerous proliferation of grand mansions on Waiheke Island, each intended as an "architectural statement" rather than a dwelling that fits into its landscape. We discussed scratches on kayaks. I advanced the theory that with both kayaks and women, a few scratches and dings should be regarded as honourable scars, evidence of a willingness to take risks and experience life to the full. Ian disagreed in the matter of kayaks, but refused to commit himself about women. Erica was silent on both topics.

Above our heads the wind rushed through the pohutukawas. It was a depressing sound. I poured scorn on the forecaster who, from his comfortable Wellington office, had predicted that the wind would ease during the afternoon. Once on the water we slogged slowly across to Motuihe, then along the southeastern beaches until we could see Musick Point dead to windward across the whitecaps. Before tackling this stretch we stopped for a breather on one of the southern beaches of Motuihe where a rocky shelf gave protection from the wind. During the 15 minutes we were on the beach the wind started to ease, exactly as predicted. I offered a mental apology to the forecaster. Instead of the two-hour slog which I expected, we now had a relatively pleasant crossing which took about half that time. The incoming tide lifted us up the Tamaki estuary, an easy finish to a satisfying trip in good company.

Passage notes. Choose mid-day low tides to get favourable currents both ways in the Tamaki River and in the passage between Motuihe and Waiheke. The cove on the eastern side of Crusoe Is is worth visiting out of novelty not necessity; in SW winds there are several sheltered sandy beaches nearby on the northeast side of Motuihe. Don't use Eastern Beach as start/finish; it dries out extensively at mid and low tide, giving a long carry to and from the water. If the southwesterly wind becomes so strong in the afternoon that struggling home against it is impractical, a party (or its weaker members) could run the short distance downwind to Matiatia Harbour on Waiheke and bring kayaks home on the ferry.

A STRETCH OF THE WAIKATO

As I live in the Waikato I do not get to the sea too often but am close by to the Waikato River , Taupo, and all the Rotorua lakes , I spend at least one day a week paddling somewhere on my own or with company of my wife Linda and or others. we have a huge selection of day or overnight paddles within an hour of our house and shop at Lichfield and we take advantage of this.

I have paddled most of the Waikato river many times but am yet to do the Northern section from Taupiri to the sea but that will come shortly . A piece I had missed was from the Full James rapid and Northwards so Linda , myself and our good friend Ron Moore got stuck in and did it .

Sunday May 11 we met at the big rapid and had a big effort carrying the three kayaks and all our gear down the steep track and around over the stones to a safe get in area , Linda was not very happy on seeing the rapid and thought we were going over it but soon realised that we would get in below it for the start of the days paddle, Once packed we were off into the current to whip us downstream staying in the centre of the river and following the current which was a bit messy but Linda did well and soon got the feel of it as she had only been in moving water for the first time a week before above Reids Farm at the start of the river for a bit of a practice. This part of the river has a good current and a few rocks or trees in the middle to avoid but follow the flow and pay attention and its a beautiful piece of gorge to paddle through . After about 15 km the current settles to a crawl and we stopped after 2.5 hours and about 20km in view of the Ohaaki geothermal power stations huge chimney. We then restarted and from now on a very slow current and then soon non existent current we paddled another 11 km to the Mihi bridge on the Rotorua Taupo highway and made a bit of noise after seeing someone in the distance firing a shotgun straight across the river 500mts ahead of us, I tried to get Linda to lead but she wouldn't for some reason. We had a bit of a rest but carried on as I was realising our pick up driver would be at the next bridge at 3.15 we would get there late I new as the current was not helping anymore . It was 13 km to the next bridge the end of the trip , this section again was very scenic and a pleasure to paddle not a lot of birdlife and some Pine forest for a while on one side.

We finally made it to the Tutukau rd bridge our journey ending 7km before Oraki Korako we were 35 minutes late ,the 44km trip had taken us 6 hrs 10 minutes including stops, what I like about these areas is that you usually see no one else (except for your companions)and can be very isolated from the world in beautiful places with no houses or other craft .We saw one boat all day and two kids on a home made raft drifting slowly downstream this is what I call getting away from it all,and hey even the weather was good.

Evan Pugh
sheepskinsstuff@xtra.co.nz

QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

by Rona Patterson

If you were sitting at home doing nothing on Queens Birthday weekend - eat your heart out!! Nine club members and two friends had an awesome trip to Ohakuri with Justin and Jennifer.

By mid-afternoon on Friday, a tent city had sprung up and Justin had lit the mother of all fires. You have never seen a fire until you have seen one of Justin's. Quite a strong wind was blowing, so we sat facing the fire, with our backs to the wind.

After a leisurely breakfast on Saturday morning Justin and Jennifer led Stephen, Trish, Karen, Nancye, Rob, Pam and myself to the hot pool for a soak. At the breakaway point to Orakeikorako a fizz boat rushed ahead of those of us at the rear of the group. We heard it come to a sudden stop, then it's motor roared. It slowed, then roared again. It had hit a bed of lake-weed which covered the width of the lake in that area. While the fizz boat had a struggle to get through, it cut a path for the rest of us. The pool temperature was not as hot as in previous years, but this did not deter eight paddlers from a lovely warm dip. Justin had a floating bar, which held drinks, sun glasses, cameras and a platter of chips and nuts. This floated around with never a mishap. (I am going to have to get one of these)

Justin was the first to return to camp, with the excuse that he had to collect fire wood, but I suspect he wanted to stretch himself. A few remained and ate lunch beside the lake; the rest of us returned to eat our lunch back at the camp at about 3pm.

Ryan arrived on Saturday while we were at the hot pool. He set out to find us but instead found his way to Orakeikarako, so we missed him in both directions. However he arrived back in plenty of time to sit in front of the fire before it was time to make preparations for the fabulous three-course, shared meal.

The weekend was very laid back with no plans apart from the trip to the hot pool. The following morning dawned dry, warm, breezy, with a forecast of 15 degrees and fine weather. Some set off to explore the dam area, Ryan set off for an arm of the lake he had not explored previously, and the rest of the group chilled out in front of the fire. Following lunch, those who had not used up enough energy, set off on foot to explore the dam more thoroughly.

The day finished off around the fire casually talking and sipping, when one of our guests missed his footing and slipped one leg into the lake. Oops!! Blow me down if he didn't do it again about an hour later, only this time he went right in. As the logs were enormous and some had fallen into the lake, we assumed this is what happened. But no!!! How on earth could anyone fall in twice?!!!!!! It was a while before we could stop laughing.

This, however, was not the Piece de Resistance! Better was still to come the following day.

It was now Queens Birthday and we all had to head for home. Some went early while others went for a short paddle. That is, all except for Ryan. He chose to paddle back to the place he had been the previous day because he had more to see there. By the time he arrived back, the remainder of the group were almost packed to leave. Ryan looked as though he had been exerting a lot of energy. This was to be the understatement of the year! When he had approached the large open area of the lake on his return, he came across a large motor boat sitting rather still with the two men leaning over the sides, swishing their life jackets in the water. Yes, Ryan hooked them up and towed them for fifteen minutes, at which time another craft was able to relieve him. Can you imagine the embarrassment of the motor boat owners? The boat was towed through the camp ground later and it was not a little one!!!

GUEST SPEAKER NIGHT AT THE CLUBROOMS

By **Roger Lomas**.

Jennifer Andrew and Justin Sanson-Beattie are back by popular demand with their latest series of adventure slides. Come along and see how a couple of your club mates capture the great outdoors with their unique talent and flair with the lens. Before the main show gets underway there will be a short visual presentation by Andrew Frances on developments at Vine House. Arrive early for a cuppa and a chat with fellow club mates and this is a good chance for newer members to get acquainted with the old salts. Supper will be served at the end of the show. See you there.

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New Members

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

Nick Chua

Karin & Otmar Puttner

Alicia Warren

Tony Hannifin

Dwi, Denny, Deddy Rubingi

Fujine Wolken

Mark Payne

Deadline for next month's newsletter: 8 July 2003

Send articles to: IanCalhaem@xtra.co.nz



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