



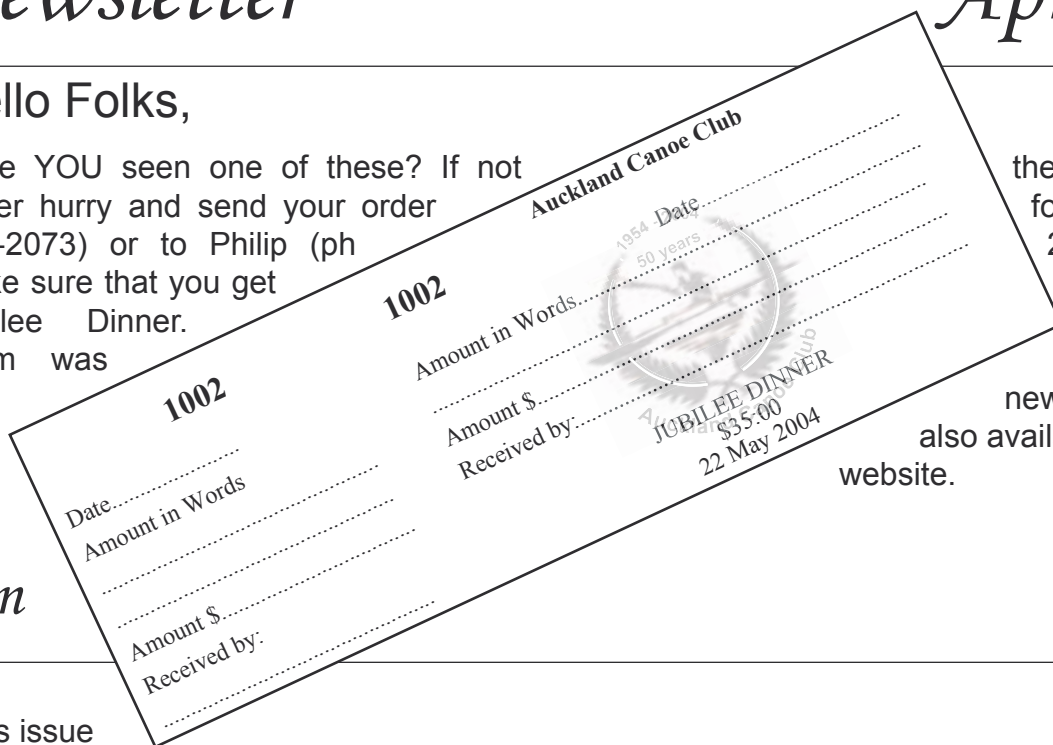
Newsletter

April 2004

Hello Folks,

Have YOU seen one of these? If not better hurry and send your order (815-2073) or to Philip (ph 815-2073) or to Philip (ph 815-2073) make sure that you get Jubilee Dinner. Form was

then you had form to Peter (ph 273-4896) to tickets to the The Order in the March newsletter and is also available on the Club website.



Ian



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Deadline for next month's newsletter: 11 May 2004

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.)

Saturday Morning Paddles

Saturdays Morning Coffee at Caf'e at Kohi. Meet at Okahu Bay by 9am, all skill levels welcome. Paddle duration will be about 2 hours, a great chance for new/novice/slow paddlers to mix and mingle with older/ experienced club members. Club boats can be hired. **For more details please phone Morgan Lewis on 6204005 or email morganl@extra.co.nz**

April

April 25 Sunday - Tree planting on Motuora Island. Friends of Motuora's first planting trip to the island for the season, we would love to see you if you are available. Ferry costs \$15.00, departing Sandspit wharf 8am & returns 4pm, children under 12 are free. There will be a sausage sizzle with tea or coffee available in the nursery at lunchtime. You may wish to bring a snack & a drink for your morning tea out in the planting area. Please indicate if you intend coming or not as if the trip is cancelled we need to know who to contact. **Kevin Hawkins email: norkins@paradise.net.nz**

May

2nd May - Cambridge Hamilton Kayak Race and Cruise. This is always a fun event and caters for all skill levels and fitness. see entry form on on page ???.

8th and 9th May - Vine House Working Bee. Come and help us paint. Bring old clothes for painting in and \$5 for dinner. Phone Stephanie 09 8345 769

18th May Tuesday - Auckland Canoe Club Annual General Meeting, 7 pm Okahu Bay Club rooms. Those of you present last year will remember that the meeting was over almost before it started - WITH all the necessary business completed. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. It is planned to have a guest speaker to conclude the evening.

22nd May - Jubilee Dinner. The Jubilee Dinner will be at Romfords Restaurant, Tamiki Yacht Club. Tickets are available from Peter Sommerhalder ph 815-2073 (day) or Philip Noble 273-4896 (day).

June

Queens Birthday Weekend of June 4 - 7th - Destination unknown. We have three options for Queens Birthday Weekend of June 4th to the 7th ...

Option One - Lake Ohakuri. Beside the dam. This is a beautiful arm of the Waikato River, half an hour north of Taupo. Camping right beside the lake & your vehicle with all the creature comforts of home e.g. warm clothes as it gets down to minus four over night. Once the sun rises you can paddle to Orakei Korako thermal area for a look at the

natural gysers & have lunch. From here you paddle back via the hot springs & enjoy a nice soak. Once back at camp we used to get a fire going to warm ourselves beside it & bring the whole group together. Now the area is under new caretakers, fires are not an option. Which means cold nights. But with bright sunny days there is also another arm to explore or just relax.

Option Two - Lake Tarawera. South of Rotorua This use to be an old Asknet favourite. Paddle to Hot Water Beach & camp right on the lake beside the hot pools. Enjoy mulled wine & the pools right beside your campground. But make sure you have warm clothes when you get out of the pools. From here you can enjoy day trips on the water or walk to Rotomahana, a neighbouring lake. Yes, this area can also reach very low over night temperatures.

Option Three - Te Waitere, Kawhia South. For those of you who went on Vincents trip recently you will already have an insight to the area. Justin & Jennifers bach is on the waters edge of an arm of the harbour, forty five minutes south of Kawhia township & has sleeping for eight including J & J plus tent sites. From here you can paddle to the heads, play in the surf & explore the coastline on the incoming tide. There are some stunning rock formations to explore by kayak & foot. In the afternoon by car there are some stunning West coast beaches to explore & going via Marakopa falls we end up at the Natural Bridge which used to be a limestone cave. The two ends have collapsed leaving a natural bridge. By day this is a beautiful area but with an afternoon BBQ in the evening the place comes alive. Its almost like being back in Auckland city with the great display from the glowworms. Back at the bach you can put your feet up, relax around the fire, which doubles as a stove, or soak in the outside bath, which is heated by a fire.

Please note I can only lead one of these trips, it's "*the peoples choice*". The final decision will be made & put on the clubs web site on the 15th May unless we have some people happy to lead the other trips to these destinations. Phone Justin on 278 8090 or 025 - 868 177

Pres Sez

Swim Escorts

A great many thanks to all those who came to support the club and the swimmers for the escort from Rangitoto to St Heliers. Many handled the challenging conditions either way very well. It was a pity that the swim itself was cancelled at the last minute, but I'm sure you would agree that was the correct decision and allowed us to concentrate on our own journey back to shore.

We are indebted to the Coastguard fleet for escorting us back to St Heliers. Without their help, the trip would not have been possible. It allowed us to experience a challenging paddle in a controlled environment, and I hope that many benefited from this and are more in touch with their capabilities. Judging by all the smiles afterwards, I think that may be so (or was that just because of the excellent food? - thanks Wolfgang and Roger)

Mahurangi Bach (Vine House)

We are picking up again on regular working bees. It is more the interior work that needs doing now, but there's plenty of weeding to do beside the steps. The lower rooms have had bunk frames installed, so it won't be long before they are useable. See the calendar for details on the next working bee – May 8/9.

The ARC seem keen to open up access to Vine House to the general public. The club is not keen to take on the additional risk this implies and so we have revised our proposal for the use of Vine House. Basically we are suggesting that the arrangement be simply the exchange of labour on regular maintenance tasks for at least a weekend each month at nominal cost and light outfitting of club stuff. ARC will own, manage, and be responsible for the property; receiving all income and covering the major costs. We are yet to hear how the ARC views this proposal.

We still believe the club benefits well from this arrangement. The membership seems more concerned about easy, low cost access than control over the property. We will be relieved of the tasks that management involves, while still having use of a place we can feel at home in.

Membership

Subscription renewals have been coming through with about a quarter of the membership having renewed at this stage. The last newsletter included a membership renewal form, but this can be accessed from the web at <http://geocities.com/tofska/memform.pdf> if you haven't got it. Please don't use last year's form, as it is obsolete. Remember that if you wish to actively participate in the AGM next month, you will need to have renewed your subscription by then to be able to vote.

Also a reminder that new members who have joined from January 1st 2004 have membership right through to March 31st 2005.

Jubilee Dinner

The club is subsidising nearly half the cost of tickets for club members and those who have registered for the jubilee, so it is well worth making the most of this event. Please note that jubilee registrations have already closed!, so don't bother sending in your registration fee with the subsidised ticket cost ;-). Again, the ticket order form was in the last newsletter, but you can also obtain it from <http://geocities.com/tofska/JubileeTicketForm.pdf> .

Annual General Meeting

The 50th AGM will be on Tuesday May 18th, at 7:30pm. The deadline for motions has passed (April 13th) with nothing put forward, so it should be a rather quick affair – leaving some time for a bit of celebration.

There are a number of ways you can measure the 'success' of a club - how many events there are on the calendar; how many people turn up for these events; the size of our membership. All of these indicate how happy members are with what we provide. Personally, I think we've really succeeded when members feel willing to put something back into the club, and help continue to make it run. So, how well have we done? If you are able to help us out, I'm sure that you'll enjoy being part of our enthusiastic and dedicated team. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month (except January) in the clubrooms.

Nominations for committee so far include Gavin Baker and Margaret Thwaites. It will be great to have Margaret back on board after a few years absence and we are looking forward to working with her again. We already know that Gavin has a few good ideas up his sleeve.

We will sadly be losing Morgan Lewis as Trips Officer and Alan Edwards as Treasurer. These are not trivial tasks and every effort these people have put into job has been very appreciated. Consequently we are looking for keen members to take on these roles and join our enthusiastic committee.

Treasurer: Mainly involves just keeping the spreadsheet up to date and reconciling with bank statements. It is double-entry transaction based with self-generating reports. Very good if you have MS Excel and would like to get to know it better.

Trips Officer: Involves coordinating the calendar for an even spread of trips throughout the year. It does NOT mean you have to run all the trips! Many club members have indicated they would like to coordinate trips (remember that checkbox on the membership form?) so there is a huge resource of ideas out there.

Socials: This is a position we would like to explore to get more use out of the clubrooms, which are generally only used currently for committee meetings. If you would like to see and talk to members out of their paddling gear, then this is for you. Some ideas include workshops, talks, dance nights....

So if you've been paddling with us for a while and you'd like to put something back into the club, well – don't just sit there, let us know! We'd love to have you aboard.

New Members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Garth Buxton | Jane Challinor |
| Paul De Vos | Aaron & Nicola Goodwin |
| Margaret Henley | Leo, Rhonda, Corey, Teagan O'Callaghan |
| Scott Palmer | |

Cheers, M@

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



Easter Trip Report

The Easter Jubilee Paddle
Was one of many trips
Undertaken by Club Members
In their tiny narrow ships.

Kawhia waters are a gem
Apart from monstrous tides
But having traversed all the mud
That's where the gems abide.

And so it all came to an end
With people drifting home
Thanks Vince for organising it
And to all of you who came.

This one was led by Vincent
With sixteen in the crew
Kawhia Harbour was the venue
And as usual the wind it blew.

The limestone rocks are wonders
The inlets just sublime
Extensive exploration
Will wait for another time.

Mike
Home phone: 09 528 1377
Postal address: P.O. Box 25 131,
St Heliers, Auckland
Mobile phone: 027 4736 806
email: mike-randall@xtra.co.nz

But that did not deter us
From having super fun
Beach Side S Cape we came to rest
Thanks for the hot cross buns.

You've got to blame Coastbusters
For many a change of mind
Steve brought along his paddle
Of the Greenland kind.

The camp is of the old kind
You remember as a kid
Half forgotten memories
Of things you always did.

He'd made it out of cedar
It's such a lovely thing
It felt so light and buoyant
No more for him the wing.

Manakau Heads Trip Report

Each time I go on Colin's trip up the Manukau, I say "Never again", and the next time this trip is advertised, I front up. So it was on Sunday 4 April. Together with Colin, John, Alistair, Russell, David, Peter, Jimmy and Rosie we left Cornwallis at 10.00am and headed across the harbour for South Head. After pulling the boats well up the beach and anchoring them together, footwear was changed and lunches were taken from hatches ready for the walk along the beach and the hike up the hill for the lunchtime spot.

I must have a dreadful memory because I am sure the climb was higher than previously and am certain there was something to hold onto in order to get up the first four metres. Colin assured me that nothing had changed! As always, lunch is the easiest part of this trip, and it was over all too soon and the other half of the mountain had to be climbed. (I have to confess, that at this point I had every intention of returning to the beach so I could walk around and watch the others come over Rona's Leap, but Colin once again talked me into carrying on). It is easy, once at the top to be lulled into a false sense of security because there is a most enjoyable walk over farmland until the edge of the cliff.

This time I was absolutely spoilt - with Colin on my left side and Jimmy on my right - we went down together. Even when we came to the leap, Colin produced a huge rope which he tied around his waist and anchored himself into the hillside with the ends hanging over the ledge, so I could slide down the rope. Wow!!! How much easier this was and it was completely without fear!!! The second half of the descent was with Jimmy, and much easier this year because there was a considerable amount of bracken growth, which I am sure was not there on previous visits.

Once back at our boats it was decided that as we had time to spare before the tide would change and allow us to return, we should go over to Whatipu. Bad move!!! Last time there, I tipped out in the surf and lost a lot of gear!!! Why should this time be any different? This time I only lost my second pair of very expensive sunglasses. It was very windy and cold at Whatipu, but the tide had not yet turned so we took shelter under an overhanging rock until it was time to leave

Getting back out through the surf was a breeze for those of us who were assisted, but not quite as easy for the last one to leave the beach. Just a wee way out from Whatipu had us being tossed in what I found very uncomfortable conditions. The swells were coming at us from all angles and were far larger than I was comfortable with, but only lasted for 4-5 minutes (thank goodness). Colin told me that there was nothing to worry about because conditions were completely benign!! The rest of the return journey was spent trying to get rides on the swells which were carrying us home.

Once again, this was an awesome trip - thanks to Colin. Only four of the nine on this trip had done it before and I know the first timers enjoyed it. One of these commented to me that most of what we had done that day was a first for him and he went home most satisfied with all the new skills he had acquired. **Rona**

Rangitoto Swim Trip Report

I am sure that others on the Committee will be thanking all those Club Members who turned up to escort the swimmers from Rangitoto Wharf back to St Heliers Beach. I add my thanks to theirs, It was great to see over 70 kayakers turn up early on a Sunday morning to assist.

The Club advertised this event as suitable for kayakers of all skill levels and in view of the events, to be described later in this article, I want to reaffirm why that was the correct description of the event. (*For those of you that were not there read on it gets interesting!*)

By 10:00am over 70 kayakers were assembled at Rangitoto Wharf. Forty two had left from St Heliers beach that morning, another group had left from Okahu Bay, and both joined those intrepid kayakers who had gone over to Rangitoto on Saturday evening to spend the night there.

I was in the group paddling from Okahu Bay. I set out at about 8:00 am in my Storm, kitted out with the following safety gear...

- Sprayskirt and buoyancy aid
- Hat
- Spare paddle
- Paddle float
- Torch
- Flare
- Towrope
- Pump
- First aid kit
- Paddle jacket
- Tool kit
- Thermos of hot water
- VHF radio

I had listened to the weather forecast the night before; it was reasonable but not perfect – winds getting stronger during the day with a front expected to pass over Auckland late afternoon with winds from the south west.

Before leaving Okahu Bay I listened to the NowCasting report on the VHF Radio and in particular the conditions at Bean Rock. Wind from the South East, strength 16 knots, peak 18 knots.

NowCasting

This is a service offered free by the Coastguard service. Around Auckland and the Hauraki Gulf are a number of automatic weather stations reporting the wind direction and strength. These conditions are broadcast continually on Channel 21, interspersed by wind warnings and long range forecasts.

As I paddled towards Rangitoto I turned on the radio and listened to the conditions at Bean Rock as I paddled towards it. The wind was increasing slowly. Nothing to worry about but certainly something to keep in mind, since the wind was off shore and we would all have to paddle back into it coming home.

By the time I reached Rangitoto about 40 minutes later the wind had increased to 24 knots, peaking at 26 knots. This meant that white caps had started to form as they do at about 20 knots, and the waves were building sufficiently to enable me to surf some of them as I paddled towards the Island. Great fun but I started to plan in my head what would need to be done if the conditions got worse. We had novice paddlers who were unlikely to have experienced strong wind conditions, we had weaker paddlers who might find the head wind a challenge on the way home, and we had new members whose skills we did not know.

I arrived at Rangitoto Wharf and joined the group who had arrived the night before, Matt Crozier asked me what the conditions were like and I was able to tell him that the wind was increasing. He then reviewed the situation and we checked the number of tow ropes that we had amongst members, just in case they were needed later. Matt also made sure that a check was made of kayakers without internal bulkheads – such as Venturers etc. These rely on inbuilt foam buoyancy and therefore do not float as well as a true sea kayak when full of water. I was also concerned at the presence of a sit-on kayak as these are difficult to paddle in windy conditions.

As I waited for the swimmers to arrive on the Island by Fuller's Ferry. I continued to listen to the NowCasting. Wind had increased to 28 knots and the forecast was for 35 knots. The front had arrived earlier than expected.

The group from St Heliers was well on its way but I also heard on the Radio that the Coastguard had assisted one of the party who was finding it difficult to paddle straight. They had been taken on board one of the support vessels.

By 10:00am all the paddlers had arrived and Matt explained the way in which kayakers can assist the swimmers.

- The Coastguard vessels form a double line from Rangitoto Island to St Heliers. Inside that are the Coastguard inflatables, and inside that again are the kayakers.
- The swimmers are expected to swim down the centre of the line of kayakers. When they veer off course the kayakers are able to point them in the correct direction again.
- The kayakers are also there to assist any swimmer who needs attention and summons an inflatable to come and take the swimmer on board.
- Several Kayakers are designated liaison people who communicate with the Coastguard. One group on the left (port) side and another on the right (starboard).

At 10:10am a hooter sounded and all 400 swimmers got ready to enter the water. As one of the liaison kayakers I made my way to the front of the starboard side taking up my position inside one of the Coastguard vessels. Everyone was ready to go. Kayakers were in position, Motor vessels all in position, and everyone waiting for the starting hooter. Then over the radio, came the announcement that the organisers had made the decision that it was too rough and that the swim had been called off. Would all vessels please stand down.

Well, that was the trigger to put into practice those thoughts that I had had whilst paddling over.

- Make sure that all kayakers knew what to do.
- Make sure that everyone stayed together
- Make sure that slower or inexperienced kayakers were escorted by more experienced ones.

The Auckland Canoe Club is privileged to have so many experienced paddlers amongst its members. The “team” went into action.

I made my way to the back of the group of kayakers checking as I went that everyone knew to form small groups. Other Club members were doing the same. The flotilla moved off in the direction of St Heliers. It was very reassuring to listen on the radio to the organization that was occurring on the Coastguard vessels.

As the kayakers gradually spread out with the slower ones dropping back, so did the Coastguard support vessels. It was soon clear that the sit-on kayak was not going to be able to paddle back into the wind, so that was put into an inflatable and the paddler taken aboard another vessel.

Others were put on tow lines and assisted back to St Heliers by pairs of other kayakers.

Shortly afterwards two of the seakayaks overturned and support vessels were quickly along side. These kayakers could have been put back into their kayaks and continued to paddle, but given the rising wind conditions and the 1 metre swells, it was sensible for the kayakers to accept the offer of a ride home by boat. I assisted getting the kayaks onto an inflatable and then continued following the main flotilla.

By the time we had reached the half way point a further six kayakers had had the thrill of turning upside down and being rescued. I did not have the chance to ask them if that was the first time that they had capsized, but I suspect that it was for some. That was GREAT. How often do we have the chance to be able to let our members experience real adverse conditions in a safe environment?

Most members will not realise how organized the Coast Guard were. They were in full control of the situation all the time. Listening on the radio I was able to hear the various messages checking that all kayakers were safe, that they were being kept warm and that everyone was being accompanied.

At about the halfway point the Coastguard command at Mechanics Bay asked for the spotter aircraft to divert and come into the area to check that there were no stragglers. I was able to identify myself as being at the rear of the group of paddlers and that to my knowledge there were no more behind me. The aircraft spotted a lone paddler between Rangitoto and North Head and a Coastguard vessel was sent to investigate. Another was spotted leaving the flotilla and heading towards the Tamaki River. Again a support vessel was sent to investigate and returned to say the occupants were paddling strongly and confident.

By midday all paddlers had safely reached St Heliers Beach and were able to enjoy the delectable feed provided by Wolfgang and Roger. I am sure that there were many other helpers but as I was on the water I will have to leave it to others to thank you all.

As the last kayaker ashore, I was able to report to Coastguard that everyone was safe and to thank them for their valuable assistance. The support vessels were then stood down.

So was it a successful day?

In my view it was a resounding success. It is seldom that our members have the opportunity to experience such conditions and do so in a safe environment with all the support required.

Let us consider what actually happened...

- The Canoe Club and the Coastguard planned for changeable conditions
- When conditions worsened the decision was made to cancel the swim, thus minimizing the risks involved to both swimmers and kayakers
- The Club organized the flotilla with experienced members looking after the less experienced
- The Coastguard provided the reassurance that was needed to enable the inexperienced paddlers to attempt to paddle in conditions that were difficult for them
- For these paddlers the perceived risk was high. But at no time was the real risk great.

What did these inexperienced paddlers learn?

- Safety in numbers
- Having the right gear and having it available (tow ropes are no use if stored inside your hatch, likewise pumps)
- Make use of the weather forecasts and if possible listen to the Nowcasting

- Respect the wind... especially an off shore wind as you will have to paddle into it when you return home.
- Be particularly aware of how wind affects sit-on kayaks.
- Take the opportunity when it occurs to push the boundaries so that you can learn from others.

Ian Calhaem
ZMV2536

Feedback to Ian's Rangitoto Swim Report.

Three score and ten or thereabouts

Set off that fateful day
To escort four hundred bold
Do battle with the spray

All the facts are well set down
In Ian's succinct message
Which set me pondering awhile
About the picture large.

I like his confirmation of the list
Of what it's wise to carry
On even very tiny trips
(Of these there are not any)
From here across to Rangi.

The weather cast was up to date
Of that there was no doubt
And Roger spelt it out quite clear
"Think carefully ere you set out."

The tale's been told, the swimmers bold
Were denied their bit of fun
But for the Canoe Club paddlers
Our fun was yet to come.

We know the score and all was well
The Coastguard was at hand
To shift the risk just for that day
But in future --- far from land?

For me the thought when venturing out
On many adventures small
I'll think the risk, hope it's fun
And safety overall.

My final thought for those who tipped
And fell into the sea
Build on those skills, enjoy it
'Keep on paddling' is the key.

My final, final thought for now
To all you people dear
I quite agree with Ian's words
And let's hope it's calm next year.

Mike

Waiheke

As I read about the planned Jubilee trip to circumnavigate Waiheke, I visualised our super-strong club members tackling such a massive paddle, and thought no more about it until meeting Philip Noble who said "I have got you on my list". Now, I am afraid of my own shadow and paddling such a distance was far too lengthy for me to contemplate!!!

However, now the idea had been planted, I knew I had to get out there and put some miles under my belt if I was even to consider tackling such a challenge. Motivation is a wonderful thing – I went out and did some reasonably lengthy paddles, to places I have never been before, and thoroughly enjoyed them. This did not stop me from hoping the weather would be really bad and the trip cancelled - that way I could save face, and not have to do the trip.

Daylight Saving weekend - 19/20/21 March The weather was perfect and the most frustrating part of the whole trip was getting from one side of Auckland on a Friday afternoon, to the departure point at Omana.

At 6.30 pm Philip and Sue Noble, Debbie and Kevin Dunsford, Peter Gendall, David Ward, Justin Sanson-Beattie, Rosie Thom, Carl Brown, John Stairmand and myself left Omana beach, heading for Otakawhe. With the wind at our backs the crossing took two hours, thus arriving at the little rocky beach in the dark. Boats were pulled up onto the grass, gear gathered up and carried up to the lodge, beds were bagged, hot showers were had and dinner was organized before talking long into the night.

The lodge was very well appointed – I had a bedroom to myself!!! There were four small bedrooms sleeping between

three and six, and a closed in porch which must have slept another eight. The kitchen was large with everything in it that you could wish for. The lounge was large and comfortable, and there were two bathrooms – I think the ladies was superior to the men's (curtains closing in the showers).

Saturday dawned clear and fine and because of the distance to be covered, we were on the water at 8.00 am. On high tide we slipped away from the beach and around the corner with Ponui Island on our right. This was followed by Rotoroa and Pakatoa, while Waiheke was showing us some fabulous real estate on our left. It was not long before Justin caught his first fish and the second and the third and so on!! At the end of the day he and Kevin had caught far more fish that we could eat!!

At 10.45 am we were stopped in a little bay for morning tea, where Brian Strid caught up with us. He was doing the whole trip in one day. He stayed with us for 15 minutes or so before he set off on his solo voyage. [He did finish the trip in a day and Colin Quilter watched him go past while he was sitting on a bluff above Onetangi on his way out beyond the Noises].

Back in the water, we headed off into the head wind which was to be our companion for the rest of the day. It was a hard paddle across Onetangi Bay with a relentless head wind but untroubled water. Once on the beach, lunch was eaten while seated on the most comfortable rock one could find. By now most of the day's paddle was over and it was only another hour until we slipped into Hekaru Bay where we spent the night in a bach which had been hired to us by friends of some of our paddlers. This accommodation also, was perfect. The bach stood high on the bank with a sun soaked terrace overlooking the bay. While the bach was narrow, it was built up into the hill, with a bunk room on the top, two tiny double rooms underneath each other and a large living area with two squab beds end to end at the end of the lounge.

Once the obligatory swim was taken and gear was once more transported from boats to bach, it was time to idle away the rest of the afternoon in the sun. This necessitated fluid replacement and carbo-loading, and once again Justin showed us all how it is done. Dinner proper commenced with smoked fish (also courtesy of Justin). This was followed with fish chowder (courtesy of Justin and Kevin who went out for the mussels). Dessert was with the compliments of the Noble and Gendall families. Bed came much earlier this night.

Sunday morning continued to be fine and following a leisurely breakfast and clean up of the bach, we were heading for home. The homeward leg took about four hours and the crossing back to Auckland was into a strong head wind. Kevin had his massive sail up and fairly flew past the rest of us - an awesome sight.

The tide was out at Omana on arrival but it was eleven very content (if tired) paddlers loading their cars with wet gear. A huge thank you to Philip for organizing and running this trip (and for putting my name on the list).

Rona

From Rangitoto to Bean rock

Preamble:

I know I have been going on about this but this is the last time (this season) - honest! I plan for this to be a more reasoned, and even mature response as I've almost got over not swimming Rangitoto. But I strongly feel that this summer swimming season has highlighted a number of issues that need to be discussed on a regular basis as we seek to maintain our sport and our rights as harbour users. This discussion is also pertinent within a climate that on one hand is exhorting everyone, regardless of their physical ability or understanding of an adequate training regime, to 'have a go' as a quick-fix for the rapid decrease in the general health of the population.

But, on the other hand, there is a corresponding rise in imposing what are, at times, some very punitive interpretations of the law under the general catch-all of 'safety', which is hitting the 'little guys' harder than the professional organisers of sports events. Granted, the more unskilled or unprepared citizens you have out in potentially hazardous environments (as distinct from motorways/city backstreets etc) the more the need for such safety plans and restrictions. Individuals can still just get out there and do their thing in the outdoors but possibly group racing under more testing conditions could come a relic of the past, curtailed because of their popularity. The Harbour swims, as distinct from specialised adventure racing, is increasingly sitting slap in the middle of this dilemma.

Rangitoto Kayak Return Trip

I read with envy Ian's account of the kayak return from Rangitoto last Sunday. What a wonderful opportunity to be able to hone one's skills in testing conditions and for the less experienced to be supported through such a challenging learning experience.

Those of us who were looking forward to swimming in such conditions could only stand somewhat mournfully on the Rangitoto wharf waiting for the ferry to take us back.

I am in total agreement with the decision that the race organisers finally made to cancel the swim. I would not have liked to have been in the shoes of the race organiser and let the slow section of the race into the water and watch the result. I know there were swimmers there who would not have coped in those conditions but who would most probably have got in the water anyway

and would have needed assistance from the very early stages of the race.

The principle, so clearly laid out in Ian's report regarding the kayak return, can also be applied to open water swimming. The sea conditions on the day were also an ideal testing ground for those of us who train regularly in the sea for the harbour and open water swimming season. For reasons of sense and safety we can't launch ourselves across the Rangitoto channel without some protection - we have a shot at it once a year and it is often the focus of training for many swimmers. Swimming across the channel gives us a range of wind/sea/tidal conditions to contend with that we do not experience to the same degree training off the points around the Eastern Bays. So like the kayakers, we too would have relished the opportunity to thrash our way across the channel with such experienced support, largely there to make sure we don't head butt a ferry or have to complete the swim in two sections through 'yacht strike'.

Training or racing in calm water does not improve your skills or give you an accurate understanding of your own physical or mental strength. One of the most crucial aspects you train for is to ensure that you ALWAYS have the strength to get yourself back to shore, and have the ability to adapt if conditions become a bit pear-shaped in a marine kind of way. A variety of testing conditions enable swimmers of differing ages and ability to get to know themselves from the inside. Only swimming in calm water is like having a Cross Country Event running around a croquet lawn.

BEAN ROCK

Therefore it is with considerable relish that nearly 40 swimmers were able to make their way out to Bean Rock lighthouse, late on Saturday afternoon. On the autumnal cusp, we finally managed to achieve a satisfying harbour swim and salvage some sense of what our chosen sport is all about.

We had OTT safety plans that could cope with a full scale aquatic commando attack through to being inconvenienced by spawning fish or yachties (after all there was that yacht that hit Bean Rock head on last season and I think that was a spawning problem). This is for a swim that in the past we just used to do as another dip in the harbour before brekkie - no longer!

The wind dropped steadily during the afternoon but luckily there was still a lovely little swell out around Bean rock to keep it interesting and to give swimmers the opportunity of experiencing the change in wind and water conditions once out of the shelter of the bay. One swimmer was pulled from the water before getting to the Bean who didn't seem to have planned a return trip. The magnificent 'Virgin Bean Trophy' was awarded for the swimmer who articulated the thrill of the 'first time' out on the lighthouse - her husband was somewhat bemused by the comparisons made between their private life and embracing the Bean.

We were enormously grateful to be so expertly supported by some of the stalwarts of the Canoe Club once again; the Redoubtable Brian, well equipped Gavin and Graham, Rhyming Mike Randall, and Steve Davy with his precious cargo of Shaun Bean in the back hatch and Mini-Bean wedged in the front.

Thanks guys!
Maraget Henley

The Bean Rock Swim

At last, at last, a harbour swim
To finish off the year
The only one to cheer the hearts
Of thirty swimmers dear.

My heart goes out to all those souls
Who brave the icy water
As I sit in my little boat,
Toasty, on the Waitemata.

So I can only say some words
From a paddlers point of view
We check the arms to keep a count
And then divide by two.

We kayakers (and big ones too)
Look forward to the song
When Bean Rock calls those
swimmers all
And we can join throng.

We bob about and feel quite proud
To be a bit of use
And to be out on the water
It's quite a good excuse.

You swimmers are such experts
At travelling your way
Us kayakers rely on boats
To get from B to A.

I could go on along these lines
And sing the praises pure
Of all you guys who keep alive
The spirit of adventure.

So finally I will just add
A word of thanks to all
Who make this venture possible
And answer to the call.

Carry on paddling Mike

The Ebb and Flow

By Roger Lomas

A big day out. Club adventure paddler, Brian Strid in his Barracuda Discovery circumnavigated Waiheke Island late last month. Setting off from Maraetai Beach at 7am and returning at 6pm with time for three comfort stops and a chat with Philip Noble's three day cruise group that was also heading around the island. Brian also found time to indulge in his endless quest to locate and have intimate contact with uncharted rocks. These were duly bestowed with the sequential titles of Oh bugger #389 - #392. Well-done Brian.

Keep your fingers crossed; There could be another camping ground on Motutapu Island soon. Discussions are underway and it's a good possibility with even D.O.C. making favourable noises.

Browns Cows. Some early morning kayakers arrived at a small cove on Browns Island looking forward to a well-earned cuppa. It was a pleasant spot that was out of the wind, cows were grazing nearby on the lush green grass and there was a log just above the beach to sit on. The rising sun radiated warmth to their backs as they prepared to enjoy their coffee and croissants. It was about then that the first of the big bovine beast started to arrive. In ones and twos at first they gathered and gazed at the snacking kayakers who joked at the availability of fresh milk that was just a tug on the teat away. There was even a suggestion that a frothy latte might be achieved if one of the beasts could be encouraged to hoof it around the paddock. More arrived and it was not long before the kayakers were completely surrounded by a great steaming herd of onlookers. Attempts to disperse the throng proved fruitless because when the mob regrouped they moved in even closer. Grossly outnumbered now the hapless kayakers were rapidly losing all thoughts for food and beverage. The tail swishing saliva drivelling creatures were now just meters away emitting rural smells that were depleting the ozone layer. There was further disappointment when they caught a glimpse of more grass munchers down on the beach licking salt from their precious kayaks. Was the salt a laxative? If so it seemed to be working and one kayak received a great gush of enrichment. It was just too much for the lads from the big city and with odds against them to the ratio of 80 – 3 they made a tactical retreat. Later sitting more comfortably in their craft just offshore they waved to the cows that had assembled on the beach to bid them farewell. It was only then that they made the chilling observation. The cows all appeared to be lacking something – udders. As they paddled back to the beach at St. Heliers they quietly contemplated the terrible thought of what might have happened if one had attempted to tug on the teat.

Seen at sea. A genuine ancient mariner. Alan is 94 years old and regularly launches his old fibreglass kayak from Castor Bay. He remembers paddling on the rivers back in his native England in the early 1940s. Happy now to bob about offshore on a sunny day, he was spotted recently sitting quietly in his kayak with a seagull on the foredeck for company.

Beware Bungy. The next time you are passing under the harbour bridge, pause for a while and look up under the central span. On the city side you will see a strange object that looks not unlike an airship control gondola. This is the A. J. Hacket bungy jump pod. The bridge venture is now operational and sea kayakers can view the plunge from a unique perspective. Don't get too close unless you want a facial imprint on your foredeck.

Show off your butt. Shoppers at the Auckland Canoe Centres well-stocked store in Sandringham were amazed to see a crystal clear kayak on display recently. It was actually a moulded acrylic hull shell and it would be great for tropical reef voyages. Peering between your legs as you paddled along, the grand vista of the aquatic food chain would be revealed. The fish would get a good view of you as well and just imagine what the bottom feeders would be thinking about.

Farewell and bon voyage to David Oosterdijk, manager of Fergs Kayak Shops at Auckland and Wellington. A good friend to many members and a generous supporter of the club, David is off for a bit of sun in Fiji and then a North American adventure safari.

New Kayaks- Two new sea kayaks have been the talk of the town recently. First off the block was the Barracuda Beachcomber, which just about stole the show at the recent KASK forum in Orewa. Their guest speaker, John Dowd

took it for a sea trial at Okahu Bay and gave it a big thumbs up. "I like it, I'll take one." Fergs have one on show and there is a sample of the hull material attached to the shop demo craft.

The other new craft is the recent arrival from Germany, the Prijon polycarb-acrylic sea kayak that is on display in Peter and Su's Canoe Centre.

Take a bow. Three committee members are having a break after being at the coalface. Morgan Lewis, responsible for dreaming up many enterprising club outings over the last couple of years. Alan Edwards, controller of club finances and Andrew Francis who promoted on the Vine house venture. Also worthy of praise are Des Matthews, spotted recently carrying out some long overdue repairs to club kayaks and Alison Calhaem who came to the assistance of the club chefs at St Heliers when the multitude arrived en masse. And finally a big thankyou to our newsletter editor who has put in another huge effort often under trying circumstances to keep us all informed. Well-done Ian.

The Dos and Don'ts of Kayak Care

It is with mixed feelings that I write this section...

I recently went down to the Club Storage shed to take my own kayak out. I found the rudder hanging loose, the cockpit full of water as also were the hatches, and the bungy cords broken.

I have made my boat available to Club members for the past two years because I realised that often on Club nights there was a shortage of kayaks. If mine was sitting there unused, I thought, "Why not lend it to someone else if I was not needing it". It therefore saddens me to have to withdraw that offer, and say it is no longer available for others to use.

However, I also asked myself, do we actually tell new members how to look after the Club kayaks? I suspect that we have assumed that everyone knew what to do, and that is not so. The Committee have talked about putting up a list in the storage shed to remind people when they hire kayaks and perhaps this will happen soon. In the meantime I suggest the following...

Kayak don'ts

- lift your kayak by the rudder - this is designed to turn from side to side and not to support the weight of the vessel.
- pull the kayak from the shed to the waters edge over the concrete - get someone to help you lift it.
- run the nose of the kayak up onto the concrete ramp when returning.
- use the paddle as a pole to fend off other objects or push yourself away from rocks or concrete.
- Store a kayak in direct sunlight.

Kayak dos

- Use the handles, or even better, hold your kayak underneath the hull, when lifting and carrying it.
- Make sure that it is washed down with fresh water after use, paying particular attention to the rudder and other moving parts.
- Make sure that sand has been cleaned out from the cockpit and that it is left as dry as possible.
- If water remains in the hatches - leave the covers off so that they can dry out.
- Wash and dry items such as buoyance aids, sprayskirts, etc to get rid of the salt as this will attract moisture and cause the item to go moldy.
- If you notice ANY peice of equipment that is in need of repair, tell someone. At the very least, write a note in the hire book so that a Committee member can make sure that it gets attended to.

The Club makes a variety of kayaks and accessories available to Club Members so that new members can try out equipment before they buy their own, and so other members can borrow equipment when taking their friends for a paddle. As Club Members this is your equipment. Look after it!

Ian Calhaem

Deadline for next month's newsletter: 11 May 2004

Send articles to: IanCalhaem@xtra.co.nz Please include "Newsletter" in the subject.

Auckland Canoe Centre

Cambridge to Hamilton Kayak Race & Cruise

Sunday 2nd May 2004

This Premier North Island river race of approximately 22 kilometres is a class event open to all types and classes of canoes and kayaks. Half distance race available to Juniors and Cruisers (11km).

Entries close at 6pm on Monday 26th April. **NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THE DAY OF THE RACE**, but you may phone your entry before 8:00pm on Friday 30th April on (09) 815-2073. An additional late entry fee of \$20 will apply.

- Race Briefing at 11:00am at Dominion Reserve, south of Cambridge on State Highway 1. Travelling south there is no right turn into the Reserve. Stay on Victoria Avenue (main road through Cambridge) and go straight ahead at both roundabouts. Just before the Victoria Bridge turn left into Dominion Avenue.
See <http://www.cambridge.net.nz/information/mapcblm.html> for map.
- Race starts at 11:30am.
- Juniors start at 12:30pm at Acacia Reserve on left bank of Waikato River just past Narrows bridge at Tamahere.
- Race Finish and prize giving at Hamilton Harriers Clubrooms, Grantham Road, Hamilton on left hand side of river. See <http://www.hamiltoncity.co.nz/map/20.htm> for map.
- Competitors should where possible, bring their own driver to avoid having to return to the start after the race and possibly miss the prizegiving.

Buoyancy Aids **MUST BE WORN**.

A rescue craft will be available, but competitors are expected to assist others when required and apply for time compensation from the officials.

Medals will be awarded to first three finishers in each class/category, provided more than three entries are received in the class/category.

The Auckland Canoe Centre Trophy will be awarded to the crews of the first four boats home from any NZCA registered Club.

**Lunch for competitors included in entry fee.
Non-Competitors lunch \$5.00**

Spot Prizes - over \$12,000 including 3 kayaks

The only requirements are that you must be present at the prizegiving and have actually paddled!

Major prizes include...

- Perception Contour 480 sea kayak, paddle, spray skirt and buoyancy aid valued at over \$2600.
- Challenge Kayaks Breeze sea kayak.
- Johnson Outdoors Watercraft Scrambler XT sit-on kayak with paddle and Deluxe seat
- Plus numerous other interesting prizes

Prizes may be viewed at
Auckland Canoe Centre, 502 Sandringham Rd, Auckland

For Information phone Auckland Canoe Centre (09) 815-2073, Race Director Su Sommerhalder

Sponsors

Current Craft Perception - Contour 480 Sea kayak, A-line Sprayskirt, Originz Paddle, Instructor Buoyancy Aid - valued at over \$2600
 Challenge Kayaks - \$1650 - Breeze Kayak
 Johnson Outdoors Watercraft - over \$1250 Scramber XT, Deluxe seat, Simply Magic Paddle
 Water Action Gear - Multimate and Tri/Sea Buoyancy aids, Sprayskirts
 Rochfort Paddles - Carbon-Kevlar Sea kayak Paddle

Akarana Kayaks
 Ampro Sales
 Aspen Distributors
 Back of Beyond
 Craig Potton Publishing
 Dave Extraordinaire
 Diversified Products

Get Equipped
 NZ Kayak Buyers Guide
 NZ Outside Magazine
 On Top Down Under
 Outdoor Discoveries
 Pelican
 Prijon

Q-Kayaks
 Rapid Flow
 Ruahine Kayaks
 Topline Agencies
 Ultimate Surf Products
 Wet Shoes
 Wilderness Magazine

Entry Form

Race No. _____

Surname _____ First names _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____ Email: _____

Club Affiliation _____

TICK

Woman

Veteran Woman (over 35)

Junior (F)

Man

Veteran Man (over 40)

Junior (M)

Class

K1

K2

K4

OC1

OC6

Surf Ski

Multisport

Div 1

Div 2

Seakayak

Single

Double

Cruising (non-racing)

Touring

Model of Kayak _____

Narrows Race

Junior (F)

Junior (M)

Cruising (non-racing)

Fees: Seniors \$ 45 per seat
 Juniors \$ 25 per seat

Preferred Teeshirt size
 S M L XL

Late entry: \$ 20 surcharge (after 28th April)

Send entry to: Auckland Canoe Centre, 502 Sandringham Rd, Auckland 1003
 or fax (09) 815-2074 with credit card details (Visa / Mastercard)
 or email race@kayak.co.nz

Waiver

I/we acknowledge that kayaking events involve a degree of risk and will not hold the organisers, their staff or the sponsors liable for any loss or damage to myself/ourselves, equipment or third parties as a result of participation in this event.

Signed: _____ Date: _____