



Newsletter

November 2003

Hello Folks,

You will find a number of references to the Swim escort in this issue. These are a series of 4 swims where the Auckland Canoe Club provides the close in support for the swimmers. The Coast Guard organises an outer protective ring around both the swimmers and the kayaks, and usually the Water Police supervise the outer limits. Without sufficient kayaks available the swim will be cancelled so it is imperative that we have sufficient volunteers.

Apart from always being a very enjoyable occasion, these swims also raise considerable funds for the Club and that enables the fees to be kept low for all our members.

Please support the two swims this month - 16th and 30th November.

Remember that there is no Newsletter published in January, SO, get your trip details etc in to me in time for the December issue.

Cheers,

Ian

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Deadline for next month's newsletter: 9 December 2003

Useful phone numbers and addresses

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Club address | 23 Spinnaker Drive Te Atatu Peninsular, 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 | Su Sommerhalder | 815 2073 | Storage & Club | | |
| Secretary | Rona Patterson | 834 3399 | Kayaks | Lindsay Sandes | 522 3344 |
| Treasurer | Alan Edwards | 820-8115 | 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 \$155, overnight Ocean Kayaking Course
\$245. Surfing Courses also available. Courses run by
professional SKOANZ Assessors/Guides. Details on
website www.outdoordiscoveries.co.nz

Positively Outdoors, Liz Maire and Christine Mcleod, ph 473 0027, fax 473 0731.

Two-day OSH certified outdoors first aid course - \$140

10% discount if four or more club members enrol for a course.

There are also a few club members that are experienced
instructors and with a bit of encouragement (bribery
and/or arm-twisting!) might be coaxed into giving a training
session...

Ian Calhaem, Rebecca Heap, Ken Marsh, John Maynard,
Mike Randall.

Safety Policy for Club Trips.

- 1 Any Club member who has any doubt about whether or not their skills are sufficient for a particular trip MUST contact the trip leader ahead of time to discuss safety issues.
- 2 It is your responsibility to wear a buoyancy aid, to be suitably dressed for the conditions, and to carry any other personal safety equipment necessary for the trip.
- 3 You must make a realistic assessment that your strength and endurance are sufficient for whatever is planned.
- 4 You must be able to re-enter your kayak (with help from another paddler if necessary) after a capsized in deep water.
- 5 With night paddling it is everybody's responsibility to provide their own large lens flashlight, or fixed all-round white light on a one metre high pole, in working order and mounted on the outside of the kayak where it can be seen at all times.
- 6 Use a craft appropriate for the trip. A kayak with water-tight bulkheads is essential for open sea kayaking. Sit-on kayaks are usually too slow to be able to keep up with sea kayaks, therefore, are not recommended on trips planned for sea kayaks.

Trips and Events Calendar

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

TRIP CANCELLATIONS

The Club is now using "Newstalk ZB" cancellation service. This can be listened to on 1080AM or 89.4FM.

The service runs on Saturday and Sunday from 7:00am.

This should eliminate the multitude of phone calls to trip leaders when the weather looks suspect.

Regular Evening Paddles

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 for non-members/guests. (At all other times, Club boat hire is \$20/day or part day , for members and guests.)

November

15-16 November - Waihou river low tide at Thames is 4.20 pm Waihou river from Matamata to Thames will be a two day trip starting from Opal hot springs near Matamata overnighing on the way and finishing at Thames , this is a nice river with a good flow but safe for all levels and will be about 7 hours of paddling per day. It would be best to stay at the spings on Friday night as we will have an early start Saturday morning , they have a good range of acomadation and nice pools, Hot springs ph 0800 800 198. **contact Evan Pugh 07 883 6898**
sheepskinsnstuff@xtra.co.nz or Mail sheepskinsnstuff@xtra.co.nz



16 November, Sunday - Swim Escort - Herne Bay Time: 11:15am Herne Bay to Curran St, 1.2km. Meet at Curran St at 11:15am. Race starts at 12:15pm. Tide 1.01pm. At least 20 kayaks required. Wolfgang will be providing the 'gourmet' BBQ (we're not talking just sausages!), biscuits and cold drinks afterwards.

Contact: Matt Crozier 817 1984, or matt@vsl.co.nz

21 November, Friday Rangitoto Bach overnight. Meet at Okahu Bay, 5:30pm. Bring a torch and good walking shoes. It's been a while since we've visited the Rangitoto Bach. It's an inspirational place - last time we were here, it inspired a book group! This is a tentative booking at the moment, so please **contact Matt Crozier, 817 1984 or matt@vsl.co.nz**

22-23rd Nov - Tiritiri Matangi. A few places still available. **Ring Ken Marsh for dtails 828=0701**



30 November, Sunday - Swim Escort - Chelsea Sugar Time: 11:15am Curran St to Chelsea Sugar works, 2.36km. Meet at Curran St at 11:15am. Race starts at 12:15pm. Tide 1.31pm. At least 40 kayaks required. Sausages, biscuits and cold drinks afterwards.

Contact: Rona Patterson 834 3399, or ronapp@splurge.net.nz

December

6 December, Saturday. An extra release of Dam No 2 - Mangahao is scheduled for 6 Dec 2003. This is in lieu of the cancelled release in March this year. All paddlers are encouraged to paddle this release and make use of the water. **Alan Bell Tel 04 570-0232 Mobile 025 447-779 Fax 04 566-5111 Email: bellac@xtra.co.nz**

13 December - Weiti River. Meet Arkles Bay, Whangaparoa to be on water by 9:00am Pdille to Silverdale for lunch and that last minute Xmas shopping. **Contact margaret Law for details 424-0114**

Pres Sez

We've kicked off the start of the warmer weather with some great trips. It was great to see a good number, and some new faces, on the Orere Point weekend trip. We certainly blew out a cob webs on that one! Thanks Morgan for putting that together.

And wasn't Labour weekend a stunna! - hot and no rain for a change. Motuihe is an underrated paradise in the Gulf. Too early for the crowds (or was it because the shop's gone!), it was great to relax in relative peace. Did I say relax?! - Well we did do a little work, but it's all worth it when the good vibes come back (see the letter from Ronnie in this newsletter).

Northland KASK symposium

The following weekend, a good number of keen Aucklanders headed up to Whangarei for the first KASK forum of the summer. This was supposed to be a mini-symposium (i.e. a one-day event), but the enthusiastic bunch from the Northland Canoe Club couldn't help themselves and put on a fantastic weekend with good paddles, plenty of options, and good company - not to mention the FOOD!! ACC members (well I would say that, wouldn't I) Liz Jolly and Sue Drake played a significant role in putting this together so special thanks to them. It was a special treat to hear UK circumnavigator Simon Osborne, and it's always a pleasure to mingle with and learn from the likes of Paul Caffyn.

Swim Escorts

The swim escorts kick off this Sunday 16th. Hope to see as many of you there as possible. Wolfgang will be firing up the Bar-B with his culinary delights - swim escort veterans will know exactly what I mean! I've ranted elsewhere about the importance of these events. If you can't make the first swim escort then please do try to make the second (30th), which requires more kayaks.

Please ring me if you can come. I won't need to ring you back if you get my answer phone (unless you have questions) - we just need to get an idea of numbers.

BTW, if anyone has a 50mm tow ball and can act as a backup for towing the club kayaks (we can get a trailer) to Curran St, then please let me know.

Jubilee Launch

This was a great success with about 60 present and past members turning up to share memorabilia, photos, and news clippings from over the last 50 years. Four foundation members were present - founder Jim Mason, Ted Aychart, Newton Wickham, and Gerry Maire. We heard stories from club patron Su Sommerhalder and life member John Watts. There are a lot more stories to tell so similar evenings may happen throughout the year. Many thanks to Peter Sommerhalder and his helpers for researching and bringing these people out of the woodwork.

Mahurangi Bach (Vine House)

Thanks to all those who have helped out on the working bees over the year. The ARC has paid a visit, and there are just a couple of issues that were raised. One is use of beach sediment on the track - please make sure no more gets used, as it's actually not legal. The other is candles. Candles & smoking are banned in all ARC buildings & this is strictly enforced after a previous experience, and the insurance is invalid if these conditions are breached.

There has been a bit of a change of plan with the building work, as the builder is no longer able to retire. This will mean that he will be doing it as a commercial job over a much shorter time (ca 4 weeks), commencing shortly. He'll also have one or 2 other trades people there for part of the time. The materials will be transported in by truck by the local farmer (to save money), who will also take out the rubbish. With regard to voluntary assistance, Peter has said that he will be able to provide work (esp. painting) for anyone who wishes to come over and assist while he is there. If any club members do wish to go over (for a day or to stay for longer) they should liaise with Robert Brassey (ARC) either by email or phone on 3662000 ext 8101.

We are tentatively organizing a working bee to help the builder for the weekend of Nov 22/23. Please let Stephanie know (834 5769) if you are interested.

Rangitoto (Gemmell) Bach

The Rangitoto Island Historic Conservation Trust have been able to move forward over the use of the bach at Islington Bay with DoC, but not to the extent that the Canoe Club would be able to use it/be the booking agent/lots of overnights etc. The closest they can get under a non-notified concession for a short time frame until the fully notified concession is done (estimate 18 - 24 months) is for canoe club members to join the Trust and come along on working bees - regular ones - and stay overnight and then go back. The trust would hold the bookings and have to do the maintenance - with our help - and they would provide the materials.

While this scenario may actually suit us better given our commitments now with Vine House, we would need to evaluate the interest in club volunteers for such working bees in this new light. Let me know if this is of interest to you.

Merchandise

A reminder that we do have club T-shirts and polypro available, as well as caps. You may have seen some of us walking around wearing some of these.

Brand new to the line are sleeveless fleece vests with our special jubilee logo on. One of these was modeled at the jubilee launch and they look absolutely smashing, IIDSSM! We're managing to sell these for only \$25 each but there is a limited stock and limited sizes, so get in quick – preference is given to those who have registered for the jubilee.

Cheers, M@

(817 1984, matt@vsl.co.nz)

Swim Escorts 2003 - 2004



| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| <u>Sunday</u> <u>16th</u> <u>November</u> <u>2003</u> | <u>AUCKLAND CENTRAL MASTERS SWIM 1.2k</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Herne Bay Beach to Curran Street• Assemble 11.15am• Start 12.15pm• Tide 1.01pm• 20-25 kayaks required |
| <u>Sunday</u> <u>30th</u> <u>November</u> <u>2003</u> | <u>CHELSEA SUGAR SWIM 2.36k</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curran Street to Chelsea Sugar Refinery• Assemble 11.15am• Start 12.15pm• Tide 1.31pm• 40-45 kayaks required |
| <u>Sunday</u> <u>22nd</u> <u>February</u> <u>2004</u> | <u>EAGLE TECHNOLOGY BAYS SWIM</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• St Heliers Bay to Tamaki Yacht Club• Assemble 7.45am @ St Heliers• Start 8.15am• Tide 9.52am• 30-35 kayaks required |
| <u>Sunday</u> <u>28th</u> <u>March</u> <u>2004</u> | <u>EAGLE TECHNOLOGY RANGITOTO SWIM 4.45k</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rangitoto to St.Heliers Bay• Assemble 8.30am @ St Heliers• Depart <i>for Rangitoto</i> 9am• Start 10.15am• Tide 12.26pm• 55-60 kayaks required |

The Auckland Volunteer Coastguard controls operations for the swim escorts on the water, and has stipulated minimum numbers of kayaks to be available before events will proceed. So now it is more important than ever for us to have your support for these events.

Because the distances are small and the pace very slow, there are no other trips the club does that are more suitable for novices. Our job on the water is to guide swimmers if they veer too far off course and to flag down a roaming rubber boat if a swimmer needs to come out - simple! And it's a great social occasion to meet many other paddlers. Not to mention that the income we receive (based on kayak numbers) helps us keep your subs so low!

Please make sure you ring Matt Crozier 817 1984, even just to leave a message, if you intend to come. This will help avoid a panic!

Motuihe Labour Weekend

by Rona Patterson

It was with a great deal of trepidation that I approached Okahu Bay in my car on Saturday morning to commence my weekend venture. The weather forecast was for improvement by Sunday, but winds of 15 to 25 knots, gusting 35 from the SW, made for an uneasy feeling. The guys at Fergs told me that any boats going out from their place would remain very close to shore because of the winds, and Johathan Jarvis turned up to cancel his trip because of the wind. This didn't excite me, but as I expected a companion, I felt I could not back out. BUT the company did not turn up!!

By the allotted departure hour of 9.30am I was all packed and ready to go, so set off on my own. The weather report spoiled what turned out to be a fantastic trip. Had I known that I would arrive safely on Motuihe Island in one and a half hours, I would have thoroughly enjoyed the wind at my back and the sun on my face.

John Stairmand and Morgan Lewis had set off from Okahu Bay at 7am, so I went in search of help to lift my heavy kayak onto my wheels, to get my kayak up to the camping ground. (Mental note - I must learn to take less gear).

I was still putting up my tent when Ronnie arrived to organize our work schedule. She is a very dedicated lady, completely committed to the project, and it would be very hard not to be drawn by her enthusiasm. After gathering seedlings, we walked up to the nursery where we put seedlings into root trainers.

Brian Strid had said he would join us later in the day, and Ronnie kindly loaned me her car to go back down the hill to see if he had arrived. With no sight of him I was about to return to the nursery when I spotted one lonely kayaker out of his boat a long way off shore. By now the tide was low and Brian was setting his kayak on to wheels for the pull into shore. His boat was as heavy as mine! After the struggle up to the camp ground I returned to the nursery, leaving Brian to put up his tent and to join us when ready.

Well!! Just as we were packing away the gear in the nursery, Brian arrived, and as Morgan, John and I started walking back towards the camp, Ronnie's car passed us with Brian in the passenger seat. By the time we arrived at Ronnie's home to look over the rest of her plants, we found Brian coming out of her back door, about to put his boots on! The rest of us didn't get invited in!

Brian was very disappointed to have missed out on the nursery work, and we expect to return during the summer to continue with the planting work.

It was still too early for dinner, so took a walk to inspect the Olive Grove and the memorial area, but the rain cut out outing short. There was nothing left for us to do but to have a little drink before dinner. The boys set up a make-shift kitchen outside the men's changing room, using Morgan's ground sheet as a wind break. Now this is where Brian redeemed himself by making us chapattis, which were eaten with cheeses and crackers. Dinner was followed by bed at 8 o'clock. There are not too many thrills to be gained by sitting up late in the rain and dark with mosquitoes biting.

Sunday morning dawned sunny, and the wind had dropped; in fact a magical day. Breakfast was eaten, wet gear packed into hatches, boats pulled down the hill and put into the water by 9.30am. We set off directly for Motutapu and a leisurely trip along the coast to Rangitoto wharf. What a picture the hills of Motutapu presented – many hectares were covered with cinerarias in all their various shades of purple. The flowers went from the top of the hills, right down to the water's edge. The men had a wonderful time playing among the rocks all along the coast, and from an hour and a half trip crossing to Motuihe, the return trip took three and a half hours.

More club members were expected at Motuihe over the weekend and we must have missed them on Sunday morning while we departed from the Waiheke side of the island, they would have been approaching from Browns Island side. I understand Matt Crozier, Philip and Sue Noble, Kevin and Karon Sargent, Stephanie Seagar, Jimmie Thompson and Ryan Whittle were among the Sunday party. They extended their trip to Waiheke to by chips.

After the awful wet weather we had been having for so long, we were truly blessed to have had such perfect weather for Labour Weekend, and it was really good to be able to give something back to an island which has given us so much pleasure over the years, and we have received an official letter of thanks from Ronnie Harrison (to be found elsewhere in this newsletter).

Trip Report

by Mike

In which six Club Members encounter a sleeping Ray, (the fishy kind), a wide awake Orca and Brian only half pie got nearly stuck on what could have been a rock.

We paddled round Ponui
One Sunday recently
I hoped for frequent landings
For copious cups of tea.

Those observant double paddlers
Were soon upon the scene
Of a mighty sleeping Stingray
Playing possum, quite serene.

The sea was like a mill-pond
There was hardly any wind
Brian, I think, was disappointed
We others didn't mind.

Our rock-gardening leader
Led us such a merry dance
The Eastern side has lots of rocks
You've just got to take a chance.

Phillip, Sue and Gavin
Paul and I went too
Brian was our leader
To keep us out the poo.

He led us up the garden paths
Those of the rocky kind
I can think of nothing better
So relaxing, don't you find.

Sue and Phillip in the double
Were first to spot the Giant Fish
"Thar she blows", they hollered
Nothing more could we have wished.

But all too soon there came the time
To paddle the last mile
We'd had a super day of it
Around Ponui Isle.

Auckland Canoe Club Volunteers - a letter of thanks

Hello there Rona, What a great effort by your club members who camped and worked as volunteers, giving much needed help to the Motuihe Project over Labour Weekend. I have combined the club efforts and list them with much gratitude as follows:

Seedlings Pricked off roadside & pricked into root-trainers:

Seedlings pricked into root-trainers

Manuka = 9 x 48s = 432 Taraire = 6 x 48s = 288

Kohekohe = 1 x 48s = 48

Seedlings Pricked off roadside & Potted into PBs

Taupata x 45 Karo x 3

20 x Karo seedlings pricked off roadside & trayed to do later

A grand total of 1141 tree seedlings

9 x root-trainer frames were made up & filled with potting mix for the next group

5 x root-trainer frames were made up ready for filling

Thank you so much everyone. I was just bowled over to meet Karon & Kevin Sargent, and to observe the Graham Family connection with Motuihe, whose grandmother Amy Haddock has already meant so much to us out here, continue through the generations. Hopefully this weekend is signalling an enduring & positive relationship between the club and Motuihe Island.

Regards,
Ronnie Harrison

Auckland Canoe Club, November 2003

Orere Point happening with Morgan Lewis

by Nancye and Robert Lucus

11 happy paddlers; Gavin, Mtt, Ryan, John, Margaret, Dianne and Dave, Susanne and Thomas, Nancye and Rob joined Morgan on a beautifully calm morning paddle from Orere Point beach in a Northwesterly direction. Whilst rock gardening we past several persons fishing from the rocks. One successfully caught a Kawhai; as we passed by. A Leisurely lunch at Pahkik Island which we circumnavigated. Bob caught a Kawhai which slipped the hook. We paddled over an old shipwreck off McCallum Island then along the coast via Kawakawa Bay and Waiti a six hour leisurely round trip. 3 went home to suburbia whilst a 6 tent city was erected, then it was a happy hour and a shared dinner at Nancye and Bob's cabin. The night was clear and the start shone bright.

8:30 am saw 5 on the water heading south. Morning tea at Tapakanga. Lunch back at Orere Point for Nancye and Bob whilst Ryan, Gavin and Margaret departed for home.

A very relaxed enjoyable and well organised weekend, thank you Morgan.

Getting ready for the summer

The sea is warm and flat. Those gentle tropic zephyrs, wafting cool upon our backs.

I was thinking quietly to myself
While paddling recently
What would I do if suddenly
I fell into the sea?

If the waves were choppy
And the wind was really strong
Could I get back into my boat
And would it take me long?

"But we paddle with our buddies
We'll be right," we often say.
But take a look at all those trips
Mates are sometimes far away.

What about the bomb-proof roll?
I hear the paddlers cry
I'll leave that to the Inuit
I can only try.

And if by some remoter chance
I lose my boat as well
All washed up on some sandy shore
Would I survive to tell?

So have I got my grab-bag
Close by and ready to snatch
Or is it stowed quite neatly
At the bottom of the hatch?

I think about those other things
Like shark attack and stuff
I'll take an Outdoor First Aid Course
It might not be enough.

So how to hone those skills of ours
Before it's all too late
"How do I get to Carnegie Hall?"
"Practise, practise, mate!"

But if you think I'm preaching this
To you who are converted
I'm really just reminding me
To keep my mind alerted.

Carry on paddling, cheers, 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

DVD Review: Seamanship for Kayakers

DVD: Seamanship for Kayakers "Getting Started" Hosted by John Dowd. Based upon programs developed by John Dawson and Dan Lewis.

Published by Rainforest Kayak Adventures www.seakayakvideos.com

NZ price \$65

Review copy supplied by Auckland Canoe Centre

This is the first in a series of DVDs; planned titles include :

"Getting There" Navigation and Communication for Sea Kayakers.

"Reading the Sea" Oceanography for Paddlers

"On the Beach" Coastal Camping and Shore Survival

The blurb says: "a general introduction to sea kayaking that includes safety aspects, equipment, navigation and weather". But it is far more than that.

This is a practical video with plenty of paddling in picturesque locations in the pristine waters of British Columbia. There are examples of the right and wrong way to do it with the "Motley Crew" adding a little humour as they discover the consequences of doing it the wrong way.

Narrated by famous seakayaking author NZ born John Dowd (ex owner of Ecomarine Vancouver and founding editor of SeaKayaker magazine). I found the mixture of kiwi and Canadian accents very easy to listen to. The lovely British Columbian sea and shore is shown off to perfection in a very professional production.

John Dowd has a low key approach, his commentary is literally packed full with pearls of kayaking wisdom. The Canadian paddlers featured are very relaxed and make everything from a draw stroke to rolling your sea kayak seem very easy. Trip planning, safety, eco friendly camping, paddling skills: there is something here for everyone: no matter how experienced you are I'll bet John Dowd has something for you.

I can't wait to see the next in the series, hopefully the reviewer will get to keep the next one!

Buy this DVD! An ideal Christmas present for any sea kayaker.

(for more on John Dowd visit

www.paddlermagazine.com/issues/2003_4/article_221.shtml)

Peter Gendall

MISSING VIDEOS

Over the years I have gathered together quite a few sea kayaking videos. However when I went to look for them in their usual place the cupboard was bare. Perhaps I have leant them to a fellow paddler and in my dotage have forgotten who that person is. If you have them, please let me know. They include videos of the famous Tsunami Rangers and a lovely one from France.

Vincent Maire

(09) 424-2293 or vincent.maire@xtra.co.nz <<mailto:vincent.maire@xtra.co.nz>>



The Ebb and Flow

By Roger Lomas

Club jubilee celebrations kicked off last week with a get together at the clubrooms. A big effort from the club committee and assisted by Margaret Thwaites who was seconded back on for the event made the evening a success. Look forward to a full year of events to mark this milestone occasion.

They may not have been the first, but they are the only ones to have done it in the last forty years. Four club members set off in mid winter to circumnavigate Puketutu Island on the Manukau Harbour. After four hours and a couple of short portages they were successful. Highlights of the journey included the tidal rapids at the southern end of the island where in the last hour of the incoming tide the sea surges through a long tongue of lava rock. Abundant bird life now occupies the rehabilitated shoreline inside the old oxidation pond area. This is now a wildlife refuge complete with new white sandy beaches. Two portages are necessary to cross the road causeway and the outfall canal from the new sewerage treatment plant which according to Watercare is safe to paddle in. The journey is only possible on a big high tide and Hillsborough Bay is a good launch site. Fellow paddlers were Wolfgang Pohl, David Lomas and Brian Strid who all headed off home for a good hot shower and scrub down regardless of what Watercare said.

Late last month when the big spring high tides arrived an unusual phenomenon occurred. An intense low pressure system hovered over the upper North Island and this created a tidal surge that surpassed the predicted 3.5m high on the Waitamata Harbour. It in fact exceeded 3.8m and coastal flooding occurred. Tamaki Drive was completely covered by seawater where the road has slumped just past the bridge by the Ngapipi Road intersection and for a short while it was possible to kayak across the road.

A small group of club kayakers took advantage of the spring tides to explore the upper reaches of the Tamaki River. Starting out from the boat ramp at Panmure they paddled up the river with the strong incoming tide. They ventured under the southern motorway and Great South Road bridges before entering the mangroves at the head of the river. The channel narrowed as they squeezed up past the Auckland Golf Club and the Grange to reach the limit of navigation just behind Middlemore Hospital. It was an easy run back down with the ebbing tide.

Faster than a speeding bullet is how one might describe our club super secretary Rona Patterson. We are indeed fortunate to have such an efficient secretarial service, and committee members are somewhat stunned to find neatly typed minutes from the previous nights meeting on their pc's waiting for them the very next morning.

Each summer the number of cruise ships visiting Auckland increases. Sea kayakers paddling up the harbour to view these leviathans of the sea are in for a treat when the P&O super liner Star Princess arrives later this year. It will be the biggest ship by far to visit our port and at 18 storeys high it is too big to go under the Sydney Harbour Bridge. It is 290m long and 109,000 tons. The QEII by comparison is 70,000 tons. Your average sea kayak with paddler will displace about 1/10th ton, depending on what you had for breakfast.

Throwing down the gauntlet. When we read in a recent newsletter of an upcoming Ponui Island paddle proclaiming "the trip is most unlikely to be cancelled because of weather", a few eyebrows were raised. The wise old sea salts were somewhat bemused at this audacious challenge to the weather gods. When the day dawned Mother Nature did not disappoint and turned on a ferocious tempest. It was to be a no contest event with only two club paddlers fronting up to the launch site and being forced to wait out the storm. The planned circumnavigation was cancelled and Brian Strid and fellow Barracuda paddler Gerard Fagen wisely opted for an abbreviated visit to the island. The full trip was rescheduled for the following week.

Our summer swim escort duties are called upon again. Two events are scheduled for this month and two for early next year. Wolfgang will bring his mobile oven along to three of these events and gourmet food and icy cold drinks will be served up to all our helpers. It's a good social event that provides much needed support to the swimmers and earns our club good revenue. Please come along and help.

Fishermen are well known for embellishing stories about their exploits and our fellow sea kayakers are not that far behind. In tales of their adventures at sea, the height of the waves and the strength of the winds are often exaggerated to enhance the saga of an epic journey. One club member was telling a tale earlier this year about a journey around Rangitoto Island. When he arrived at Gardiner Gap the tide was out. (Oops how did he manage that) Never mind, a bevy of bikini-clad beauties just happened to be nearby and his kayak was apparently maiden handled through the shallows. His latest tale involves an encounter with a yacht crewed by naked nymphs – yeah right.

If you are after some kayak reading material then have a look in at your local library. A good selection of titles is on offer including the latest Chris Duff adventure 'Southern Exposure'. If you want to stock up your own shelves, Boat Books on Westhaven drive is a good place to browse. Peter and Su at the Canoe Centre in Sandringham have all the latest kayak magazines.

The Antarctic expedition Polar Bear stolen earlier this year has been recovered. After a tidy up and repairs at Paddling Perfection in Kelston, it will go on display at the Maritime Museum. Club member Ron Augustin designed the kayak.

Making a long overdue return to production is the Albatross sea kayak. The new Albatross II model was launched at Okahu Bay earlier this month and designer Grant Stone has made some modifications. A new flush mounted front hatch, new deck lines and bungy cords and an all-new rudder system.

Something completely new from the Barracuda factory at Silverdale. Gordon Robinson and his design team have a new mid sized sea kayak built out of a completely new material. All will be revealed at the big launch at Ferg's later this month.

Club members Gary and Alison Housley have been making sea kayak sails, which are marketed under the Pacific Action Sails brand. They feature a unique deck mounting system that makes the sail compatible to all kayak deck shapes. A special discount voucher for club members is in this newsletter courtesy of the Housley's.

Some years ago when the club started running sea kayak races, a new and very keen club member inquired as to how to bridge the gap between his performance and that of those at the front of the field. The advice offered was to get out there and paddle-paddle-paddle. He did just that and is now up there giving the front runners a hurry up. This advice is not just for the racing fraternity but is also applicable for the club paddler seeking to improve skill, endurance and knowledge. You can read as many "how to" books as you like but there is now substitute for having your bum in the seat of your kayak and being out on the water. It is no surprise that some of our best and most experienced paddlers are not our oldest or longest serving club members. They are the kayakers who are out on the water every week, wet or fine, putting in the distance. There are a few club members who consistently clock up over 40km every week. One has been doing this for over 10 years and has well over 25,000 km under his keel now. That's more than 9 circumnavigations of the North Island. Get out there and paddle-paddle-paddle.

Our Future Membership

Wasn't it great to see so many of our members at the recent Jubilee function. I looked around though and thought, we are looking back - 50 years, but are we looking forward as well?

It struck me that although on paper we have a number of younger members (the membership is showing an increase in Family membership), we seldom see these younger members out on the water. Why is this so?

The younger members are the future of our Club. They are our most important asset.

Young children learn so quickly and given the correct instruction, the skills remain with them for the rest of their lives.

I wonder if as a Club we have forgotten about this growing group of younger members.

Should we be organising events especially for them and what sort of events would they like?

Perhaps these events should be organised in such a way that the parents are excluded. Should we be holding training/fun sessions for our younger age groups only?

If you have younger members in your family, our perhaps even better you ARE a younger member reading this article, why not give me a ring or drop me a line (mailto: IanCalhaem@xtra.co.nz) and tell me what you would like.

We are coming into summer with warmer water, longer days and hopefully settled weather. Why don't we make the most of it.

Ian Calhaem.

Club Christmas Expedition

I am keen to lead a club expedition this summer. The start date will be December 27th and will run to about January 3rd. I have no firm ideas on a destination but would prefer it to be a 'real' expedition in that we camp somewhere different each night. At this stage I am considering the Coromandel with a likely route of Coromandel township to Tairua or even further south depending on how everyone feels. I am also keen on the Coromandel as it will enable us to keep the distances to maximum 25km with some days being shorter, or even staying put an extra night should we feel that way inclined. Coromandel also offers good exit points and bad weather options. BUT, Northland also looks mighty inviting if someone can come up with a suitable itinerary. This will be a 'more the merrier' type trip but you will have to be able to keep with the group and do the distances. If you are interested please let me know. Vincent.Maire@xtra.co.nz email: Vincent.Maire@xtra.co.nz

New Members

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

Michael Berry

David Hay

Briar Gibbs

Darren Brown

John, Bonnie, Maree Cryer

John, Karen, Gareth, Kate Bolland

Auckland Canoe Club
\$25 Rebate Voucher



*To receive a \$25 cash-back rebate from the purchase of your Pacific Action sail system,
post this voucher along with proof of purchase (1.11.03 - 31.1.04) to
ON TOP DOWN UNDER LTD, 18b The Esplanade, Castor Bay, Auckland 1309. tel. (09) 410-9084.
(offer valid for members of the Auckland Canoe Club only)*

Advertising

Wanted - SurfSki

Secondhand surfski wanted. Intermediate level. Virtually any condition considered.
Barbara at hennessybarbara@hotmail.com

Wanted - Siton Kayaks

Two secondhand kayaks wanted for beach and surf use. Freedom / Frenee or similar.
Richard Thornhill (021) 375 317

HUMBLE TROLLEY

The Humble Trolley, design and build by GB Tool Design, seems to grow into a great success. 30 Trolleys sold within 10 days after release!

We are happy to announce Auckland Canoe Centre and Fergs Kayaks now also selling our trolleys, thank you Peter, Sue and David.

If you want to find out more about our 'Humble Trolley', please visit our web page at www.cadkey.co.nz <<http://www.cadkey.co.nz>>

Deadline for next month's newsletter: 9 December 2003

Send articles to: IanCalhaem@xtra.co.nz

Please include "Newsletter" in the subject.



Sender: Auckland Canoe Club, 23 Spinnaker Drive, Atatu, Auckland